

Sedgeberrow Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Evidence Base

GREEN SPACE BACKGROUND PAPER

January 2023

Produced by BPA and Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



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1.0 Introduction

1.1. The background papers have been created to supplement the Sedgeberrow Neighbourhood Development Plan (SBN DP) and provide an insight as to how the policies have been developed.

1.2. This paper pulls together all the evidence associated with assessing the quality and the importance of areas of Green Space in the Parish of Sedgeberrow. The purpose of these assessments is to identify areas that are of particular importance to the community, which if designated as Local Green Space (LGS) in the SBDNP would be protected from inappropriate development.

1.3. LGS was introduced by the Government in 2012 and enables communities to protect green areas which are particularly significant to them. It does not mean that all areas of green space can be protected from development and Planning Practice Guidance is clear that any designation should be consistent with the strategic aims of the Local Plan which in this case is the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP). This tool cannot be used as a means of preventing the wider development needs of the district.

1.4. Green space, also described as green infrastructure in planning terms, provides a valuable contribution to the quality and distinctiveness of the local environment. It creates opportunities for walking and physical activity, generally adding to quality of life. It can be diverse in character and can include formal parks and gardens, informal grassed areas, linear paths, sports pitches and various other kinds of landscaped area.

1.5. In considering the quality and significance of green infrastructure in Sedgeberrow the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has, under the guidance of Brodie Planning Associates, created a Green Space Audit (see appendix 2). This exercise was followed by a more detailed assessment of each site using a consistent and transparent methodology to evaluate its potential for allocating sites as LGS (chapter 4 and appendix 3). All this information and the process the group have followed is published within this document and has informed the production of Policy SB2 of the SBN DP and the rationale for the sites chosen to allocate as LGS.

2.0 Policy Background

National Planning Policy

2.1 National planning policy and guidance is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) respectively.

2.2 Prior to July 2021, the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents were influenced by the NPPF published in 2019. Following the publication of the revised NPPF in July 2021, any reference to the NPPF within the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents now relates to the most up-to-date version of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021). It should be noted that no amendments to the content of the applicable NPPF paragraphs were made, simply alterations to the paragraph numbers and therefore any referred meaning relating to the 2019 version of the NPPF is continued with the 2021 version.

2.3 NPPF (2021) paragraph 101 allows local communities, through local and neighbourhood plans, to identify areas of Local Green Space which are of importance and should be provided special protection. It makes it clear that:

- identifying land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services; and
- Local Green Space should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

2.4 Paragraph 102 of the NPPF (2021) sets out the criteria that green space must meet in order to be designated as 'Local Green 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."*

2.5 Paragraph 103 of the NPPF (2021) states that *"Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts."*

2.6 Additional guidance on Local Green Space designation is provided in Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) ID: 37 Paragraphs 005-022. The following paragraphs are of particular relevance to the SBNP:

- *“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.”* [Reference ID: 37-007-20140306].
- *“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”.* [Reference ID: 37-008-20140306].
- *“If land is already protected by designation (e.g. AONB, conservation area), then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space.”* [Reference ID: 37-011-20140306].
- *“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.”* [Reference ID: 37-013-20140306].
- *“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.”* [Reference ID: 37-014-20140306].
- *“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.”* [Reference ID: 37-015-20140306].
- *“Provided land can meet the criteria at paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework there is no lower size limit for a Local Green Space.”* [Reference ID: 37-016-20140306].
- *“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 (e.g. green areas which are valued because of their wildlife, historic significance and/or beauty)." [Reference ID: 37-017-20140306].

- *"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."* [Reference ID: 37-018-20140306].
- *"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."* [Reference ID: 37-019-20140306].
- *"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."* [Reference ID: 37-020-20140306].

Local Plan

2.7 The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) was adopted on 25th February 2016. This is the Local Plan which is used to determine planning applications in the three local planning authority areas it covers – Wychavon District, Malvern Hills District, and Worcester City. It provides a set of rules which new development must follow, as well as allocating certain areas of land for new housing or employment. The SWDP is under review at the time of drafting and a revised version is anticipated to be adopted in 2023; the policies in the updated SWDP (also known as SWDPR) will supersede those in the 2016 version once it is adopted.

2.8 Policy SWDP 2 (Development Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy) sets out the principles which should apply to new development in South Worcestershire. It also establishes a Settlement Hierarchy which steers future allocations and windfall development away from the open countryside and towards more sustainable settlements.

2.9 The settlement of Sedgeberrow is categorised as a category 2 settlement as it had at least two key services including a shop and access to at least daily services for employment and shopping purposes (A and B journey types) when it was assessed in the SWDP Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey December 2012¹). As such the settlement was

¹ [The Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey December 2012](#)

considered to be relatively sustainable and two housing sites were allocated in the SWDP primarily to meet local housing need. Site SWDP60/24 Land off Main Street in policy SWDP 59, was allocated for 20 dwellings which were under construction at the time of drafting and site SWDP60/25 Sedgeberrow Winchcombe Road was allocated for 8 dwellings which were permitted and built out in 2019.

2.10 The emerging SWDP Review has re-categorised the village of Sedgeberrow as a category 3 settlement; the village is considered to only have one key service (Primary School) and access to all public transport journey categories as defined in the updated SWDP 2019 Village Facilities and Rural Transport Study.

2.11 The Policies Map for the SWDP shows the location of the development boundary for Sedgeberrow (SWDP 2), and three areas of designated green space (SWDP 38 Green Space): the playground on Main Street, Sedgeberrow First School and the Recreation Ground.

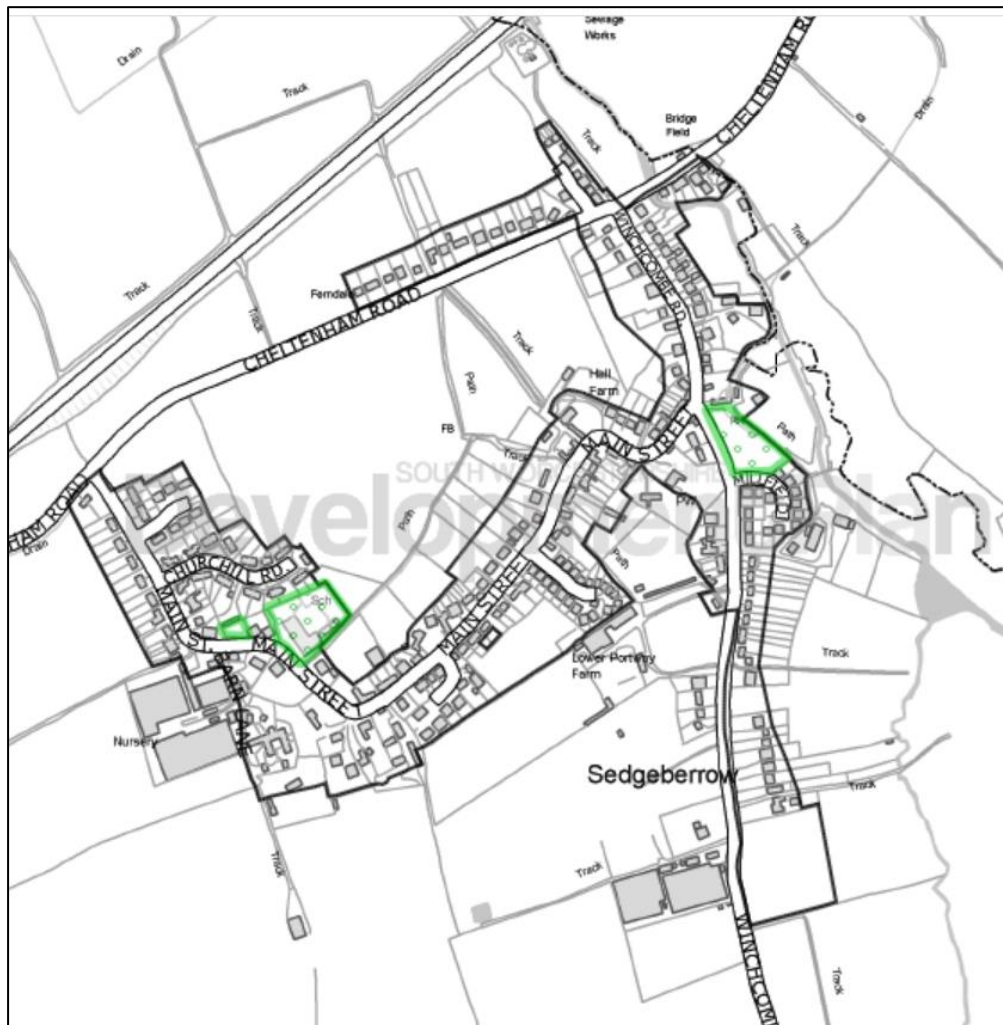


Figure 1 Extract from SWDP showing Development boundary (SWDP2) and Green Space (SWDP38)

2.12 Policy SWDP38 states that development will not be permitted on these green spaces unless the following exceptional circumstances are demonstrated:

“i. The proposal is for a community / recreational use that does not compromise the essential quality and character of the Green Space; or

ii. An assessment of community and technical need (using recognised national methodology where appropriate) clearly demonstrates that the Green Space is surplus to requirements; or

iii. Alternative / replacement Green Space of at least equivalent value to the community has been secured in a suitable location.”

2.13 In considering green space, account has also been taken of other policies in the SWDP including SWDP 5 Green Infrastructure; SWDP22 Biodiversity and Geodiversity and SWDP 39 Provision for Green Space and Outdoor Community Uses in New Development.

2.14 Other designations have also been considered aside from those already mentioned above including conservation designations. The River Isbourne is a site of local or regional wildlife importance and is protected under policy SWDP 22 Biodiversity and Geodiversity due to the important habitat it provides. Public Rights of Way crisscross the parish and the relevant maps have been reviewed on the Worcestershire County Council website.

Local Plan Evidence

2.15 As well as considering policies in the adopted Local Plan, account has also been taken of its evidence base. This is so that when considering whether a site and its characteristics are locally significant or distinctive for example, there is robust evidence to support this assumption and if necessary, provide a reasoned justification for policies requiring any enhancements.

2.16 The Parish of Sedgeberrow falls into two landscape types: Principal Village Farmlands and Village Claylands as defined by the Worcestershire Landscape Assessment (see Appendix 5). Both of these identify the importance of hedgerows and planting of trees and orchards around villages. These documents are useful to understand the important features of the area. The area is also covered by Natural England’s Severn and Avon Vales Character Area.

2.17 In terms of SWDP Green Infrastructure (GI) Environmental Character Areas, the Parish is predominantly defined as Protect and Restore and falls within Area 18 the Carrant Brook Corridor. The northern part of the Parish around Sandfield Lane falls into Area 6, Bredon, and is identified as an area where GI should be protected and enhanced. SWDP5 establishes that development should not be permitted that has a detrimental impact on important GI attributes in these areas unless it can be demonstrated that the GI typology is in surplus to requirements, or a replacement will be provided.

2.18 The Wychavon Sports Facilities Strategy 2015-30, August 2016² looks at built facilities and also sports pitches. Sedgeberrow has a village hall which is located within the school and is a shared facility with restricted access limited to hours outside the school day and term time. The village hall has some scope for indoor sports. The Wychavon Playing Pitch Strategy also identifies in the appendices³ that the school has a junior football pitch, cricket ground and junior rugby pitch although these are not open for community use.

² <http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Wychavon-Sports-Facility-Strategy-Aug-2016.pdf>

³ https://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/APPENDICES_WychavonPPS.pdf

3.0 Household Questionnaire Findings

2.19 The household survey was sent to every home in the Parish in February 2020 (344 homes); households were asked to respond to a broad range of questions. 150 responses were received by the closing date, a 44% response rate.

2.20 It was clear from the survey results that green space is very important to the residents of Sedgeberrow. Loss of green space was highlighted as the area of greatest concern to locals with 84% of respondents to the household survey stating that they were either concerned or very concerned about the loss of green space in the Parish.

2.21 The household survey had a section dedicated to the natural environment that asked a range of questions to understand the importance of the natural environment, green space and the community's access to it. This included questions on landscape character, footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths, as well as questions on renewable energy. It was clear from the results to all these questions (published in the results document on the Neighbourhood Plan website) that the natural environment and green space is held in very high regard by the local community.

2.22 The survey also explained about the potential for a neighbourhood plan to designate areas as Local Green Space (LGS) to be able to retain their openness for the duration of the plan period if it could be demonstrated that they met the government criteria for designation. The community were overwhelmingly in support of the Neighbourhood Development Plan seeking to identify and designate areas of LGS with 81% of respondents supporting the development of such a policy.

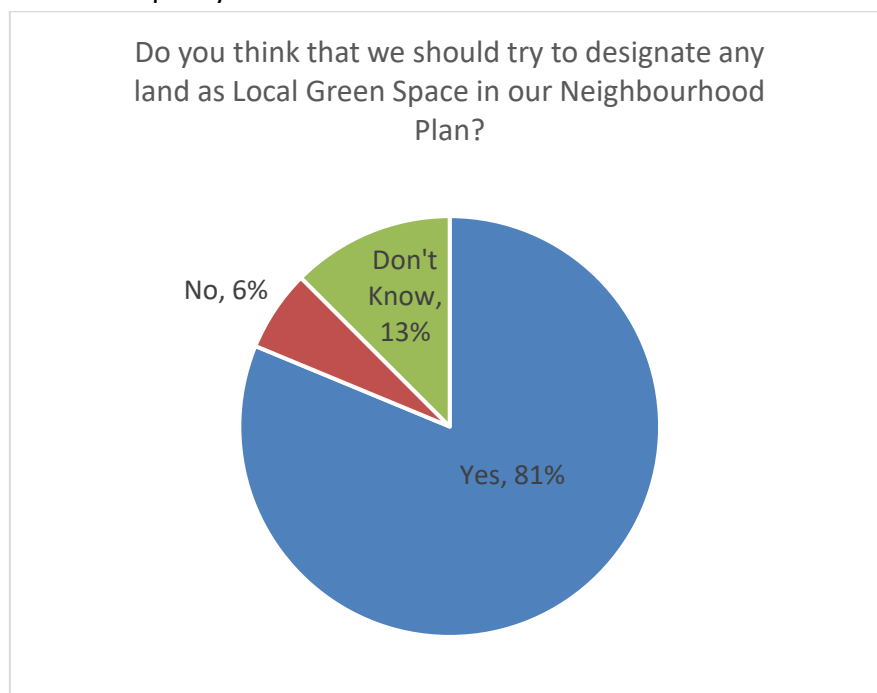


Figure 2 – Do you think that we should try to designate any land as Local Green Space in our Neighbourhood Plan? Results from 2020 Household Questionnaire

2.23 The survey also asked for suggestions of sites to be considered and assessed against the criteria for designating them as LGS. 46 households provided a response to this question with several spaces being suggested by multiple households. Overall the following sites were suggested.

Proposed Local Green Spaces	Number of times suggested
Broad Meadow	6
Church graveyard	2
Allotments	2
Meadow over footbridge over Isbourne / fields and banks around Isbourne	5
Field surrounding Hall Farm	4
Fields behind Main Street	5
Fields behind Churchill Rd/ Bridewell Drive	6
Jubilee Playground	1
Glebe Meadow recreation ground	2
Field behind church	1
Green space on Winchcombe Road	2
Orchard on Winchcombe Road	1
Sandfield Lane Area	1
Cheltenham Road fields	2

Table 1 – Proposed Local Green Spaces – Results from 2020 Household Questionnaire

2.24 The sites which were easily identifiable, within the Parish and not huge swathes of land, were reviewed and assessments undertaken. The results of these assessments can be found at appendix 3.

4.0 The Process

4.1 Having identified that green space was important to the community, the Neighbourhood Plan steering group embarked on identifying green spaces in the Parish as part of a Green Space Audit.

4.2 The group were encouraged to identify all the green spaces in the Parish and utilise the list of green spaces suggested by parishioners in the Household Questionnaire. This included: informal green spaces; village greens; allotments; cemeteries; highway verges; parks and gardens; footpaths and cycle routes; rural footpaths and nature trails; sports pitches; Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and other landscaped areas.

4.3 This resulted in a comprehensive list of green spaces in the Parish. This list can be found at appendix 1 within the Green Space Audit. Each of the 16 sites are listed in the Green Space Audit with a description of the type of land it is and the purpose it has; whether there is any statutory designation afforded to the land; the quality and condition of the space; and the value and benefit the space brings to the community.

4.4 To avoid criticism and to ensure that green space assessments were undertaken in a robust and transparent way, all 16 sites then underwent a green space site assessment.

4.5 Three members of the steering group reviewed all the assessments under the guidance of Brodie Planning Consultants. This helped with consistency in the way the criteria were interpreted and avoided any individual opinions dominating the assessment. The members were invited to declare any interests and were not allowed to assess sites where they may have a prejudicial interest in (e.g. owning the land being considered). In accordance with the group's commitment to transparency, the assessors' initials are listed at the top of each site assessment.

4.6 Members of the steering group visited the sites to take photographs and came together in October 2020 to complete the assessment forms (published at appendix 3). Based on the principles established in the NPPF and PPG, the sites were required to meet three specific criteria. They had to:

- be in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community;
- demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance; and
- be local in character/ scale i.e. not an extensive tract of land.

4.7 The first and third bullet points were easier to determine, as close proximity was considered to be within 800m-1km, and in the case of the latter any large swathes of fields on the edge of the settlement were not considered to be local in character as defined by the

NPPG. The second bullet point however, required a lot more detailed consideration. Under this overarching criterion a number of questions were asked to determine whether there was enough evidence to propose the site as LGS. Not all questions needed to be answered positively for a site to be considered suitable for LGS designation, but the group needed to be confident that at least one or a combination of them was met to demonstrate that the site was special to the local community and held a particular local significance.

4.8 The questions used to ascertain this were:

- Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site?
- Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside?
- Does the site have special historic significance or features?
- Does the site have recreational value?
- Is the site particularly tranquil?
- Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat?
- Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement?
- Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people?
- Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people?

4.9 In considering whether a space was demonstrably special to a local community, local knowledge of the level of use was used at this stage. All sites considered along with this background paper have been consulted on in the community and with stakeholders as part of a consultation exercise.

4.10 Each of these assessments (published at appendix 3), were reviewed by the steering group that attended the shortlisting meetings on 14th and 19th October 2020. At these meetings the compliance of each site was considered against the NPPF criteria using the assessment forms and it was decided whether they should be shortlisted.

4.11 Ten of the sites were considered to meet the criteria for designation of Local Green Space (LGS). A brief overview of the reason for each site designation is given below. For full details, see the assessments at appendix 3.

GS2. Grounds, including graveyard, surrounding St Mary's Church

4.12 The green space is of historic significance and provides a tranquil setting for the listed Church and the graveyard. There are a number of protected trees on site providing habitats for a range of species. The site is important to the history of the settlement, and it is a valuable area of open space. It is considered appropriate to designate this area as LGS to preserve its openness for the duration of the Plan period.

GS3. Land to rear of Church

4.13 This contained green field is immediately adjacent to the historic church and is important to its setting. Also, the site provides an attractive outlook for residents using the bridleway within the site. The green space has biodiversity benefits with well-established trees and hedgerows, some of which are protected by tree preservation orders (TPO's). Part of the site is likely to be needed for future expansion of the cemetery. It is therefore considered appropriate to designate as LGS to retain its openness for the Plan period.

GS4. Orchard to rear of Forge Cottage, Winchcombe Road

4.14 This area of orchard provides an attractive open space within the settlement, glimpsed from Winchcombe Road and appreciated from the well-used bridleway. It is important to the setting and history of the village. The area's traditional landscape heritage is one of orchards and horticulture, which have been eroded over time. This particular orchard has already been impacted by development and it is important that this is not depleted further. The parish has very few remaining examples of orchards which are also rich in biodiversity. This site is important as it represents the village's historical character and provides amenity and ecological value. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS.

GS5. Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road

4.15 The small orchard is an important feature which is representative of the area's rural heritage and is highly visible when passing along Winchcombe Road. It is an important habitat and connects the village with the open countryside. The area's traditional landscape heritage is one of orchards and horticulture, which have been eroded over time. The parish has very few remaining examples of orchards which are also rich in biodiversity. This site is important as it represents the village's historical character and provides amenity and ecological value. Therefore, it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS.

GS6. Balancing pond and green at Cotswold View

4.16 These two areas of green space provide an attractive outlook for the residents of Cotswold Rise. The parcel to the north provides an attenuation pond to address surface water drainage from the housing development. The site is at a key entry point into the village and the green space contributes to the overall street scene providing a set back from the road in keeping with the other properties on the street.

4.17 The green space is a public open space and although primarily used by residents of Cotswold View for recreation, amenity and surface water drainage, it is important to the overall setting of the village and is accessible to all. There is scope for the area of grassland to the south to be further enhanced with landscaping/planting. Due to the multifunctional role it has, it is important that this open space is maintained for the duration of the Plan period therefore it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS.

GS7. Glebe Meadow, the recreation ground

4.18 Glebe Meadow is an important recreational facility for the local community. It has a range of play equipment, area of open space, and provides a valuable habitat with trees and a small area of woodland and grass left to meadow. It is used by families and other members of the community for walking and as an outdoor meeting place; it is the main recreation ground in the village. The area contributes to the overall setting and character of the village and provides an important break between the historic buildings and the newer development along Winchcombe Road.

4.19 The facilities that the site provides are protected by SWDP38 in that they cannot be lost unless a suitable and accessible alternative is provided. This protection does not take into account the site's role in the setting and character of the settlement and its biodiversity contribution; therefore, it is still considered appropriate to designate this area as LGS to ensure its openness is maintained for the duration of the Plan period.

GS8. Broad Meadow, (old cricket ground)

4.20 This area of open space is currently in use for grazing horses but was historically the location of the village cricket ground. It is located at a key gateway into the settlement and contributes strongly to the rural character and setting of Sedgeberrow.

4.21 The land is washed over by the floodplain and lies within Flood Zone 2 playing an important role in the natural drainage of the area. There is a well-used footpath through the site where views of the rural landscape, the setting of the village and listed Hall Farm can be well appreciated. The land is part of the agricultural and cultural heritage of the area providing a rural setting for the settlement that is appreciated by locals overlooking, walking through, and driving by the site. It is a significant green space that preserves the form of the settlement within the landscape and can clearly be seen in views of the settlement from further afield.

4.22 The eastern part of the site was historically the location of the village cricket ground and there is some local interest in exploring the restoration of its former use as this could successfully maintain its openness.

4.23 Given the important role this site plays in preserving the rural setting and character of the settlement, and its potential to provide further facilities in addition to the public right of way which passes through the site, it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS to retain its openness for the duration of the Plan period.

GS9. Sedgeberrow First School playing field

4.24 This school playing field is an area of open space that is extremely important to the school children's health and well-being. The school and responses to the household survey suggested that the school would also benefit from the area being extended due to the growing size of the school.

4.25 The school buildings and the green areas immediately surrounding the buildings are protected by SWDP38 (see figure 1) but the adopted SWDP has omitted the school playing field from protection. The emerging SWDP Review has identified the whole site, but this has yet to be examined and adopted. As the playing field is a vital open space for the school that is not yet afforded any protection, to ensure it is retained it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS to retain its openness for the duration of the Plan period.

GS11. Site to the rear of school, Long Meadow off Cheltenham Road

4.26 This is a large yet contained agricultural field that slopes down away from the road to the historic core of Sedgeberrow nestled below. The open space is visually prominent in the wider landscape and is extremely important to the overall setting and character of the settlement. There is a well-used footpath through the site where views of the rural landscape and the setting of the village within the open countryside can be more fully appreciated as well of views out to the surrounding high points of the Cotswold Escarpment (AONB).

4.27 This area of green space is located at a key gateway into the settlement and contributes strongly to the rural character of Sedgeberrow along with the adjacent site (GS8) to which it has strong links. It is part of the agricultural and cultural heritage of the area providing a rural landscape for the settlement that is appreciated by locals overlooking, walking through, and driving by the site. It is a significant green space that preserves and has contributed to the form of the historic settlement within the landscape and can clearly be seen in views of the settlement from further afield.

4.28 Despite its size, the site has a sense of containment bounded by the road to the north, built development to the south and west and an established hedgerow interspersed with trees to the east that are considered to prevent it from being defined as an extensive tract of land.

4.29 The site benefits from a range of wildlife habitats including trees, hedgerows and a watercourse at its boundaries facilitating a biodiverse environment.

4.30 The existing public right of way through and adjacent to the site provides recreational benefits and there is scope to explore opportunities for enhancing access to the southern part of the site further. There could be an opportunity to provide an extension to the school playing field and/or an area of public open space tucked behind the lower lying land to the

rear of the school as this location can be accessed via a footpath adjacent to the school whilst successfully maintaining the area's sense of openness.

4.31 Given the important role this site plays in preserving the rural character and setting of the settlement, and to a lesser extent its potential to provide further facilities in addition to the public right of way that passes through the site, it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS to retain its openness for the duration of the Plan period.

GS15. Allotments (accessed via path adjacent 3rd house on left in Churchill Road)

4.32 This small parcel of land has previously been used as allotments but is currently overgrown. This open space is a potentially important community facility enabling locals to grow their own produce; although given its current condition, discreet location and feedback from the steering group it is considered that it is not well known in the wider community.

4.33 The site is overgrown at present, and opportunities need to be explored to see if there is sufficient interest to maintain the area as an allotment or to identify it for an alternative suitable community use on the land. It is considered appropriate to designate this green space as LGS so that it can be maintained and enhanced in the future.

4.34 The group agreed that the shortlisted LGS sites would be taken to the community as part of a consultation exercise in the form of an Options Survey. This would update parishioners on the progress and direction of the Plan, consult upon the overarching Visions and Objectives, enable the community to select their preferred housing site, and in the case of green spaces decide which of the suggested sites would be designated as LGS in the draft Plan.

4.35 The Option Survey was delivered to every single household in November 2020 for these matters to be agreed.

4.36 Prior to the survey all known owners of the LGS sites were written to notifying them of the Neighbourhood Plan group's intention to propose them for designated as LGS and to seek clarification of ownership.

4.37 As can be seen from the chart overleaf, the response to the Option Survey demonstrates that there was very strong support for designating the identified sites as Local Green Space. The site that was least supported and most objected to, was 'Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road' with 9% of respondents objecting to the site. It should also be noted that 25 respondents provided a reason as to why they don't support the inclusion of the proposed local green spaces. These comments were noted and taken into consideration when developing the Local Green Space Policy.

Do you support the inclusion of the following sites to be designated as Local Green Spaces?

■ Object ■ Support

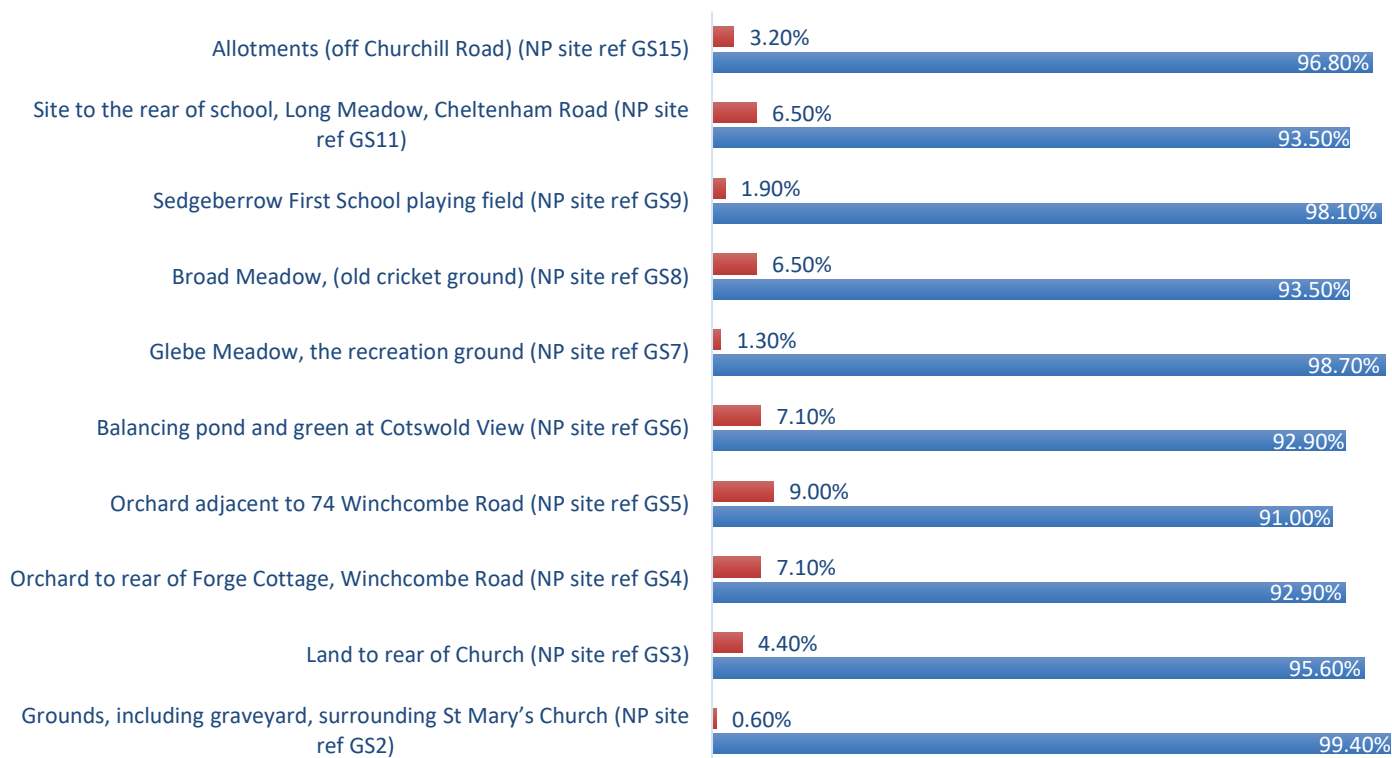


Figure 3 – Question 5: Do you support the inclusion of the following sites to be designated as Local Green Spaces? Results from 2020 Options Survey

4.38 From the Option Survey results the draft Plan developed a policy that proposes the designation of the following sites as Local Green Space:

- Grounds, including graveyard, surrounding St Mary's Church
- Land to rear of Church
- Orchard to rear of Forge Cottage, Winchcombe Road
- Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road
- Balancing pond and green at Cotswold View
- Glebe Meadow, the recreational ground
- Broad Meadow, (old cricket ground)
- Sedgeberrow First School playing field
- Site to the rear of school, Long Meadow
- Allotments (off Churchill Road)

4.39 The Regulation 14 version of the plan proposed the designation of the 10 spaces listed above in Green Space Policy SB2 due to their importance to the local community.

- 4.40 Results from the Regulation 14 consultation re-affirmed the community's support of the Local Green Space designations identified in Policy SB2. Overall, 65 respondents supported the policy, 32 objected and of those supporting or objecting 52 provided comments. The Steering Group reviewed all the 10 LGS designations against the comments made.
- 4.41 Once more, the GS5 site 'Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road' received the most objections from 5 respondents. Other comments were received where it was apparent that respondents had assumed GS5 related to the land put forward for housing known as 'Winchcombe Road Nursery' rather than the LGS designation 'Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road'. Given this confusion, these comments were discounted from the steering groups deliberation due to their inaccuracy. The steering group discussion regarding GS5 concluded the site meets the criteria required to designate a local green space. As only 5 objecting comments were received, equating to only 4.42% of the total 113 respondents that completed the Regulation 14 consultation, it was concluded the allocation should remain.
- 4.42 Following the Regulation 14 consultation, no modifications, inclusions or omissions were made to the listed green space designations and as such all 10 sites were retained in Policy SB2 to move forward in the Submission draft of the Plan.
- 4.43 All 10 sites were reviewed by an independent examiner as part of the Regulation 19 stage of the NDP process. The independent examiner's report dated the 18th of November 2022, recommended the removal of GS11 from the list of designated sites. The report concluded the site *"has not been shown to hold a particular local significance and therefore in accordance with paragraph 102 of the Framework the local designation should not be used."*
- 4.44 Following the Regulation 19 stage, site GS11 was removed from the list of green space designations. The 9 sites retained in Policy SB2 of the Referendum version of the Plan are:
- Grounds, including graveyard, surrounding St Mary's Church
 - Land to rear of Church
 - Orchard to rear of Forge Cottage, Winchcombe Road
 - Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road
 - Balancing pond and green at Cotswold View
 - Glebe Meadow, the recreational ground
 - Broad Meadow, (old cricket ground)
 - Sedgeberrow First School playing field
 - Allotments (off Churchill Road)

Appendix 1 Green Space Audit

Ref	Address /Location	Estimated Site area (Ha unless stated)	What type is it (description and purpose)	Statutory Designation/ Status	Quality and condition of space (including any deficiencies)	Value and benefit to community
GS1	Site of the War Memorial Main Street	69m ²	Small triangular parcel of grassed land. Site of the war memorial and Millennium stone	None	The site is well maintained.	Important historic significance. Siting of Remembrance wreath. Central part of village.
GS2	Grounds, including graveyard, surrounding St Mary's Church	0.35	Large grassed area, graveyard, a number of significant trees. Setting for the Listed Church and graveyard.	Grade II* listed Church	The site is well maintained.	The site is of historic significance it provides a tranquil setting for the Church and graveyard.
GS3	Land to rear of Church	0.86	Pasture surrounded by mature hedgerow with scattered trees and orchard to the southern part of the site. Bridleway 515 adjacent to the site.	None	Site is not maintained. Various sheds and farm machinery on site. Bridleway prone to flooding.	Site is important to the setting of the church and provides a break between the dwellings and the church. Part of the land is likely to be needed as an extension to the cemetery.
GS4	Orchard to rear of Forge Cottage, Winchcombe Road	0.42	Large area of orchard that is now surrounded by development. Can be viewed from bridleway and glimpsed from Winchcombe Road.	None	Site is maintained	Key characteristic of the landscape character of the area and the area's agricultural and horticultural heritage.
GS5	Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road	0.07	Small orchard with some younger specimens.	None	Site is maintained	Key characteristic of the landscape character of the area and the area's agricultural and horticultural heritage.

Ref	Address /Location	Estimated Site area (Ha unless stated)	What type is it (description and purpose)	Statutory Designation/ Status	Quality and condition of space (including any deficiencies)	Value and benefit to community
GS6	Balancing pond and green at Cotswold View	0.35	Grassed area with balancing pond and retained hedgerow and recently planted trees, part of GI for new development.	None	Area around and including balancing pond well maintained, land to south not maintained.	Provides important drainage function with balancing ponds and attractive outlook for residents of Cotswold Rise.
GS7	Glebe Meadow, the recreation ground	0.37	Grassed area with range of play equipment including 5 a side pitch, basketball hoop, climbing frame and slide, swings, shelter and picnic bench. Small wooded copse and flower beds. Footpath 513 runs along northern edge.	Protected by SWDP38	Site is maintained by the Parish Council and residents.	Provides an important play area for children and area for meeting and relaxing outside.
GS8	Broad Meadow, (old cricket ground)	1.79	An area of grassland that is currently in equestrian use. Small farm buildings at Cheltenham Road end.		Maintained for equestrian use, liable to flood.	A level area that is important to the overall setting of the village and the site of the former cricket ground.
GS9	Sedgeberrow First School playing field	0.21	A school playing field with facilities to play football/ rugby etc.	Protected by SWDP38	Site maintained by County Council. Area is small and would benefit from enlarging, given size of school.	A vital facility for the school that caters for the pupils' health and wellbeing.
GS10	Jubilee Playground, Main Street	0.06	Small equipped play area for children. Swings etc	Protected by SWDP38	Well maintained.	An important play area for locals and those attending school.



Ref	Address /Location	Estimated Site area (Ha unless stated)	What type is it (description and purpose)	Statutory Designation/ Status	Quality and condition of space (including any deficiencies)	Value and benefit to community
GS1 1	Site to the rear of school, Long Meadow off Cheltenham Road	7.17	Agricultural land with a public right of way on the southern boundary.		Ploughed, maintained for agricultural use at present.	Important to the overall setting of the village the rural heritage and had biodiversity and recreational value as used by walkers.
GS1 2	Site to the rear of Portway Farm	1.93	Agricultural land with a public right of way 515 along the western boundary.		PROW 515 prone to consistent flooding due to adjacent spring.	Bridleway used by dog walkers.
GS1 3	Field at junction of Main Street and Cheltenham Road	0.86	Agricultural field current used for pasture.		Maintained, tidy.	Small green field at gateway to settlement contributes to setting.
GS1 4	Field over footbridge over River Isbourne	1.29	Agricultural land that is part of the natural floodplain for the River Isbourne. Public right of way 515 through site.	SWDP22 Part of River Isbourne site of local / regional wildlife importance.	Site is not maintained but navigable along footpaths and through fields.	Important habitat for flora and fauna. Important function as floodplain. Used for walking and recreation. Used for cattle pasture.
GS1 5	Allotments (accessed via path adjacent 3 rd house on left in Churchill Road)	0.07	Small area set aside for allotments		Underused and overgrown at present, needs substantial makeover and regular maintenance.	Potentially important community facility to enable locals to grow their own produce. Natural habitat for wildlife.
GS1 6	Orchard, Ash Farm, Sandfield Lane	0.94	Traditional orchard	Natural England Priority habitat	Well maintained	An excellent example of traditional orchard - a key characteristic of the landscape character of the area and the area's agricultural and horticultural heritage.

Appendix 2 Site Assessment Form (blank)



Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by:	Date:
Site Name / Ref:	
Site Address:	
Site Area:	
Description/ Overview Map and Photo to be inserted	
Current Use:	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.):	
Criteria and reason for protection	
1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves?	
2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance? a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? d) Does the site have recreational value? e) Is the site particularly tranquil?	

<p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat?</p> <p>g) Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement?</p> <p>h) Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people?</p> <p>i) Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people?</p>
<p>3. Is the green area:</p> <p>a) local in character?</p> <p>b) an extensive tract of land? Yes / No</p>
<p>Is there public access to the site?</p>
<p>Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access?</p>
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p>



Appendix 3 Completed Site Assessment Forms

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by:	Date: 06/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS1. Site of the War Memorial	
Site Address: War Memorial on Main Street	
Site Area: 69m ²	
Description Small triangular parcel of grassed land. Site of the war memorial, and gravestones	
	
Current Use: Home to the war memorial used for remembrance service adjacent to Lych Gate.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): Grade II listed monument	
Criteria and reason for protection	
1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes, directly opposite housing within the community.	
2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?	
a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? Neighbouring properties can see the site and it is very visible travelling up Main Street	
b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? No	
c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? Yes, it is the location of the war memorial and Millennium stone.	
d) Does the site have recreational value? No	
e) Is the site particularly tranquil? No surrounded by road.	

f)	Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? No
g)	Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? No
h)	Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? Yes, it's part of the heritage of the area and the setting of the church.
i)	Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? Annually the site is used for the Remembrance Day service.
3.	Is the green area:
a)	local in character? Yes, of a small scale within the settlement
b)	an extensive tract of land? No
Is there public access to the site? Yes	
Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes	
Summary and recommendations: <p>The site is the location of an important historic monument that is protected by its listed status i.e. it is Grade II listed. The site is important to the history of the parish, but it is not considered necessary to designate this area as LGS.</p>	

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 06/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS2. Grounds, including graveyard, surrounding St Mary's Church	
Site Address: St Mary's Church, Sedgeberrow	
Site Area: 0.35 ha	
Description Grassed area, graveyard, a number of significant trees. Setting for the Listed Church and graveyard.	
	
Current Use: Graveyard, Setting for the Listed Church	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): Grade II* listed Church, TPOs	
Criteria and reason for protection	
<p>1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes, within the community.</p>	
<p>2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?</p> <p>a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? The site can only be glimpsed when passing along Main Street within the context of the setting of the listed Church.</p> <p>b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? No</p> <p>c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? Yes, it is the location of the listed church and the historic graveyard.</p> <p>d) Does the site have recreational value? The graveyard is visited by locals.</p> <p>e) Is the site particularly tranquil? Yes, away from the road.</p> <p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? There are a significant number of trees on site providing a habitat for wildlife.</p>	



g)	Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? No
h)	Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? No
i)	Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? The site is used by local community and it was suggested within the household survey for designation as LGS.
3.	Is the green area:
a)	local in character? Yes, within the settlement
b)	an extensive tract of land? No
Is there public access to the site? Yes	
Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? No other than by the adjoining properties.	
Summary and recommendations: <p>The site is of historic significance and provides a tranquil setting for the listed Church and the graveyard. There are a number of trees on site providing habitats for a range of species. The site is important to the history of the settlement and it is a valuable area of open space. It is considered appropriate to designate this area as LGS to preserve its openness for the duration of the Plan period.</p>	

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 06/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS3. Land to rear of Church	
Site Address: Land to the rear of the Church accessed off Winchcombe Road and via a bridleway that leads to Main Street.	
Site Area: 0.86 ha	
Description Grassed area left to pasture with bridleway through and long boundary of site. Bounded by hedgerow to north east and west with remnant orchard on southern part of site adjacent to the bridleway. Other trees scattered through site.	
	
Current Use: Provides important separation from dwellings and historic church. In use for grazing at times.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): TPOs on and adjacent to site	
Criteria and reason for protection	
<p>1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes, within the community adjacent well used bridleway 515.</p>	
<p>2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?</p> <p>a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? Can be seen from the listed churchyard, listed Court House from surrounding dwellings and from Bridleway.</p> <p>b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? No</p> <p>c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? Adjacent to historic church, possible archaeological significance.</p> <p>d) Does the site have recreational value? Yes, residents pass through on Bridleway.</p>	



e)	Is the site particularly tranquil? Yes.
f)	Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? The site is bounded by mature hedging to the north and north east corner. There is more native hedgerow to the west, all are likely to provide habitat for foraging mammals and birds. As well as orchard trees to the south.
g)	Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? The site provides separation between dwellings and historic church.
h)	Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? The site is the potential location for a cemetery extension.
i)	Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? The site was suggested in the household survey for consideration for LGS. The bridleway is well used.
3.	Is the green area:
a)	local in character? Yes, within the settlement
b)	an extensive tract of land? No
Is there public access to the site? Yes	
Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes.	
Summary and recommendations: The site provides an attractive outlook for residents using the bridleway and it important to the setting of the historic church immediately adjacent to it. It has biodiversity benefits with trees and hedgerows some of which have TPOs. Part of the site is likely to be needed for a future expansion for the cemetery. It is therefore considered appropriate to designate as LGS to retain its openness for the Plan period.	

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 6/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS4. Orchard to the rear of Forge Cottage	
Site Address: Orchard to the rear of Forge Cottage, Winchcombe Road	
Site Area: 0.42 ha	
Description An area of traditional orchard set behind residential properties.	
	
Current Use: Provides important habitat and is an important feature of the traditional landscape character and heritage of the area.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): None	
Criteria and reason for protection	
<p>1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes, within the community.</p>	
<p>2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?</p> <p>a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? There are views across the site from the bridleway and glimpses into the site from Winchcombe Road</p> <p>b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? No</p> <p>c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? Orchards are a key example of the agricultural/ horticultural heritage of the area.</p> <p>d) Does the site have recreational value? Bridleway 515 adjacent</p> <p>e) Is the site particularly tranquil? Behind dwellings, quiet spot away from road.</p>	



<p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? The site contains a historic orchard that provides habitats.</p> <p>g) Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? The site provides a break between the properties on Winchcombe Road and the farm behind.</p> <p>h) Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? Part of the rural heritage of the area. Bridleway provides short cut between Main Street and Winchcombe Road</p> <p>i) Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? The site was suggested in the household survey to be assessed for LGS designation.</p>
<p>3. Is the green area:</p> <p>a) local in character? Yes, within the settlement</p> <p>b) an extensive tract of land? No</p>
<p>Is there public access to the site? Next to the site</p>
<p>Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes.</p>
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>The site provides an attractive open space within the settlement, glimpsed from Winchcombe Road and appreciated from the well-used bridleway. It is important to the setting and history of the village. The area's traditional landscape heritage is one of orchards and horticulture, which have been eroded over time. This particular orchard has already been impacted by development and it is important that this is not depleted further. The parish has very few remaining examples of orchards which are also rich in biodiversity. This site is important as it has historic, amenity and ecological value and therefore it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS.</p>

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 6/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS5. Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road	
Site Address: Orchard adjacent to 74 Winchcombe Road	
Site Area: 0.07ha	
Description A small area of orchard planted at the edge of a large field	
	
Current Use: Provides important habitat and is an important feature of the traditional landscape character and heritage of the area.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): None	
Criteria and reason for protection	
1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes, within the community.	
2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance? a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? Can be seen from surrounding high points – Bredon Hill (AONB) b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? Can see Bredon Hill (AONB) and Cotswold escarpment (AONB) and provides view into the open countryside as it is highly visible from road on main route through the village. c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? It is part of the agricultural and horticultural heritage of the area. d) Does the site have recreational value? No e) Is the site particularly tranquil? Not particularly as adjacent to the road	



<p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Yes, as an orchard it is an important habitat</p> <p>g) Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? Yes, it provides separation between dwellings along the Winchcombe Road and connects the village with the open countryside and its rural heritage</p> <p>h) Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? Part of the rural heritage of the area.</p> <p>i) Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? Earlier consultation has identified that this greenfield site is important to the community as its potential loss was one of the main reasons for embarking on a neighbourhood plan.</p>
<p>3. Is the green area:</p> <p>a) local in character? Yes, within the settlement</p> <p>b) an extensive tract of land? No</p>
<p>Is there public access to the site? No</p>
<p>Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes, can be viewed from road and footpath opposite site.</p>
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>The site is an important feature that is part of the area's rural heritage and is highly visible when passing along Winchcombe Road. It is an important habitat and connects the village with the open countryside. The area's traditional landscape heritage is one of orchards and horticulture, which have been eroded over time. The parish has very few remaining examples of orchards which are also rich in biodiversity. This site is important as it has historic, amenity and ecological value and therefore it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS.</p>

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 7/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS6. Balancing pond and green at Cotswold View	
Site Address: Balancing pond and green at Cotswold View, Sedgeberrow	
Site Area: 0.35ha	
<p>Description. Grassed area with balancing pond and retained hedgerow and recently planted trees, part of green infrastructure (GI) for new development.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	
Current Use: Provides screening and separation of the dwellings from Winchcombe Road and an attenuation pond to deal with surface water.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): Part of approved GI for allocated housing site	
Criteria and reason for protection	
<p>1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes, within the community.</p>	
<p>2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?</p> <p>a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? Visible from Winchcombe Road but important to the amenity and outlook of dwellings on Cotswold View</p> <p>b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? Views to Cotswold escarpment (AONB).</p> <p>c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? No</p> <p>d) Does the site have recreational value? Used for recreation by dwellings on Cotswold View. It is an area of public open space.</p>	

e)	Is the site particularly tranquil? No.
f)	Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Yes, trees, pond and historic hedgerow provide habitat.
g)	Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? No but provides separation for dwellings from road.
h)	Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? No
i)	Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? No
3.	Is the green area:
a)	local in character? Yes
b)	an extensive tract of land? No
Is there public access to the site? Yes	
Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes.	
Summary and recommendations: <p>The site provides an important open space that has the function of addressing surface water drainage and also provides an attractive outlook for the residents of Cotswold Rise. The site is at a key entry point into the village and the green space contributes to the overall street scene providing a set back from the road that is in keeping with the other properties on the street. The space is public open space and although primarily used by residents of Cotswold View for recreation, amenity and surface water drainage it is important to the overall setting of the village and is accessible to all. There is scope for the area of grassland to the south to be further enhanced with landscaping/planting. Due to the important multifunctional role it has it is important that this open space is maintained for the duration of the Plan period therefore it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS.</p>	

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 7/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS7. Glebe Meadow, the recreation ground	
Site Address: Glebe Meadow, the recreation ground, Winchcombe Road/ Millfield	
Site Area: 0.37ha	
Description <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">   </div> <p>Grass play area with a range of equipment including goals, basketball hoop, climbing frame and slide, swings, shelter and picnic bench. Small wooded copse and footpath.</p>	
Current Use: Provides important recreation area for children and families.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): SWDP38	
Criteria and reason for protection	
<p>1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes.</p> <p>2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?</p> <p>a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? The site is visible from Winchcombe Road with views into the site.</p> <p>b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? No</p> <p>c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? No</p> <p>d) Does the site have recreational value? Yes, it is the main recreation area in the village.</p> <p>e) Is the site particularly tranquil? No, but more so away from the road</p> <p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Yes, established trees and area of meadow providing a habitat for a range of species.</p>	



<p>g) Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? Yes, it is an important green space at the heart of the settlement.</p> <p>h) Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? Important facility.</p> <p>i) Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? Yes, it is very well used by local families.</p>
<p>3. Is the green area:</p> <p>a) local in character? Yes</p> <p>b) an extensive tract of land? No</p>
<p>Is there public access to the site? Yes</p>
<p>Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes, it would be attractive as an open space within the heart of the community, but its primary function is as a recreation ground.</p>
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>The site provides an important recreation facility for the local community. It has a range of play equipment and an area of open space as well as being a valuable habitat with trees and a small area of woodland and grass left to meadow. It is used by families and other members of the community for walking and as an outdoor meeting place and is the main recreation ground in the village. The area contributes to the overall setting and character of the village and provides an important break between the historic buildings and the newer development along Winchcombe Road.</p> <p>The facilities that the site provides are protected by SWDP38 in that they cannot be lost unless a suitable and accessible alternative is provided. This protection does not take account of the important role the open space provides to the setting and overall character of the settlement as well as the biodiversity benefits; therefore, it is still considered appropriate to designate this area as LGS to ensure its openness is maintained for the duration of the Plan period.</p>

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 7/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS8. Broad Meadow, (old cricket ground)	
Site Address: Broad Meadow, (old cricket ground), Cheltenham Road, Sedgeberrow	
Site Area: 3.03 ha	
<p>Description Land is currently used for grazing horses. Site bound by hedges and trees and backing on to residential dwellings on Winchcombe Road and Main Street. Established trees through site. Footpath along western boundary and drainage ditch / watercourse</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>	
Current Use: Grazing / equestrian use.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): None	
Criteria and reason for protection	
<p>1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes.</p>	
<p>2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?</p> <p>a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? Yes, site can be viewed from Cheltenham Road and from well beyond as part of the rural edge of the settlement.</p> <p>b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? Yes, Hall Farm, Church spire, top of the village set against Dumbleton.</p> <p>c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? The site was historically the location of the village cricket ground.</p>	

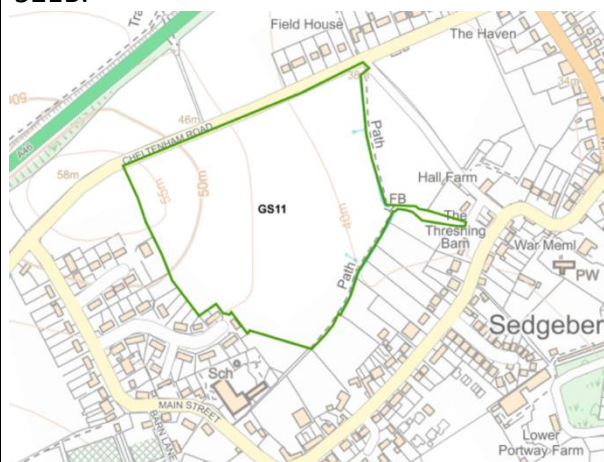

d)	Does the site have recreational value? There is a footpath to the west boundary of the site
e)	Is the site particularly tranquil? The site has a sense of tranquillity
f)	Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Yes, established trees and hedgerow providing a habitat for a range of species.
g)	Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? Yes, provides an important green backdrop for this part of the settlement and its setting within the wider landscape.
h)	Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? Location of former village cricket ground and important to the setting of the village. It is also part of the floodplain and important to drainage of the settlement.
i)	Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? Footpath well used by locals for walking and suggested as part of the survey to be considered as LGS.
3.	Is the green area:
a)	local in character? Yes
b)	an extensive tract of land? No
Is there public access to the site? Yes, public footpath along boundary of site	
Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes.	
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>This area of open space provides important drainage and lies within flood zone 2. There is a well-used footpath through the site where views of the rural landscape and the setting of the village and listed Hall Farm can be more fully appreciated. The land is part of the agricultural and cultural heritage of the area providing a rural setting for the settlement that is appreciated by locals overlooking, walking through, and driving by the site; it is located at a key gateway into the settlement and contributes strongly to the rural character of Sedgeberrow. It is a significant green space that preserves the form of the settlement within the landscape and can clearly be seen in views of the settlement from further afield.</p> <p>The eastern part of the site was historically the location of the village cricket ground and there is some local interest in exploring the restoration of its former use as this could successfully maintain its openness.</p> <p>Given the important role this site plays in preserving the rural character and setting of the settlement, and its potential to provide further facilities in addition to the public right of way that passes through the site, it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS to retain its openness for the duration of the Plan period.</p>	

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 7/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS9. Sedgeberrow First School playing field	
Site Address: Sedgeberrow First School playing field, Main Street Sedgeberrow	
Site Area: 0.21ha	
Description Playing field for school used for football / rugby etc. - school use only.	
	
Current Use: School playing field	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): SWDP38 protects the green spaces immediately around the school but does not include this parcel of land which appears to be an omission as the land has been identified in the evidence base for the emerging SWDP Review.	
Criteria and reason for protection	
1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes.	
2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?	
a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? No screened by trees hedgerow.	
b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? No.	
c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? No	
d) Does the site have recreational value? Yes, important sports facility for the school.	
e) Is the site particularly tranquil? Yes, tucked in behind school, but not tranquil when in use!	
f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Yes, established trees and hedgerow providing a habitat for a range of species.	

g)	Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? No
h)	Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? It is extremely important to the health and wellbeing of the school children.
i)	Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? As above it is a vital facility to those attending the school.
3.	Is the green area:
a)	local in character? Yes
b)	an extensive tract of land? No
Is there public access to the site? No	
Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? No	
Summary and recommendations: <p>This green open space is a playing field for the school and is an extremely important facility for the school children's health and well-being. The school and responses to the household survey suggested that the school would benefit from the area being extended due to the size of the school. The school buildings and the green areas immediately surrounding them are protected by SWDP38 but the adopted SWDP has omitted the school playing field from protection. The emerging SWDP Review has identified the whole site but this has yet to be examined and adopted. As the playing field is a vital open space for the school that is not yet afforded any protection to ensure it is retained it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS to retain its openness for the duration of the Plan period.</p>	

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 26/3/19
Site Name / Ref: GS10. Jubilee Playground, Main Street	
Site Address: Jubilee Playground, Main Street	
Site Area: 0.06	
Description Small grassed area with play equipment for children - includes swings.	
	
Current Use: Play area for young children.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): SWDP38	
Criteria and reason for protection	
1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes.	
2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?	
a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? No	
b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? No.	
c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? No	
d) Does the site have recreational value? Yes, important facility for younger children.	
e) Is the site particularly tranquil? No	
f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Limited there a few trees bordering the site.	

g)	Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement?	No
h)	Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people?	No
i)	Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people?	The site is very well used by locals and school children for play and recreation.
3.	Is the green area:	
a)	local in character?	Yes
b)	an extensive tract of land?	No
Is there public access to the site?		Yes
Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access?		No
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>This small site is an important community facility that is used for recreational use by younger children with the entire site dedicated to play equipment for younger children. The facilities that the site provides are protected by SWDP38 in that they cannot be lost unless a suitable and accessible alternative is provided. In this case, SWDP38 is considered to be sufficient protection for this small equipped play space, and it is not necessary to designate the site as LGS to preserve its openness.</p>		

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 7/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS11. Site to the rear of school, Long Meadow off Cheltenham Road	
Site Address: Site to the rear of school, Long Meadow off Cheltenham Road, Sedgeberrow	
Site Area: 7.17 ha	
Description Large sloping agricultural field currently in arable use. Public right of way along southern boundary 521B.	
	
Current Use: Agricultural use with public right of way along southern boundary 521B	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.):	
Criteria and reason for protection	
<p>1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes, public right of way from Main Street.</p>	
<p>2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?</p> <p>a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? It is important to the rural setting of the development and at a gateway into the settlement. It can be seen from properties on Main Street and from Cheltenham Road; it is on a high point at the edge of the settlement and will be highly visible from further afield for example from Broadway Tower (AONB) and Bredon Hill (AONB). There will be views in from PRoW 521B on the southern boundary and 518B beyond the eastern boundary.</p> <p>b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? Yes, views out to all the surrounding hills, Bredon, Dumbleton and Broadway – Cotswold escarpment (all AONBs). Church Spire is visible.</p>	

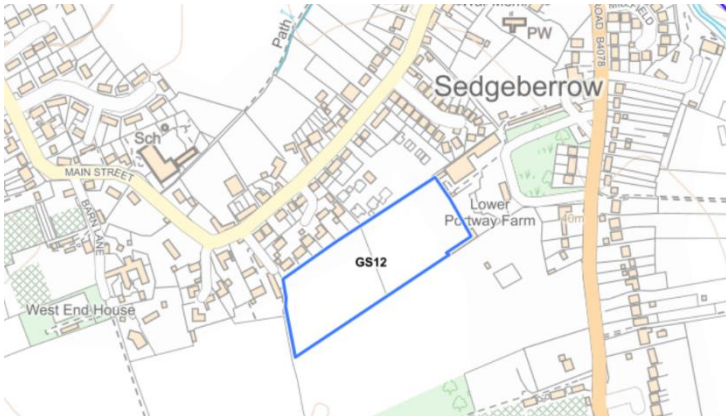

<p>c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? It is part of the rural landscape and contributes to the overall setting of the village.</p> <p>d) Does the site have recreational value? Yes, it is used for walking along the public right of way.</p> <p>e) Is the site particularly tranquil? Yes – particularly in the southern part of the site.</p> <p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Yes, established trees and hedgerow providing a habitat for a range of species and ditch/ watercourse to south.</p> <p>g) Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? Yes, it is extremely important to the overall landscape setting of the village.</p> <p>h) Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? No</p> <p>i) Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? Suggested by a number of households for consideration as LGS. Footpath well used.</p>
<p>3. Is the green area:</p> <p>a) local in character? Yes</p> <p>b) an extensive tract of land? No, despite the site being of a larger scale the site has a sense of containment bounded by the road to the north, built development to the south and west and an established hedgerow interspersed with trees to the east.</p>
<p>Is there public access to the site? Yes, along a public footpath. The agent promoting site for development has suggested that some land could be used to expand school playing field to the south of the site adjoining the existing school grounds and a possible area for recreation/open space.</p>
<p>Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes, as this open space is extremely important in views into settlement particularly from the north.</p>
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>The site is a large sloping contained agricultural field that is visually prominent in the landscape and is extremely important to the overall setting and character of the settlement. There is a well-used footpath through the site where views of the rural landscape and the setting of the village within the open countryside can be more fully appreciated as well of views out to the surrounding high points of the Cotswold escarpment (AONB). The land is part of the agricultural and cultural heritage of the area providing a rural setting for the settlement that is appreciated by locals overlooking, walking through, and driving by the site; it is located at a key gateway into the settlement and contributes strongly to the rural character of Sedgeberrow along with the adjacent site (GS8) to which it has strong links. It is a significant green space that preserves and has contributed to the form of the historic settlement within the landscape and can clearly be seen in views of the settlement from further afield.</p>

Despite its size the site has a sense of containment bounded by the road to the north, built development to the south and west and an established hedgerow interspersed with trees to the east that are considered to prevent it from being defined as an extensive tract of land.

The site has biodiversity benefits through the trees, hedgerows and watercourse at its boundaries.

The existing public right of way through and adjacent to the site provide recreational benefits and there is scope to explore opportunities for enhancing access to the southern part of the site further. There could be an opportunity to provide an extension to the school playing field and/or an area of public open space tucked behind the lower lying land to the rear of the school as this location can be accessed via a footpath adjacent to the school whilst successfully maintaining the area's sense of openness.


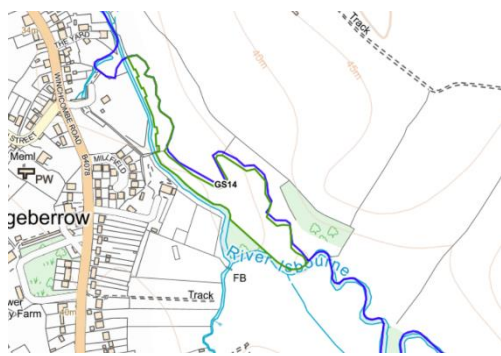
Given the important role this site plays in preserving the rural character and setting of the settlement, and to a lesser extent its potential to provide further facilities in addition to the public right of way that passes through the site, it is considered appropriate to designate as LGS to retain its openness for the duration of the Plan period.

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 7/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS12. Land to the rear of Portway Farm	
Site Address: Land to the rear of Portway Farm, off Winchcombe Road	
Site Area: 1.93 ha	
Description Agricultural land with a public right of way along the western boundary.	
	
Current Use: Agricultural use with public right of way on western boundary.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): None	
Criteria and reason for protection	
1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes.	
2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance? a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? Yes, can be seen from Broadway (Tower), clearly from Dumbleton and Bredon Hill (AONBs). Visible from neighbouring dwellings on Pear tree Drive and Old School Drive. b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? Yes, views to Broadway tower (AONB), Dumbleton (AONB), Bredon Hill(AONB), Church spire c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? It is part of the agricultural landscape of the settlement d) Does the site have recreational value? Footpath to west. e) Is the site particularly tranquil? Yes	



<p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Intermittent hedgerow around the boundaries of the site and a few individual trees.</p> <p>g) Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? It is on the edge of the settlement, important to the overall landscape setting of the village.</p> <p>h) Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? No</p> <p>i) Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? Use of footpaths and suggested in household survey for consideration as LGS</p>
<p>3. Is the green area:</p> <p>a) local in character? Yes</p> <p>b) an extensive tract of land? No</p>
<p>Is there public access to the site? Yes, along footpath</p>
<p>Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes</p>
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>This site is part of the wider rural landscape and agricultural heritage of the settlement. The site is tucked away behind development but there is a public right of way along the western boundary of the site. The land provides some amenity to properties backing onto the land on Pear tree Drive and Old School Drive but is not visible from the roads or main routes into the village.</p> <p>This area of open space forms part of the wider open countryside, it is where the settlement boundary meets the open countryside and can be seen in long distance views from the south. Although the site itself is not an extensive tract of land, it does not have the sense of enclosure that other large sites that have been assessed and designated do; instead it forms and is viewed as part of the wider open countryside rather than a local open space that forms a significant break within the settlement.</p> <p>It is not considered to fully meet the criteria for designating as LGS.</p>

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 7/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS13. Field at junction of Main Street and Cheltenham Road	
Site Address: Field at junction of Main Street and Cheltenham Road, Sedgberrow	
Site Area: 0.86ha	
Description Sloping field at a high point on a prominent corner- in agricultural use, currently pastoral.	
	
Current Use: The land is in agricultural use, currently pastoral.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): None	
Criteria and reason for protection	
1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes.	
2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?	
a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? Yes, site can be seen from Main Street and Cheltenham Road it is on a high point at the edge of the settlement and will be visible from further afield e.g. Bredon Hill (AONB).	
b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? Yes, there are extensive views out to all the surrounding hills, Blakes Hill Bredon, Dumbleton and Broadway – Cotswold escarpment (AONB). View down to the village and church spire.	
c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? No	
d) Does the site have recreational value? No	


<p>e) Is the site particularly tranquil? No</p> <p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? There is intermittent hedgerow on the boundaries to the roads interspersed with trees.</p> <p>g) Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? It is a green field at an important gateway into the settlement.</p> <p>h) Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? No</p> <p>i) Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? It was suggested to be considered as LGS in the household survey.</p>
<p>3. Is the green area:</p> <p>a) local in character? Yes</p> <p>b) an extensive tract of land? No</p>
<p>Is there public access to the site? No</p>
<p>Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? Yes, although it is only glimpsed at present.</p>
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>This is a small enclosed green field at a prominent entry point into the settlement but is not accessible to the community and there are only glimpsed views into it at the corner of the road. It is a smaller parcel of open space on the very edge of the settlement.</p> <p>Due to the relief of the land at this point (it is on a high point) this area of open space is not considered to have the same level of significance in contributing to the overall character, form and setting of the settlement of Sedgeberrow. Therefore, although it is adjacent to a field that is considered to be of great significance and a key open space within the settlement this smaller enclosed green space is not considered to fully meet the criteria for designating it as LGS.</p>

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 7/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS14. Field over footbridge over River Isbourne	
Site Address: Field over footbridge over River Isbourne	
Site Area: 1.29ha or 1.62	
Description Agricultural land with trees and pasture; the land forms part of the natural floodplain for the River Isbourne. There is a public right of way through site. The boundaries have been drawn around the land that falls within the parish although the fields and footpaths extend beyond the parish boundary (blue line).	
 	
Current Use: Agricultural land (currently in use for cattle grazing) that is part of the natural floodplain for the River Isbourne. Two PRow pass through the land, 512B and 517B, although 517B is located primarily in the neighbouring parish.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): SWDP22 Part of River Isbourne site of local / regional wildlife importance. Part of site identified on Natural England's Priority Habitat Inventory as Lowland Meadow.	
Criteria and reason for protection	
1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes.	
2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?	
a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? No	
b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? Not from within the parish boundary	
c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? Part of floodplain.	

<p>d) Does the site have recreational value? Yes, used for walking. Two PRow pass through the land, 512B and 517B, although 517B is located primarily in the neighbouring parish.</p> <p>e) Is the site particularly tranquil? Yes</p> <p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Yes, identified as a site of local/regional wildlife importance all along River Isbourne corridor.</p> <p>g) Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? No on the edge of the settlement.</p> <p>h) Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people?</p> <p>i) Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? Yes, footpaths well used and suggested by households for consideration as LGS in survey.</p>
<p>3. Is the green area:</p> <p>a) local in character? Yes</p> <p>b) an extensive tract of land? It forms part of a wider more extensive area of open countryside. The Parish boundary runs through the middle of it</p>
<p>Is there public access to the site? Yes</p>
<p>Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? No</p>
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>The land provides important habitat for a range of species it is part of a site of local/regional wildlife importance which affords it protection. It performs a vital function as part of the floodplain and is totally unsuitable for development.</p> <p>The area is used for cattle grazing and for recreation by walkers. It is an area of open space that can be easily accessed from the settlement and has the immediate feeling of being in the open countryside. Although it is not an extensive tract of land, it does not have the sense of enclosure that other sites that have been assessed and designated do; instead it forms and is viewed as part of the wider open countryside rather than a local open space that forms a significant break within the settlement.</p> <p>Due to its lack of enclosure, in function as a flood plain and its designation as a site of local/regional wildlife importance it is not considered appropriate or necessary to designate as LGS.</p>

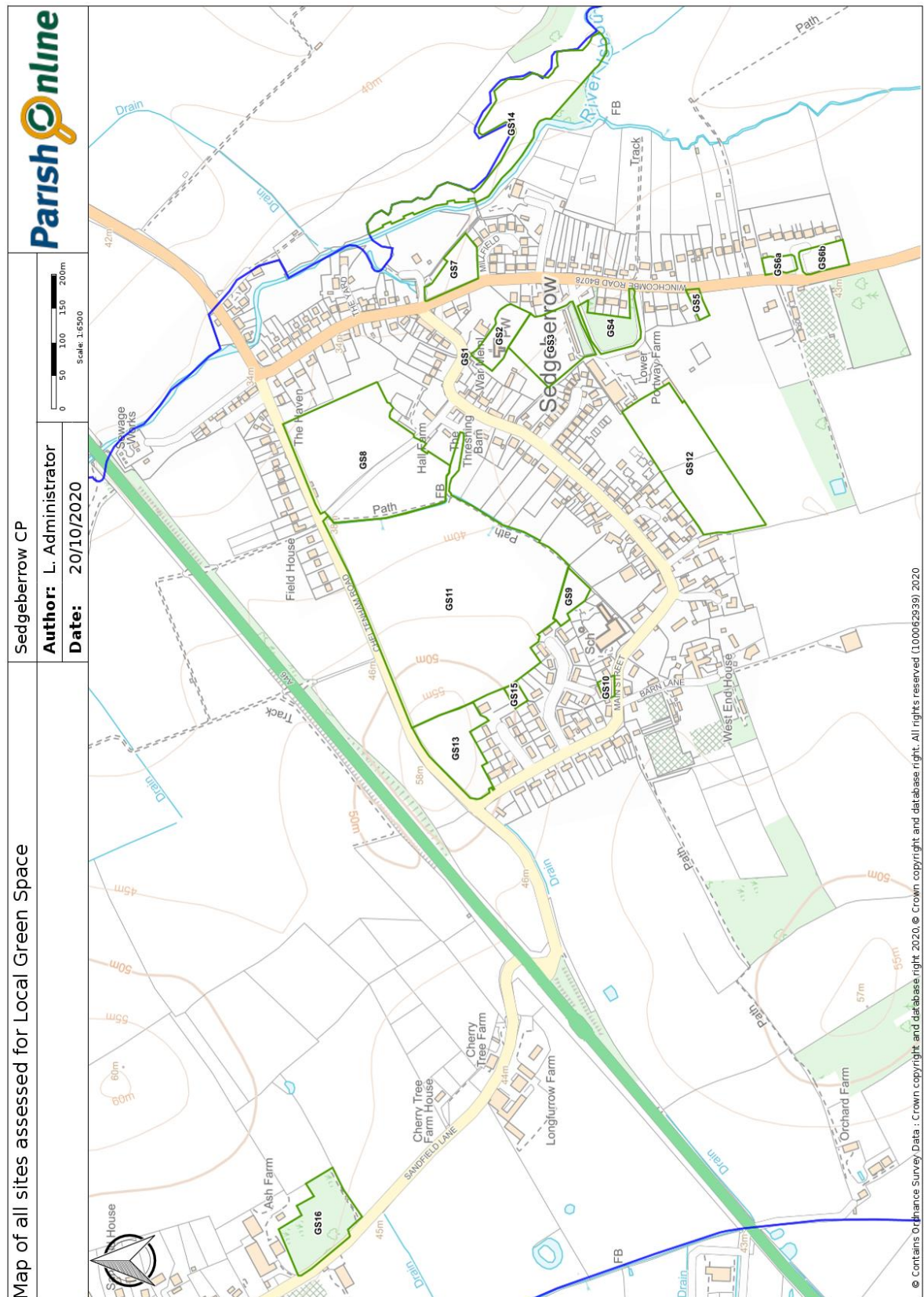
Site Assessment Form (Green Space)		
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM		Date: 7/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS15. Allotments		
Site Address: Allotments, off Churchill Road, Sedgeberrow		
Site Area: 0.07		
Description Allotment area off Churchill Road. Access via gate. Currently overgrown but previously in use by locals until recently.		
2020	2016	
		
Current Use: Allotments but not well used at present		
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): None		
Criteria and reason for protection		
1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes		
2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?		
a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? No		
b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? Yes views of Blakes Hill and surrounding countryside		
c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? No		
d) Does the site have recreational value? Yes, area provides the opportunity for growing own produce.		
e) Is the site particularly tranquil? Yes		
f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Trees and hedgerow on the boundary habitat and foraging.		

g)	Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? No
h)	Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? No
i)	Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? It has been used by the community in the past although is not well maintained at present. It was suggested as part of the household survey to consider as LGS.
3.	Is the green area:
a)	local in character? Yes
b)	an extensive tract of land? No
Is there public access to the site? Yes	
Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? No	
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>This is a potentially important community facility enabling locals to grow their own produce; although given its current condition, discreet location and feedback from the steering group it is considered that it is not well known in the community.</p> <p>The site is overgrown at present and opportunities need to be explored to see if there is sufficient interest to maintain the area as an allotment or to identify it for an alternative suitable community use on the land.</p> <p>It is considered appropriate to designate as LGS so that this small local open space can be maintained and enhanced in the future.</p>	

Site Assessment Form (Green Space)	
Completed by: BPA and reviewed by EK, CJ, CM	Date: 15/10/2020
Site Name / Ref: GS16. Ash Farm Orchard, Sandfield Lane	
Site Address: Ash Farm, Sandfield Lane, Sedgeberrow	
Site Area: 0.94ha	
Description Area of traditional orchard visible from Sandfield Lane.	
	
Current Use: Private orchard part of agricultural landscape.	
Designations (Conservation Area/ Significant Gap etc.): None, but identified on Natural England's Priority Habitat Inventory as Traditional Orchard.	
Criteria and reason for protection	
<p>1. Is the green space in reasonably close proximity (walking distance) to the community it serves? Yes particularly to those located in Sandfield Lane</p>	
<p>2. Is the green space demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance?</p> <p>a) Are there significant views from the local area into or across the site? It can be seen from Bredon Hill (AONB) and from Sandfield Lane.</p> <p>b) Does the site afford the public with significant views out into the wider countryside? Yes</p> <p>c) Does the site have special historic significance or features? Traditional orchard part of the heritage of the area</p> <p>d) Does the site have recreational value? No</p> <p>e) Is the site particularly tranquil? Yes</p> <p>f) Does the site have ecological value, trees, wildlife or habitat? Trees are an important habitat</p>	



g)	Does the site form a significant green break within the settlement? No
h)	Are there other reasons that make the site special to local people? No
i)	Is there evidence demonstrating that the site is special to local people? The Sandfield area was suggested as part of the household survey to consider as LGS but no specific site.
3.	Is the green area:
a)	local in character? Yes
b)	an extensive tract of land? No
Is there public access to the site? Yes	
Would the site provide the public with amenity value without public access? No	
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>This is an area of traditional orchard that provides biodiversity benefits; it is identified on Natural England's Priority Habitat Inventory as Traditional Orchard and is important to the heritage and landscape character of the area.</p> <p>Sandfield Road and this part of the parish is well removed from the physical settlement of Sedgeberrow, it lies within the open countryside and has a different character to the settlement itself. Therefore, the orchard is viewed as part of the wider area of open countryside rather than a local open space that forms a significant break within the settlement.</p> <p>The orchard does have some amenity value to those living in the lane and to walkers and riders passing the site, but it is not considered to fully meet the criteria for designating the site as LGS.</p>	

Appendix 4 Map of sites assessed



Appendix 5 - Landscape Character Areas

The majority of the Parish is washed over by the landscape character area Principal village Farmlands as identified by Worcestershire County Council.

Landscapes of Worcestershire Landscape Type Information Sheet Principal Village Farmlands	
Landscape Type Description	<p>An open, rolling landscape characterised by a nucleated pattern of expanded rural villages, surrounded by large arable fields, often subdivided into a series of smaller plots. This is an intensively farmed landscape associated with fertile, free draining soils which give rise to high quality farmland used for growing a wide variety of cash crops. This is a landscape of contrasts, the intensely functional, yet often very open and empty character of the farmland and the focused, communal density of the villages.</p> 
Key Characteristics	<div> <div> Primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nucleated pattern of expanded rural villages Arable/cropping land use—cereals and field vegetables on fertile, free-draining soils </div> <div> Secondary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows define field boundaries Rolling lowland topography </div> <div> Tertiary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned enclosure pattern of medium-to-large scale fields Groups of trees associated with dwellings </div> </div> 
<p>These are landscapes derived from vast expanses of former open field, which have remained under intensive cultivation following their enclosure and in which the regeneration of woodland and tree cover has never re-established to any significant degree with the exception of elm, which was formerly a dominant hedgerow tree. These are relatively open, large scale landscapes, where the key elements are the settlement pattern and land use. It is important to try to retain the notable contrast between the concentrations of dwellings and farmsteads in the villages and the relatively unsettled land between them. The land use in these areas is very strongly based on cropping and horticulture, with characteristic concentrations of tunnels and greenhouses associated with such uses. Orchards are a notable feature, occurring throughout the area on a domestic scale, with line of fruit trees, usually damson, a distinctive feature in certain localities.</p>	

Landscape Type Information Sheet

Principal Village Farmlands

The hedgerow network provides structure in places but has often largely lost its function, and the resulting scale is derived from the patterns of cropping rather than the boundaries between them. Woodland cover is not a characteristic of the village farmlands and the prospect of new woodland planting in these areas would dilute their distinctive character. The regeneration of elm continues in the hedgerows but still eventually succumbs to disease at a certain size. The characteristic traditional orchards of standard trees are gradually disappearing in certain areas, being replaced by bush stock, associated with this is the loss of many of the old fruit tree varieties, many with close links to the County. These are landscapes with limited opportunities for habitat restoration and opportunities to manage areas of non-farmed land for nature conservation benefit are to be encouraged.

Although it is desirable to try to retain the full hedgerow structure for visual and wildlife reasons, it is perhaps most viable to focus primarily on the primary hedges in landscapes where the hedgerow function is generally in decline. Opportunities to improve the structure and wildlife potential of the landscape should be concentrated on restoring good linear tree cover along the watercourses and streams, encouraging new tree planting in and around the settlement nuclei to enhance village settings, promoting the development of wide field margins, and appropriately managing roadside verges and other non productive land. It is considered that the particular character of the elm was so distinctive that it would be inappropriate to aim to replicate its contribution to the landscape with alternative species. It is to be hoped that some natural resistance will eventually develop and consequent restoration of the "elmscape" will arise as a matter of course from the hedgerow elm stock.


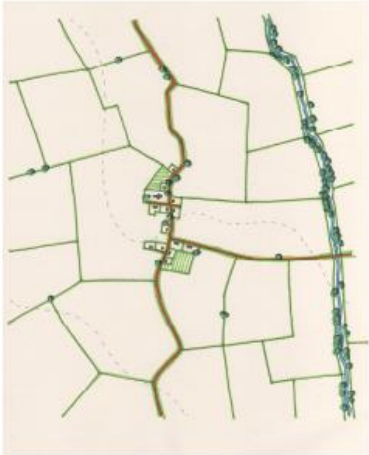
The management strategy for the village farmlands is, therefore, one of enhancement and conservation - conserving the basic hedgerow fabric, together with the distinctive settlement pattern and the distinctive land uses. The opportunities for enhancement relate to encouraging tree planting around village locations and along watercourses and to the creation of improved habitat for wildlife.

Landscape Guidelines

- retain pattern of strongly nucleated villages with associated low dispersal of settlement in between
- conserve and enhance hedgerow structure, with emphasis on the primary hedgelines
- conserve and enhance tree cover along watercourses
- encourage opportunities for tree planting in and around villages
- conserve and restore old orchards around villages, with emphasis placed upon the fruit type and varieties associated with different localities
- conserve and restore lines of hedgerow fruit trees
- promote the development of wide field margins for wildlife benefit
- promote management of roadside verges for wildlife benefit

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A smaller pocket of land to the west of Sandfield Road falls within the Village Claylands landscape area type as identified by Worcestershire County Council.

Landscapes of Worcestershire Landscape Type Information Sheet Village Claylands	
Landscape Type Description	<p>An open, gently rolling agricultural landscape characterised by an ordered pattern of hedged fields and discrete rural villages connected by a network of minor roads. This is a landscape of heavy, poorly drained soils, typically associated with broad clay vales backed by steeply sloping escarpments. The field pattern tends to define the scale of the landscape.</p> 
Key Characteristics	<div> <div> Primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hedgerow boundaries to fields </div> <div> Secondary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral land use with relic ridge and furrow • Gently rolling lowland topography • Heavy, poorly-drained soils • Medium-to-large scale field pattern • Rural lanes with uniform grass verges • Scattered hedgerow and streamline trees • Nucleated settlement pattern of usually small, rural villages </div> </div> 
<p>The pastoral land use is one of the key elements of this landscape, together with the pattern of settlement and hedged fields. These are landscapes derived from former extensive areas of open fields, but were less favoured for continued arable cultivation becoming predominantly converted to pasture at the time of enclosure. The settlement pattern reflects the organised community structure associated with open field culture of long standing, though often the villages have since declined in size or even become abandoned, reflecting the decline in status of the areas for farming.</p> <p>The pattern of hedged fields defines the scale of the landscape which until recently would have conveyed a more pronounced sense of structure and enclosure. These landscapes were often bastions of elm tree cover in the past, and the composition of many hedges is still dominated by this species. The hedgerows are not, however, devoid of tree cover and scattered populations of hedgerow ash in particular are not uncommon.</p>	

Landscape Type Information Sheet

Village Claylands

Woodland is not a characteristic feature of these landscapes, tree cover today being most notably represented by streamside cover. There are still significant areas of permanent pasture in some localities, often with notable representation of ridge and furrow.

An increase in the proportion of arable land is evident which can have repercussions on several aspects of landscape character. The loss of pasture dilutes the distinctive land use as a basic concern, with corresponding damage to the nature conservation and archaeological interest if areas of unimproved meadow are destroyed in the process. The increase in arable land uses also reduces the functionality of hedgerows in the relevant areas, with consequent dilution of landscape scale and structure as hedges become lost or fragmented. Further dilution of landscape character would result if new woodland planting were to be targeted in these areas.

These are landscapes where the conservation of the hedgerow network is of prime importance. The retention of permanent pasture should be encouraged along with opportunities to convert arable land back to a pastoral use. The problems associated with restoring the distinctively dense patterns of tree cover associated with the elm are described for the Village Farmlands, and here again, rather than use an alternative species to replicate the character, it is left for a degree of natural resistance to emerge that will enable regeneration of this species to arise from the remaining hedgerow stock. Hedgerow trees tend to be tolerated more readily in areas of pastoral land use, and the encouragement of a scattered tree presence within the hedges could be encouraged, favouring ash as the major species. This is not a landscape where an oak dominance would be expected. The restoration of lines of tree cover along the watercourses is also to be encouraged along with the planting of tree groups in and around settlement to enhance the character and to help emphasise the distinctive settlement pattern.

The management strategy for the village claylands would be one of conservation and enhancement with conserving the distinctive scale of hedged fields and pastoral character of the landscape being the priority, whilst enhancing the areas in and around settlements with new tree planting.

Landscape Guidelines

- conserve the pattern of hedgerow boundaries
- conserve all remaining areas of permanent pasture
- conserve and enhance tree cover along water courses
- conserve and enhance the scattered populations of hedgerow trees
- seek to retain the integrity of the distinctive settlement pattern of small villages
- encourage the planting of tree groups in association with settlements
- opportunities for conversion of arable land back to pasture should be given consideration

For more information visit our website www.worcestershire.gov.uk/lca or contact the Worcestershire County Council Environmental Policy Team on 01905 766038