

NEW ALRESFORD

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Local Green Space Assessment

January 2025

DRAFT





New Alresford Town Council

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<https://www.newalresford-tc.gov.uk/>

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Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents an assessment of sites in New Alresford to be considered for designation as Local Green Spaces in the New Alresford Neighbourhood Plan based on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and local planning policies. The report first sets out the relevant policy context at the national and local level regarding Local Green Spaces. The report then sets out the methodology and criteria used in preparing assessments of the Local Green Spaces, followed by a detailed assessment of each site. The report concludes by recommending which of the potential sites should be designated as Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy Context

National Policy and Guidance

- 1.2 The NPPF (December 2024) and associated Planning Practice Guidance outline the national policy approach to Local Green Space (LGS) designations.
- 1.3 Paragraph 106 of the NPPF states that *"the designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating 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. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period."*
- 1.4 Paragraph 107 of the NPPF states that Local Green Spaces should only be designated where the green space is:
- a) *in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
 - b) *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*
 - c) *local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*
- 1.5 Paragraph 108 of the NPPF states that *"policies and decisions for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts set out in chapter 13 of this Framework"*.
- 1.6 Under this guidance, the Neighbourhood Plan will need to include a policy (or policies) regarding the management of development proposals affecting Local Green Spaces within New Alresford. The NPPF (2024) includes a section called *"Proposals affecting the Green Belt"* in paragraphs 153 through 160 which addresses this topic.

- 1.7 Planning Practice Guidance provides further guidance on the designation of Local Green Spaces and is reproduced in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 1.8 The Guidance specifies the following key points regarding the site size, public accessibility, land ownership and how Local Green Spaces should relate to development:
- While there is no set upper or lower size limit for a Local Green Space designation, the Guidance reemphasises the NPPF stating that *"...the National Planning Policy Framework is clear that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land"* and that *"...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."*¹¹
 - While many local green spaces have public access, this is not mandatory. The Guidance states that *"...other land could be considered for designation even if there is no public access (eg green areas which are valued because of their wildlife, historic significance and/or beauty)."*¹²
 - There is no requirement for a site to be in public ownership to be designated as a Local Green Space. However, the Guidance recommends that *"...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."*¹³
 - In relation to how LGSs relate to development, PPG states that: *"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"*¹⁴.

Winchester District Policies and Evidence Base

- 1.9 The section below sets out the relevant policies in the Winchester Local Plan (adopted and emerging) and the key evidence in relation to open space.

Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 (2013) and Part 2 (2017)

¹ Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306

² Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306

³ Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306

⁴ Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306

- 1.10 Winchester's Local Plan Parts 1 and 2 do not designate Local Green Spaces. The Local Plan Part 2 states the following:

"The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides for local communities to identify 'Local Green Space' of particular importance to them. The importance of retaining open spaces has been highlighted through the process of consulting local communities on their needs and aspirations, but no Local Green Space designations have been suggested. The NPPF is clear that this designation will not be appropriate for most green or open spaces and that particular criteria will need to be met. Therefore, this Plan does not seek to designate any Local Green Spaces, but will protect important open areas through other policies, such as Policy CP7, CP18, DM5 and the policies relating to development in the countryside."⁵

- 1.11 The adopted Winchester District Local Plan Part 2 designates 25 sites in New Alresford (see Figure 1) under policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas), which protects the sites from development apart from where development accords with the Development Plan and:

- i. the proposal is for a facility which is ancillary to the function of the open space; and
- ii. the contribution of the open area to the character of the wider area is maintained or enhanced.

- 1.12 Policy DM5 also exceptionally permits development where it can be demonstrated that the benefit to the community clearly outweighs the harm caused by the loss of all or part of the facility, and options for elsewhere have been explored.

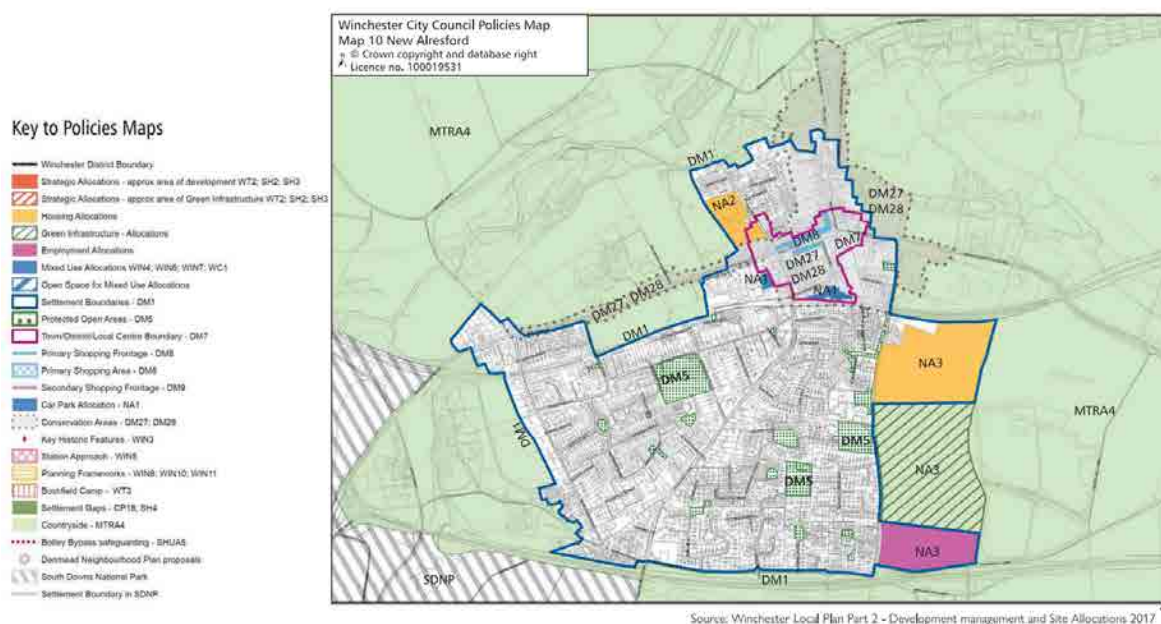


Figure 1: Local Plan Part 2 Policies Map (2017), including sites designated DM5 marked with green hatching

⁵ Paragraph 6.2.19

Emerging Winchester District Local Plan (2024)

- 1.13 The emerging Winchester District Local Plan (2024) states the following regarding Local Green Spaces:

*“The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides for local communities to identify ‘Local Green Space’ of particular importance to them. The importance of retaining open spaces has been highlighted through the process of consulting local communities on their needs and aspirations, but no Local Green Space designations have been suggested. In preparing the revised Open Space Assessment in 2020 parishes were asked to put forward all the green spaces of particular importance to them for consideration. Most if not all of these green spaces are now in the Open Space Assessment 2022 and will be afforded protection by the ‘protecting open areas’ policy. The NPPF is clear that this designation will not be appropriate for most green or open spaces and that particular criteria will need to be met. Therefore, this Plan does not seek to designate any Local Green Spaces, but will protect important open areas through other policies, such as Policy NE3, NE7, NE10 and the policies relating to development in the countryside”.*⁶

- 1.14 It refers to protecting open areas, and policy NE10 (Protecting Open Areas) states that *“...open areas within defined settlement boundaries which have an important amenity, biodiversity, heritage or recreational value, as shown on the Policies Map and detailed in the Open Space Assessment, will be protected from development.”* This policy also allows some development within open areas exceptionally and under specific circumstances outlined in policy NE10.
- 1.15 Emerging policy NE10 therefore protects open areas that have an important amenity, biodiversity, heritage or recreational value to the local community. This policy also requires open areas to be within the defined Settlement Boundary.

Winchester Open Space Assessment (2022)

- 1.16 In 2022, Winchester City Council prepared an Open Space Assessment to identify open spaces that will continue to receive protection in future updates to its Local Plan. Sites were identified and evaluated based on their benefit to the community for recreational value, visual amenity, biodiversity, or heritage assets. The Open Space Assessment identified 29 sites in New Alresford (see Figure 2 and Figure 3) as important open areas for designation, including all 25 sites that had already been protected under policy DM5 in the Local Plan Part 2. For the purposes of the Open Space Assessment, sites did not need to be publicly accessible to be considered, although all of the sites identified in New Alresford are. The Assessment found that New Alresford has a good supply of sports facilities and park space as well as good access to the countryside, but an overall

⁶ Paragraph 7.78

“shortfall of public open space” with specific needs for allotments, children’s play areas, informal green space and natural green space based on WCC standards (see Figure 2).

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NEW ALRESFORD

POPULATION - 5501

Ref.	Cat.	Site	Area (m²)	Public Access	Reason for Protection			
					amenity	recreation	biodiversity	heritage
1	IGS	Spring Gardens Allotment	7,238	✓	✓	✓		
2	IGS	Arlebury Park play areas	4,622	✓	✓	✓		
3	IGS	Stratton Bates play area	1,509	✓	✓	✓		
4	IGS	Sun Hill play area	1,419	✓	✓	✓		
5	IGS	Appledown Close	1,802	✓	✓	✓		
6	IGS	Orchard Close	1,695	✓	✓	✓		
7	IGS	Undley Gardens	1,193	✓	✓	✓		
8	IGS	Beneiden Green	4,510	✓	✓	✓		
9	IGS	The Avenue	10,854	✓	✓	✓		
10	IGS	Milford Road roundabout	1,158	✓	✓	✓		
11	IGS	Dak Hill open space	310	✓	✓	✓		
12	IGS	Off Hasted Drive	226	✓	✓	✓		
13	IGS	Fairview	1,782	✓	✓	✓		
14	IGS	Brill Close	327	✓	✓	✓		
15	IGS	Lovell's Walk	277	✓	✓	✓		
16	IGS	Makin's Court	1,465	✓	✓	✓		
17	IGS	Chestnut Walk	2,117	✓	✓	✓		
18	IGS	Nursery Road	352	✓	✓	✓		
19	IGS	Ash Walk	444	✓	✓	✓		
20	IGS	Sun Lane	1,265	✓	✓	✓		
21	IGS	Nicholson Place	453	✓	✓	✓		
22	IGS	Meryon Road	1,111	✓	✓	✓		
23	IGS	Carpenters	450	✓	✓	✓		
24	PRG	Memorial Gardens	1,928	✓	✓	✓		
25	PRG	Stratton Bates Recreation Ground	23,794	✓	✓	✓		
26	PRG	Arlebury Park	12,422	✓	✓	✓		
27	PRG	Sun Hill Recreation Ground	10,660	✓	✓	✓		

Ref.	Cat.	Site	Area (m²)	Public Access	Reason for Protection			
					amenity	recreation	biodiversity	heritage
28	SG	Arlebury Park Rugby pitches	30,569	✓	✓	✓		
29	SG	Arlebury Park sports grounds	24,776	✓	✓	✓		

Adequacy (hectares)			
CP7 category	CP7 Requirement	Existing provision	Adequacy
IGS - Allotments	1.1	0.69	-0.41
IGS - Informal Green Space	4.4	3.17	-1.23
IGS - Natural Green Space	5.5	0	-5.50
IGS - Play	2.75	0.76	-1.99
PRG - Park/Recreation Ground	4.13	4.88	0.75
SG - Sports Ground	4.13	5.53	1.40
Total	22.01	15.03	-6.98

NEEDS & OPPORTUNITIES

The town is surrounded by accessible countryside and has good sports facilities at Arlebury Park. There is nevertheless a shortfall of public open space in the town when assessed against the WCC Local Plan standard. It is intended that the proposed housing allocation to the east of Sun Lane will provide substantial areas of public open space in order to ensure open space deficiencies are not exacerbated as the town grows.



Figure 2: Table from Winchester City Council's Open Space Assessment (2022)

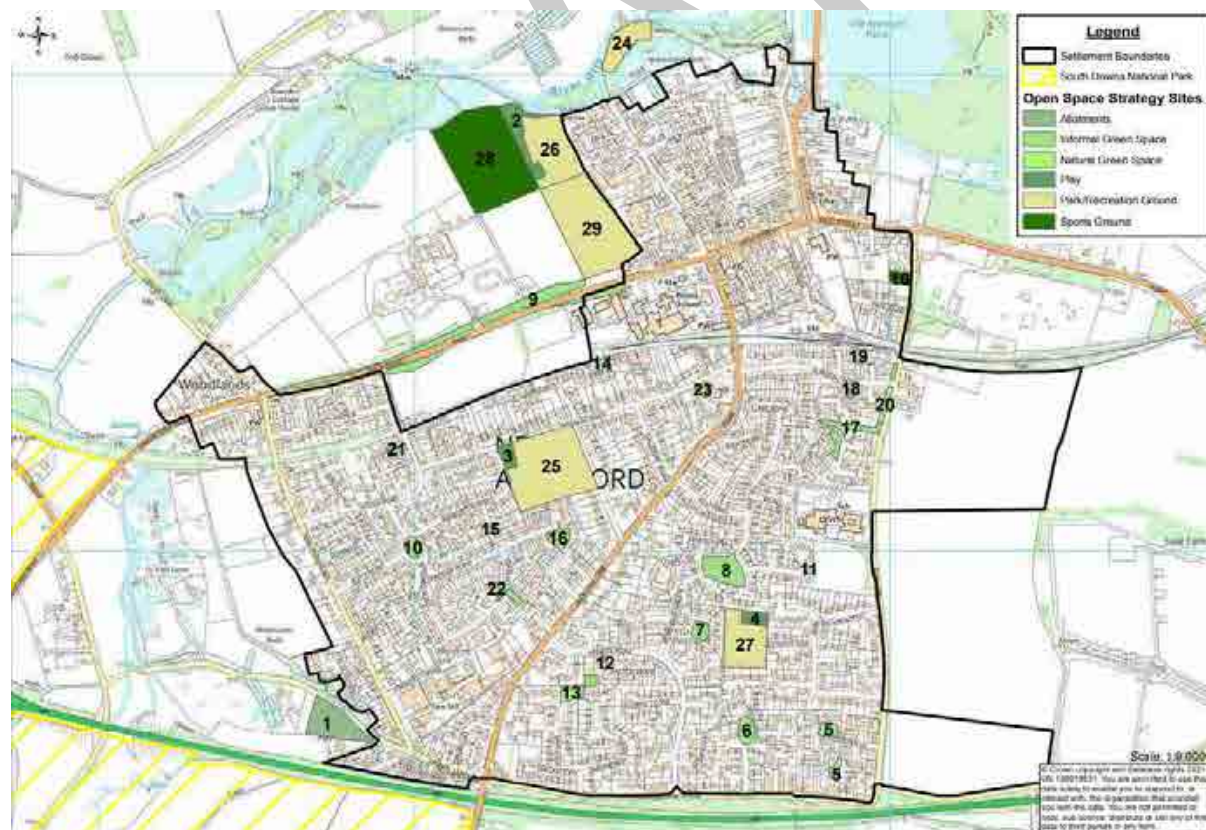


Figure 3: Locations of open green spaces identified by the WCC Open Space Assessment (2022)

Methodology

1.18 The process for identifying, assessing and proposing the designation of Local Green Spaces in the New Alresford Neighbourhood Plan has involved the following steps:

- **Review of existing policy documents:** As a starting point, a review of New Alresford's existing and emerging green / open space designations in Winchester Local Policies and WCC's Open Space Assessment (2022) was undertaken. This included a review of the existing and emerging Winchester District Local Plan Policies Maps.
- **Engagement with the local community:** Consultation was undertaken with residents and with New Alresford Town Council to identify potential Local Green Spaces that are demonstrably special to the local community and hold particular local significance to New Alresford. Any site within the Parish could be nominated for consideration as a potential Local Green Space.



*Photo of 21st November 2024 Community Consultation Event
Source: Troy Planning + Design*

- **Identification of potential sites for designation:** A long list of potential sites for designation as Local Green Space was prepared based on a combination of the review and consultation exercises outlined above. This was supplemented with a

review of mapping to identify additional sites that may have been overlooked in past green space planning efforts or community engagement sessions.

- **Other designations:** Beyond Local Plan policies, other relevant designations and legislation at the national level may already provide a site with protection that would make designation as a Local Green Space unnecessary. These wider designations may include:
 - Natural England's Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designations, which restrict development in these areas;
 - The Allotments Act 1925, which restricts the disposal, sale or change of use of land held by local authorities for allotments or gardens;
 - Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010, which restricts the disposal, sale or change of use of land held by local authorities for schools or academies;
 - Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, which restricts the disposal, sale or change of use of school playing fields;

Any relevant designations that apply to a site are noted in the site's assessment profile in this report.

- **Assessment of sites against the criteria for designation established in the NPPF (December 2024), PPG and WCC Policy:** The potential Local Green Spaces were then assessed against the criteria established in the NPPF to determine whether the sites met each criterion. Desktop-based reviews were undertaken for each site.

- 1.19 An initial screening of sites was undertaken to where there was clear evidence that the site did not meet the LGS criteria. These reasons include where a site was located outside the parish boundary, where a site was an extensive tract of land in the open countryside on the edge of the settlement, where other higher-level designations are already in place such as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and where a site was being promoted and considered as a potential neighbourhood plan site allocation. Those sites that did not meet the criteria (rejected sites) including the reasons for rejection can be found in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 1.20 Using the methodology outlined above, this report presents each potential Local Green Space site and provides commentary against the NPPF criteria and the site's specific local context to assess each site's suitability for designation.

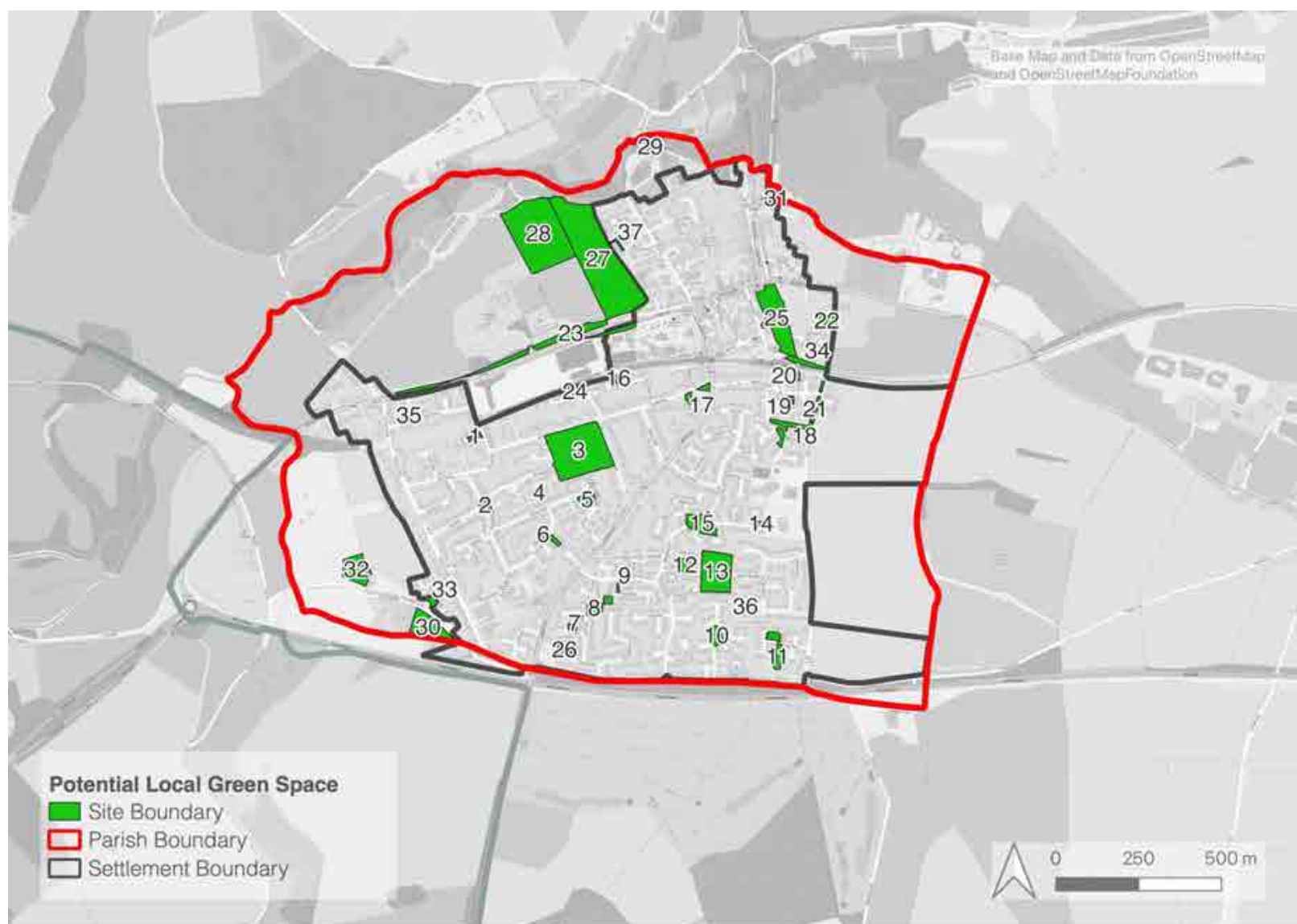


Figure 4: Locations of potential Local Green Spaces (sites that have been assessed)

Map ID	Site Name	Local Plan Part 2 Policies Map (2017) – Policy DM5	WCC Open Space Assessment (2022)	Emerging Local Plan Policies Map (2024) – Policy NE10
1	Nicholson Place	Yes	Yes	No
2	Mitford Road roundabout	Yes	Yes	Yes
3	Stratton Bates Rec. Ground & Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	Lovells Walk	Yes	Yes	No
5	Makins Court	Yes	Yes	No
6	Meryon Road	Yes	Yes	No
7	Fair View A	No	No	No
8	Fair View B	Yes	Yes	No
9	Hasted Drive	Yes	Yes	No
10	Orchard Close	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Appledown Close	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	Lindley Gardens	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	Sun Hill Rec. Ground & Play Area	Yes	Yes	Yes
14	Oak Hill open space	Yes	Yes	Yes
15	Benenden Green	Yes	Yes	Yes
16	Brill Close	Yes	Yes	No
17	Carpenters	Yes	Yes	No
18	Chestnut Walk	Yes	Yes	No
19	Nursery Road	Yes	Yes	No
20	Ash Walk	Yes	Yes	No
21	Sun Lane	Yes	Yes	No
22	Alresford Bowling Club	Yes	Yes	Yes
23	The Avenue	Yes	Yes	Yes
24	Thornton Close	No	No	No
25	St. John the Baptist Church Yard	No	No	No
26	Paddock Way	No	No	No
27	Arlebury Park Recreation	No	Yes	No
28	Arlebury Park – Rugby Grounds	No	Yes	No
29	Memorial Gardens	No	Yes	No
30	Capt. Robert Cogswell Memorial	No	No	No
31	Spring Gardens Allotment	No	Yes	No
32	New Allotments	No	No	No
33	Watercress Meadow	No	No	No
34	Watercress Line Picnic Area	No	No	No
35	De Lucy Avenue	No	No	No
36	Windermere Gardens	No	No	No
37	Huxley Drive	No	No	No

Table 1: Policy designations and evidence base applicable to sites

1. Nicholson Place



Grid Reference

SU 57963 32215

Description and purpose

The Nicholson Place green space is located within the Settlement Boundary and forms an open space surrounded by housing development. The space is of a rectangular shape, covered by grass and features some hedges to the eastern end. A row of 5 young trees have been planted in the centre of the open space. The boundary of the green space is clearly defined by kerb stones.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 21)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.045 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This informal green space is small in size and is directly accessible to all residents in the vicinity, especially to those living at Nicholson Place. It serves the local community well due to its close proximity to residents.

In terms of its significance, this green space provides an important amenity and recreational role for nearby residents as it complements existing private garden provision with a more flexible, larger and informal space that facilitates a diversity of activities and events for people of all ages. Once trees mature, they will also provide sufficient shade on warmer days.

The space is locally characteristic in this type of residential area, and due to its limited size, it is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Nicholson Place open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

2. Mitford Road Roundabout



Grid Reference

SU 57997 32010

Description and purpose

The open green space is of an elliptical shape, located within the Settlement Boundary, in the centre of a residential area, and opposite a recent two-storey flat development at 46-56 Ashburton Road. The green space was previously a road intersection in the form of a roundabout, which was later converted into an open space with a footpath connecting Mitford Road (in a north-south direction). The open space is mostly grassed and provides an attractive outlook to nearby residents. It features trees and a knee-rail fence which frames an informal open space distant from the road and traffic.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 10)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation;

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

0.12 ha

Planning history

No relevant planning history since planning permission was granted for the transformation of the roundabout into an open space (ref. 15/02599/FUL).

Assessment

This open space is located within the centre of a large residential community, within the Settlement Boundary of New Alresford, surrounded by numerous homes, which have direct and easy access to this open space. Homes not only have access to this open space, but the open space also benefits from natural surveillance from these homes, providing a feeling of safety to local neighbours and users of the open space.

Since the transformation of the space from an engineered junction (roundabout) to a public open space, the local community gives significant value to the role of this open space and the changes that it has provided to the local area and residents' lives as they benefit from a new amenity space. This open space at Mitford Road contributes to lower vehicle speeds when travelling in the area and has improved the overall outlook of the houses nearby, which enjoy a verdant environment, which is appreciated by locals. The open space has beautified the area significantly and improved tranquillity levels in what was a car-dominated environment. Furthermore, the space has recreational value, and one of its virtues is that its use is not designed, therefore providing a flexible space for informal activities, not necessarily defining what activity should take place (sport, event, relaxation, gathering, etc.). The existing trees, whilst young, provide shade, biodiversity and attractiveness in a residential area where public open spaces with tree cover are limited.

The open space is small in size (0.12 ha), but meaningful in function and character. It is not an extensive tract of land and provides a service in line with local patterns of open space provision and enjoyment, where residential areas benefit from small to medium-sized spaces for recreation and amenity.

Conclusion

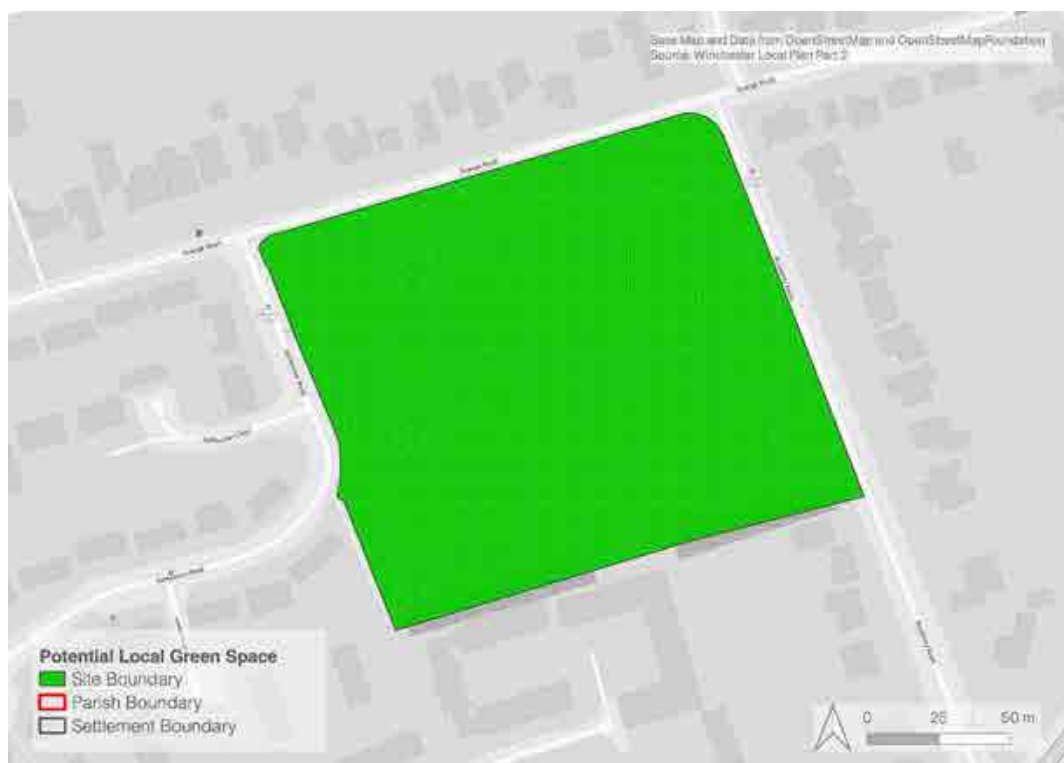
The Mitford Road Roundabout open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

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3. Stratton Bates Recreation Ground and Play Area



Grid Reference

SU 58275 32178

Description and purpose

This open space is located within the Settlement Boundary and includes a park with an open field for recreation and a children's playground, forming a square shape. This space is defined by Grange Road and Rosebery Road on its northern and eastern boundaries, a line of trees and fence forming the boundary between the open space and residential development to the south, and a combination of road (Ashburton Road) and a public footpath on the western edge.

There is a mix of mature and young deciduous trees along the boundaries of the open space and a footway around the open space on its western and northern boundaries. The vast majority of the open space is grassed, and there are no trees or structures within the middle of the ground, only benches along the edges, a pavilion on the northeast corner and an associated car park (12 spaces). There is also a footway on the opposite side of Rosebery Road and no footway along the south end of the open space.

The open space is formed by a large recreation ground with a children's play area on the northwest corner.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 3)

- Category: Play Area
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 25)

- Category: Park/Recreation Ground
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation;

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

2.53 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

The Stratton Bates Recreation Ground and Play Area provides a significant recreation and play opportunity to all residents in New Alresford, especially those living nearby. It is centrally located in the settlement, and it is easily accessible by foot and cycle. Most residents are within a 15-minute walking distance. Therefore, it serves the local community well.

The recreation ground and play area are an important asset to local residents as it provides excellent recreational opportunities for people of all ages, from children to adults. It is a significant recreational facility as it is where users can play several sports in the area (such as football). This open space is used by Alresford Town Youth Football Club. Swings and other children's play equipment can be found in the children's play area, which provides a valued service to children of a range of ages.

When not in use for sport or when not heavily in use, this open space is a positive contributor towards local tranquillity levels. It also contributes to the overall amenity of nearby residents as it is a large open space that can be used flexibly and not only for sport or play but also for relaxation, events, or other social gatherings.

Whilst the open space is one of the largest open spaces in New Alresford (2.53 ha), it is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Stratton Bates Recreation Ground and Play Area open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

4. Lovells Walk



Grid Reference

SU 58159 32049

Description and purpose

The open, informal green space is located within the Settlement Boundary, at the end of a cul-de-sac and surrounded by housing. It consists of a small square-shaped grass area framed and addressed by three rows of terraces. Whilst not prominent on the wider road network and public realm, this open space is well overlooked by the most immediate houses around it. There is also a tarmac area north of the open space, that is part of the cul-de-sac, where vehicles park. It can be accessed by foot from the north (Ashburton Road, via Lovells Walk) and from the south (Windsor Road, via a public footpath). There are no trees or structures within the squared open space, only a tarmac footway around it.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 15)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes

- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.03 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This open space is small in size, and it is in very close proximity to terraced housing around it.

Whilst small in size, it provides an important amenity space that complements the private gardens of residents in the vicinity, which are smaller than the average gardens in the wider area. This open space functions as a small gathering place for the immediate 12 homes surrounding it. Therefore, this space plays a relevant social function, serving as a recreational space complementing existing gardens.

It is a very small tract of land, serving the local community.

Conclusion

The Lovells Walk open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

5. Makins Court



Grid Reference

SU 58302 32032

Description and purpose

The Makins Court open green space is located within the Settlement Boundary. It is of an irregular shape and sits between a senior care home to the north and a mix of terraced and semi-detached houses. The north and south ends are accessed by a road, via a cul-de-sac where small pockets of car parking can be found. There are two footways that provide access to the houses on the edge of the open space and connect through the open space Robertson Road and Windsor Road. This open space is well overlooked by nearby houses and the care home, benefiting from natural surveillance. It is on a slope, as the terrain falls to the southwest. There are a few trees within the open space and its edges.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 16)

- Category: Informal Green Space

- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.14 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This space is of a modest size, and it is located adjacent to and directly accessible by all nearby residential properties. It also provides an important permeability role for pedestrians in the town, as it connects the care home and nearby homes with Jacklyns Lane (B3046) and other neighbourhoods in New Alresford without having to walk around winding roads and cul-de-sac developments.

The Makins Court open space is informal in character and serves as a meaningful recreational and amenity space for nearby residents and those living at the care home.

It is proportionate to the community it serves and not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Makins Court open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

6. Meryon Road



Grid Reference

SU 58185 31920

Description and purpose

The Meryon Road open spaces are located within the Settlement Boundary and consist of two areas of informal green space in front of residential developments. One area is of a rectangular shape and sits between a group of semi-detached homes: no. 3 and 13 Meryon Road. The other space is of a more irregular shape and includes the front landscaped space of no. 12-18 Meryon Road. The latter is a grass area on a slope and features a large mature tree and a small tree. The rectangular-shaped space is a grassed space, and it features ornamental planting. Both spaces include footways on the edges that provide pedestrian access to the nearby residential developments.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 22)

- Category: Informal Green Space

- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.11 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

The Meryon Road open spaces are directly accessible to all nearby residents.

Furthermore, it functions as an informal green space providing recreation and amenity functions to neighbours, which complement their private garden provision with these two informal open spaces. The existing large mature tree provides shade, facilitating the use of the space in the summer as well as contributing to the quality of the street scene and biodiversity.

This space is local in character and is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Meryon Road open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.





Source: New Alresford Town Council

DRAFT

7. Fair View A



Grid Reference

SU 58263 31642

Description and purpose

Fair View A is an informal green space located within the Settlement Boundary. It is mostly covered by grass and features large mature trees. This space is irregular in shape and small in size but provides pedestrian connectivity in a north-south direction, between two cul-de-sacs. The space is surrounded by housing.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM1 (Location of New Development – New Alresford Settlement Boundary)

Site Area (hectare)

0.07 ha

Planning History

21/01868/TPO - Tree works on a TPO tree.

No other relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This open space is small in size and is easily accessible by nearby residents.

It plays an important role in the local community providing amenity and outdoor recreational space. It contributes to the beauty of the neighbourhood and positively contributes towards biodiversity, due to the existing mature trees within the site.

It does not constitute an extensive tract of land, as it is of limited size and proportionate and well-integrated in the neighbourhood.

Conclusion

The Fair View A open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

8. Fair View B



Grid Reference

SU 58328 31701

Description and purpose

The open space consists of two rectangular grassed areas surrounded by residential buildings. The area is located on the southern edge of the town's Settlement Boundary. The green space is partly framed by a wooden fence or hedges and has partial tree coverage. It is publicly accessible by the surrounding neighbourhood and contains a couple of footpaths.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 13)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.18 ha

Planning History

21/01868/TPO - Tree works on TPO trees.

21/00623/TPO - Tree works on TPO tree.

No other relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This open space is small in size, although slightly larger than the Fair View A site, and is easily accessible by nearby residents. It is within a residential area and provides a connection for pedestrians between Fair View and Hasted Drive.

It plays an important role in the local community providing amenity and recreational space outdoors. It contributes to the beauty of the neighbourhood due to the presence of a significant number of mature trees and plays a role in contributing towards biodiversity, albeit on a small scale.

It is local in scale and does not constitute an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Fair View B open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

9. Hasted Drive



Grid Reference

SU 58402 31767

Description and purpose

This is a narrow rectangular informal green space covered by grass and featuring mature trees. It is defined by the street (carriageway and parking) on its eastern boundary and a footway and row of terraced housing on its western side.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 12)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.02 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This small informal open space is in close proximity to the adjacent residential development and walking distance from the wider neighbourhood.

It provides an informal space for recreation and amenity especially for those living opposite the open space, increasing their opportunities for recreational and amenity space beyond their private gardens. This open space, with its mature trees, contributes to the beauty of the residential area and the street scene and, to some degree, to improving the biodiversity of the area.

Overall, this green space is characteristic of the residential area where it is located and it does not constitute an extensive tract of land, due to its limited size.

Conclusion

The Hasted Drive open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

10. Orchard Close



Grid Reference

SU 58699 31627

Description and purpose

This informal green space is of an irregular oval shape, surrounded by Orchard Close on its eastern edge and by the side of houses on its western end. There is a footway along its western boundary connecting the open space with the wider footway and road network. This green space is mostly covered by grass, with some bushes and mature trees on the edges. It is also on sloping ground falling towards the south and east.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 6)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation;

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

0.17 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

An application has been submitted to register the site as a Village Green which is under separate legislation to planning legislation (For further information please see DEFRA's website⁷).

Assessment

This informal open space is in close proximity to nearby residents and accessible to the wider New Alresford community by foot, cycle or car. It is of a small-medium size and serves the neighbourhood.

The site functions as a useful space for recreation and amenity, also providing some biodiversity benefits. Its role as an amenity and recreational space complements existing private garden provision in the area and facilitates flexible uses and activities within.

This open space is consistent with the character of the local area, particularly with the open space and public realm of this residential area. It does not constitute an extensive tract of land due to its modest size, particularly concerning the size of the neighbourhood and the town.

Conclusion

The Orchard Close open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/town-and-village-greens-how-to-register>



Source: New Alresford Town Council

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11. Appledown Close



Grid Reference

SU 58877 31625

Description and purpose

This open space is irregular in shape and of a modest size, extending from the northmost end of Appledown Close towards the south in the direction of Tichborne Down. It is split into two areas, one north of the street (Appledown Close) and the second section south of the street. They are surrounded by housing development and feature significant tree cover.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 5)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation;

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

0.16 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This informal open space is located in the centre of a residential area; therefore, it is easily accessible by all residents in the vicinity and in close proximity to the community it serves.

It functions as an amenity and recreational space for the residents nearby, providing flexible space that can be used for a range of activities and events. This space complements the current private garden provision in the area and contributes to biodiversity due to the significant number of trees. This open space improves the street scene and the quality of the neighbourhood, including its beauty.

It is consistent with local character and does not constitute an extensive tract of land, due to its modest size and location.

Conclusion

The Appledown Close open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.

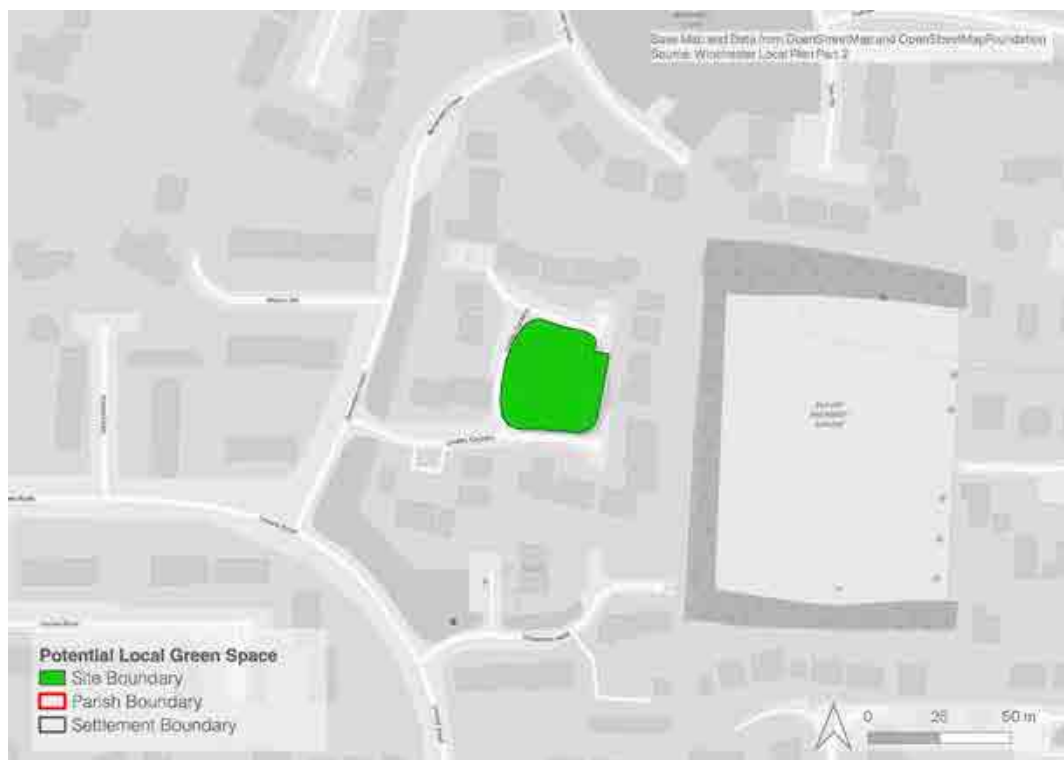


Source: New Alresford Town Council



Source: Google Street View

12. Lindley Gardens



Grid Reference

SU 58602 31835

Description and purpose

This informal open green space is encircled by housing and two cul-de-sacs. There is permeability in the area for pedestrians as the open space is connected by foot to Benenden Green (via Lindley Gardens) and the recreation ground and other streets to the north via a public footpath.

There are four large trees on each corner of the open space, and the informal space within is grassed and well-overlooked by the houses. The open space is located within the New Alresford Settlement Boundary.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 7)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation;

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

0.12 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

The Lindley Gardens open space is well accessed by neighbours due to its central location in the residential area, which also benefits from an adequate network of roads and public footpaths to increase its accessibility by car, foot and cycle. It is well-located to serve the local community.

Furthermore, this open space contributes to the neighbourhood with an informal and adaptable amenity and recreational function.

It is a small green space consistent with the local character and not considered to be an extensive tract of land, due to its limited size.

Conclusion

The Lindley Gardens open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

13. Sun Hill Recreation Ground and Play Area



Grid Reference

SU 58693 31809

Description and purpose

The Sun Hill Recreation Ground and Play Area is a large rectangular open space for recreation (including sports) and features mature trees along its boundaries and goalposts for football. The play area is located on the northeast corner of the site. The space can be accessed from Derwent Gardens (east) or from a public footpath that runs along the western boundary of the recreation ground.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 4)

- Category: Play Area
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 27)

- Category: Park/Recreation Ground
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation;

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

1.06 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This recreation ground and play area is within the centre of a large residential area in New Alresford. It serves as an open space to the town but especially for nearby residents.

The recreation ground functions as a place for sports and recreation. Furthermore, it provides amenity and biodiversity functions, although recreation is the main role of the space. The play area is also important insofar as it provides space and play equipment for younger people. This space is also positively contributing to the beauty and quality of place of the neighbourhood.

Whilst a large area, it is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Sun Hill Recreation Ground and Play Area open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

14. Oak Hill Open Space



Grid Reference

SU 58826 31961

Description and purpose

The Oak Hill space is small in size, and it is framed by the road on the southern and western sides, a house to the north and a high vegetated boundary treatment (hedge and trees) on its eastern boundary. It is grassed and has two small trees within, but the space is mostly open. It is an informal open space located within the New Alresford Settlement Boundary and adjacent to the grounds of Sun Hill Junior School.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 11)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity;

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

0.03 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This small informal open space is located within a residential area and is easily accessible by residents in the vicinity. Therefore, this open space is in very close proximity to the community that it serves.

It is a useful small piece of open space that contributes to neighbours' amenities with additional open space beyond their private gardens, facilitating a flexible use for small-scale activities and events. It also helps improve the street scene with the break between properties and the presence of vegetation. It is of a small scale and primarily serves a small residential community, at Oak Hill.

This informal open space is similar in style and function to other open spaces in residential areas in New Alresford and it is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Oak Hill open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

15. Benenden Green



Grid Reference

SU 58650 31963

Description and purpose

Benenden Green is an informal open space surrounded by terraced and semi-detached houses. It is of an irregular shape. It is located on a sloping ground, which falls to the northwest. There are several surfaced footpaths around the edge of the open space and a number of trees and bushes on the edges. The majority of the open space is covered by grass. It is located within the Settlement Boundary.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 8)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation;

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

0.45 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This open space is centrally located in a large residential area of New Alresford, being easily accessible by all in the vicinity, either by foot, cycle or car. Therefore, the open space is in close proximity to the community it serves.

It plays an important role in beautifying the area and contributing positively to the street scene. It is one of the largest public amenity areas in the vicinity, providing space for relaxation, social interaction, play, etc. for people of all ages.

It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Benenden Green open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

16. Brill Close



Grid Reference

SU 58394 32394

Description and purpose

The Brill Close green space is located between two blocks of flats (east and west sides) and the Watercress Line (railway) to the north. It is accessed from Brill Close (south), which is a shared surface for cars and pedestrians. There is a mature tree along the northern boundary and other younger trees closer to the shared surface, but most of the open space is grassed. This open space is located within the New Alresford Settlement Boundary.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 14)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.03 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This space is small in size and closely located to the neighbouring residential properties. Therefore, it is easily accessible and convenient to use for residents in the vicinity.

Furthermore, it has an important role in terms of amenity and recreation, as it complements the area and nearby residents with additional shared/public open space, which is limited in the area as dwellings have small gardens and there are some flats which do not have any access to private garden space.

It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land, due to its small size.

Conclusion

The Brill Close open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

17. Carpenters



Grid Reference

SU 58608 32342

Description and purpose

The Carpenters open space consists of two triangular-shaped informal green spaces sitting next to St. Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church. The spaces are accessed via Carpenters (cul-de-sac) and Grange Road and are located within the New Alresford Settlement Boundary. The grassed areas are on a slope, falling to the north. They feature a few trees and shrubs and are partly framed by wooden knee-high fencing.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 23)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.09 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This open space is small in scale and closely located to the community it serves as it is within a residential area and next to the church. Therefore, it is located in close proximity to the community it serves.

Furthermore, the open space provides benefits in terms of amenity, recreation and tranquillity. It complements nearby residents' private garden provision with additional space. It also provides an attractive setting and open space to the church, improving the quality of the street scene and the wider area.

It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land, as it is modest in size.

Conclusion

The Carpenters open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

18. Chestnut Walk



Grid Reference

SU 58905 32252

Description and purpose

The Chestnut Walk open spaces are informal in character and irregular in shape, following parallel to Beech Road and connecting the residential area to Sun Lane to the east. The spaces are of a modest size, but relatively narrow and have numerous mature trees, particularly in the northern open space that connects to Sun Lane. The southern open space only has one tree, and it is grassed, being defined by the road on one side and the boundaries of houses on the other side. There is an unsurfaced path connecting Sun Lane with Beech Road and a tarmac footway connecting Sun Lane to Chestnut Walk. The sites are located within the Settlement Boundary.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 17)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes

- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.25 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

These two small open spaces are well located within a residential area in New Alresford, being almost on the edge of the town, but within the Settlement Boundary. They are accessible to nearby residents, and the community that they serve and will provide additional space to the future residents in the Sun Lane development to the east.

Furthermore, these spaces, whilst informal, provide amenity space for nearby current (and future) residents, as they consist of an area with trees (north space) and an open grassed area (south space), which facilitate a range of activities year-round. Furthermore, the spaces are large enough to also support some recreational use. In addition, they contribute towards the beauty and tranquillity of the area, especially due to the attractive path covered by trees connecting Sun Lane with the residential areas to the north and west.

It does not constitute an extensive tract of land due to its modest size.

Conclusion

The Chestnut Walk open spaces meet the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

DRAFT

19. Nursery Road



Grid Reference

SU 58919 32337

Description and purpose

The Nursery Road open space is informal in character and is of a rectangular shape. It is surrounded by houses to the east, south and west, and it is accessed via Nursery Road, which forms the northern boundary of the open space.

It consists of a grassed area with surface footpaths on its edges, connecting to houses, Chestnut Walk and Beech Road to the south. There is also a diagonal footpath running through the open space.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 18)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.03 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This open space is small in size, centrally located within a residential area and inside the New Alresford Settlement Boundary. It is accessible and within close distance to the community it serves, as it is within walking distance of many people in the vicinity, including the immediate residents that encircle the open space.

The Nursery Road open space is an important amenity space that complements existing private garden provision. It also contributes, to some degree, to the beauty of this small residential complex and to recreation.

It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land due to its limited size.

Conclusion

The Nursery Road open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

20. Ash Walk



Grid Reference

SU 58936 32404

Description and purpose

The Ash Walk open space is rectangular in shape and small in size. It is surrounded by housing on all sides, except from the north, where it adjoins with the Watercress Line (railway). The space is grassed and features a number of mature trees and more vegetation on its northern edge. It is surrounded by a surfaced footpath that provides access to residents of the houses along its edges. Pedestrian access takes place from the south via Nursery Road and a footpath. The site is located within the Settlement Boundary.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 19)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Area (hectare)

0.04 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This open space, whilst small in size, is well located in relation to the community it serves, as it is within a residential area and directly accessible by nearby residents.

It provides a meaningful amenity space for residents living in the vicinity, especially for those living in houses that encircle the open space, as they have small gardens and additional shared / public open space, which complements their garden provision. It is an attractive space that beautifies the area and contributes to its tranquillity.

It is not an extensive tract of land due to its limited size.

Conclusion

The Ash Walk open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

21. Sun Lane



Grid Reference

SU 58993 32320

Description and purpose

The space consists of two rectangular areas. They frame the right side of Sun Lane on the eastern edge of New Alresford. Both areas are grassed and covered by a row of trees of different sizes. The green space provides a separation between Sun Lane and a footpath running parallel to the street. It is located within the Settlement Boundary.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 20)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

The trees on the southern part of the site are protected by a Tree Preservation Order issued by Winchester City Council. However, the north section is not covered.

Site Area (hectare)

0.11 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

The green space is located at the rear of residential buildings in the eastern part of the town. It is in close proximity to the community and serves as a buffer between Sun Lane to the east and the residential neighbourhood to the west.

The open space adds value to the local community as it provides security and tranquillity when walking along the footpath. The open grassed space and row of trees enrich the area by contributing to the wildlife and green infrastructure within the built-up area and by increasing its beauty.

The green space is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Sun Lane open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

22. Alresford Bowling Club



Grid Reference

SU 59026 32572

Description and purpose

The Alresford Bowling Club is a recreational space for bowling activities and includes several seating areas around the bowling green. There is a building (club house) and storage space ancillary to the bowling use on the western side of the open space. The Bowling Club's open space is located within the New Alresford Settlement Boundary.

There is photographic evidence of the existence of the Bowling Green since the 1910s and historic maps from the 1870s that show the bowling green. However, there are claims that the bowling green has been in existence since earlier in the town's history.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM5 (Protected Open Areas);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 16)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes

- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation;

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

0.13 ha

Planning History

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

The Alresford Bowling Club is an open space used for recreation located on Sun Lane, on the eastern edge of the settlement and the town centre. It is accessible by nearby residents and people in New Alresford by foot and cycle via Sun Lane, as well as by car and public transport (a bus stop is a few minutes away by foot). It is adjacent to the town centre and existing and future residential areas (including the new Sun Lane development).

Furthermore, Alresford Bowling Club has been important in the provision of recreational space in the town for decades, since at least the 1800s. It has been an open space and community gathering place in New Alresford that now forms part of the cultural heritage of the town.

The bowling club provides space for recreation for the residents of New Alresford, and whilst membership is required, its recreational and social functions are important to the town. The NPPF allows local green space designation of spaces where there is no public access. In this case, access is limited however the contribution of the open space to recreation and heritage in New Alresford remains significant.

Overall, the bowling club is an open space that holds significance to the local community for its recreational value but also for being an important asset to the community since the 1800s, holding cultural heritage value.

It is a small area and not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

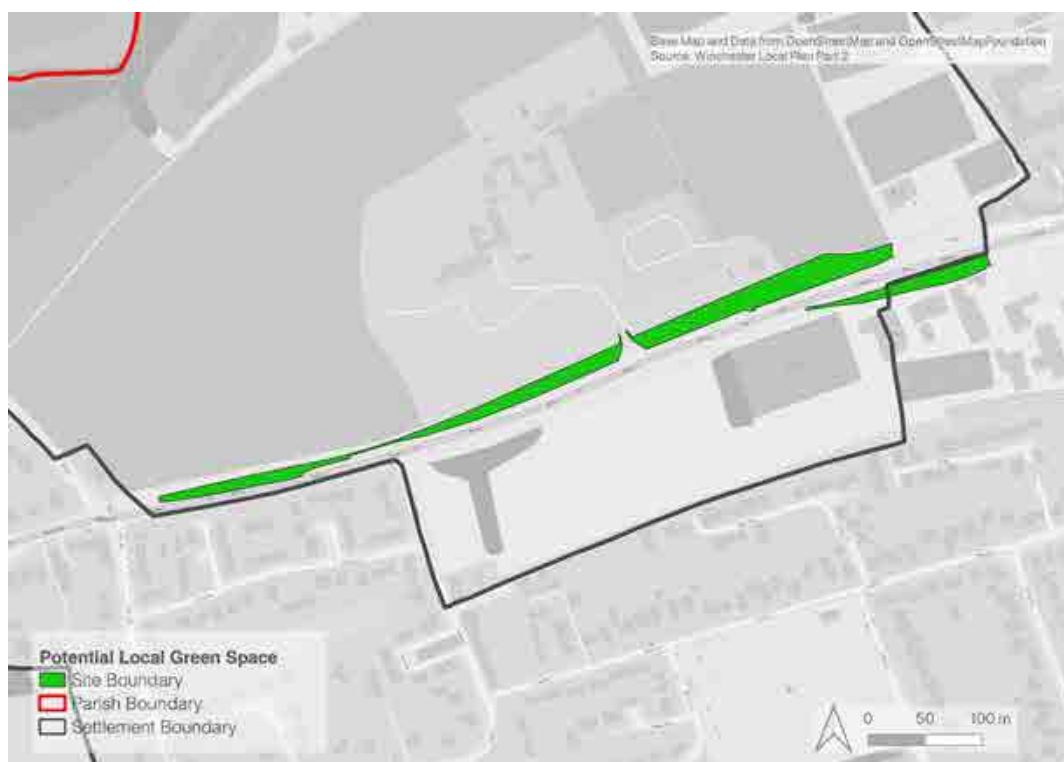
The Alresford Bowling Club open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

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23. The Avenue



Grid Reference

SU 58064 32446

Description and purpose

The space consists of several linear sections of grassed land with tree coverage along 'The Avenue' road in the northern part of the parish. For the most part, the open space is located just outside of the Settlement Boundary apart from at the eastern end. The open area provides safe walking space by separating the major road and sidewalk. The sidewalk is framed by trees and intersected with wildflower beds on both sides. Some grassed areas are framed by knee-rail fencing. There are benches along the sidewalk which add to the public benefits of the space.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2:

- Policy DM27 + DM28 (majority of the site);
- Policy DM5 (southeast corner of site inside settlement boundary).

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 9)

- Category: Informal Green Space
- Public Access: Yes

- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Many of the trees along the Avenue are protected by a Tree Preservation Order issued by Winchester City Council.

2024 Emerging WCC Local Plan NE10 (Protecting Open Areas)

Site Area (hectare)

1.08 ha

Planning History

There is no relevant planning history for the site apart from applications related to pruning or the cutting of branches of protected trees located within the open space.

Assessment

Although the space is, for the most part, located outside the Settlement Boundary it is considered to be in close proximity to the community as the area provides a safe and attractive walking route from the town centre in the northeast to Arlebury Park as an important location in the parish.

The green space holds significance and value for the community in several ways. As part of the Conservation Area, the area follows the historic layout and the rows of protected trees alongside the road emphasise the distinct historic nature of the area. With its attractive layout and beauty, the area also adds amenity value for the residents. The mix of trees, grass, wildflower beds and shrubs add to the wildlife and create a tranquil atmosphere for users.

Given that the area is part of the Conservation Area and follows the historic layout, the green area is representative of the distinct local character of New Alresford. With a size of approximately 1 ha, the site is on the larger side however is not considered to be an extensive tract of land. The area is comprised of four sections holding the same united characteristics thus being considered as one open space. Therefore, the area is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The 'The Avenue' open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

DRAFT

24. Thornton Close



Grid Reference

SU 58265 32352

Description and purpose

The space was designed as an amenity open space for the adjacent housing development. The area is of a rectangular shape and is clearly framed by knee-rail wooden fencing towards the street and the neighbouring buildings and a row of shrubs to the back. The area is mostly covered by grass and a couple of wildflower beds as well as a mature tree in the middle.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM1 (Location of New Development – New Alresford Settlement Boundary)

Site Area (hectare)

0.03 ha

Planning History

No relevant planning history since the site was transformed into an amenity open space as part of the planning permission for the larger surrounding area (Ref. 06/02599/FUL) granted in 2007.

Assessment

The amenity open space at Thornton Close is of a small size and is accessible to all residents, as it is in close proximity to the surrounding residential development and thus fulfils its intended service to the community.

The space enhances the beauty and tranquillity of the neighbourhood as it complements adjacent private gardens and contains a hedgerow separating the housing development from the neighbouring plot in the north. With its landscaping, the amenity space also positively enhances the wildlife within the built-up area.

With a size of approximately 0.03 ha the open space is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Thornton Close open space meets the NPPF criteria test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

25. St. John the Baptist Church Yard



Grid Reference

SU 58858 32608

Description and purpose

The space consists of the churchyard and cemetery belonging to St. John the Baptist Church. The elongated site stretches from the southern edge of the town centre to the railway station and the Watercress Line. The area has several entrance points towards the north, west and south. The eastern side of the area is framed by a hedgerow. The open space contains several burial sites and is structured by pathways lined with benches. The area also includes low-level landscaping with natural flower beds and shrubs as well as partial tree coverage.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM1 (Location of New Development – New Alresford Settlement Boundary)

Site Area (hectare)

1.25 ha

Planning history

In recent planning history, planning permission (11/01022/FUL) was granted for rebuilding and extending the original boundary wall to restore the area to its original appearance.

Assessment

Due to its location near the town centre and its significance as a churchyard and cemetery, the open space is accessible serving the surrounding community of New Alresford.

The area holds an important value due to its historic significance as part of the Conservation Area and nearby protected heritage assets. The green space carries local significance as a meaningful space of remembrance for the community due to its function as a cemetery. With its natural landscaping, range of different trees and peaceful atmosphere, the area creates a tranquil environment and provides space for wildlife within the Settlement Boundary.

Given the site's function as a cemetery and churchyard, it is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The St. John the Baptist Church Yard open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

26. Paddock Way



Grid Reference

SU 58240 31576

Description and purpose

The rectangular green space is located to the rear of the housing and adjacent to 'The Cricketers Inn' pub at the southern edge of the parish. The open green space is not publicly accessible as it is fenced in by a brick wall and hedges. The site is left mostly untouched and thus provides a home to a large colony of slow worms and a variety of wildflowers.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM1 (Location of New Development – New Alresford Settlement Boundary)

Site Area (hectare)

0.10 ha

Planning history

In recent planning history, the open space was allocated as an ecological mitigation area as part of an approved planning application (15/00077/FUL) for the housing development of a larger site.

Assessment

The green space is in close proximity to the nearby residents and serves its purpose as an ecological mitigation area for neighbouring housing.

While the green space is not accessible to the general public, it serves an important purpose for biodiversity and wildlife. In addition, the area functions as a buffer zone between houses and enhances a tranquil atmosphere for the adjacent residents.

With a size of 0.1 ha, the green area is considered to be small and not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Paddock Wood open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

27. Arlebury Park Recreation



Grid Reference

SU 58291 32842

Description and purpose

The elongated rectangular space contains sports grounds, an open grassed amenity area and play facilities including a playground and skatepark. It is located to the west of the town centre in the northern part of the parish and outside the Settlement Boundary. It is in close proximity to the River Arle and a starting point for recreational walks along the river. The green space is framed by trees and shrubs and has entrance points to the east and south. The area is used for recreation, sports and events. The southern part of the site contains a couple of football pitches, tennis courts and a café for the users with associated car parking.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: MTRA4 Countryside;

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings:

Site Ref: 2 – Play Areas

- Category: Play Area

- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Ref: 26 – Arlebury Park

- Category: Park/Recreation Ground
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Site Ref: 29 – Sports Grounds

- Category: Sports Ground
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation, Biodiversity

Site Area (hectare)

4,21 ha

Planning history

There is no relevant recent planning history. However, there have been several planning permissions granted for minor changes or extensions to the club building in the early 2000s.

Assessment

Given the purpose of the open area as sports and recreation grounds, the location on the edge of the Settlement Boundary and near The Dean and the town centre, it is considered that the site is reasonably close to the community that it serves.

The open space has a significant recreational and communal value as it serves the residents of New Alresford as a sports hub, meeting point and an important location for events like the Alrebury Music Festival to name one example. Due to its setting near the town centre, public facilities and historic 'The Avenue' road and green space, the area contributes positively to form the character and identity of the town. In addition, the grassed area and play spaces set back from busy roads and located next to the River Alre, create a tranquil atmosphere for the user.

While the size of the open area is considered to be relatively large, it is of an appropriate size to serve its purpose for the community and therefore is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Alrebury Park Recreation space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

28. Arlebury Park – Rugby Grounds



Grid Reference

SU 58161 32816

Description and purpose

The space is rectangular in shape and contains two rugby fields and surrounding trees and hedges. The terrain is slightly sloped downwards on the eastern edge of the fields and stairs lead down to the field at the southeast corner. The edges of the open space are clearly defined by hedgerows in the south and west. To the north the area borders on the meadows and waterbeds of the River Alre.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: MTRA4 Countryside;

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings:

Site Ref: 28 – Rugby Pitches

- Category: Sports Ground

- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation, Biodiversity

Site Area (hectare)

3.05 ha

Planning history

In recent planning history, a planning permission (12/00283/FUL) for the change of use of land from agricultural to recreational was granted.

Assessment

The site is located next to other facilities and amenities related to Alrebury Park in the northern part of the parish. Its location is considered to be reasonably close to the community it serves with The Dean being located a short distance to the east.

The area has a high level of recreational value for the local community of New Alresford due to its use as rugby fields. In addition, the open space adds value to the green environment and tranquillity due to its green edges and landscape setting.

The open space is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Alrebury Park – Rugby Grounds open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

29. Memorial Gardens



Grid Reference

SU 58490 33091

Description and purpose

The open space is located outside the Settlement Boundary on the northern edge of the parish next to the River Alre. The green space contains open grassed areas, shrubs and trees scattered between small gravel paths. There is also a World War II Memorial located on the site. Adjacent to the area is the Fulling Mill building which offers an attractive destination for visitors. The open space is also located next to the Wayfarer's Walk which is designated as a Public Right of Way footpath.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy MTRA4 (Countryside);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 24)

- Category: Park/Recreation Ground
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

The site is within the Impact Risk Zone of the nearby River Itchen SSSI site.

Site Area (hectare)

0.08 ha

Planning history

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

While the green space is located on the edge of the parish, it holds a significant recreational and historic value for the community and visitors of New Alresford. It is accessible by foot on a short walk from the town.

The area is frequently visited and loved as it provides a tranquil and beautiful environment and is reminiscent of New Alresford's history with the nearby historic Fulling Mill building and the War Memorial. The open space also holds environmental value as it represents the natural surroundings of the River Alre meadows and provides space for the associated wildlife.

The open space is local in character and is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Memorial Gardens open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

30. Capt. Robert Cogswell Memorial



Grid Reference

SU 58870 32929

Description and purpose

The green space is located outside of the Settlement Boundary behind the 'The Globe' pub at the northeast edge of the parish next to Old Alresford Pond. The small rectangular area contains a bench and a Memorial for a World War II US Air Force pilot. The green space is partly enclosed by low-height wooden fencing and hedges. It contains a wildflower bed and is framed by the surrounding trees. The area offers an attractive view of the adjacent pond.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policies DM27 + DM28 (Conservation Area)

The site borders the Alresford Pond SSSI area.

Site Area (hectare)

0.008 ha

Planning history

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

The space is in close proximity to residential neighbourhoods and the town centre. It forms part of the oldest area of the town and is located within the Conservation Area.

The green space holds both historic and recreational value as it is a site for remembrance and reflection. It also holds value due to its beautiful and secluded setting next to the pond and its tranquil atmosphere. The open space is special to the local community.

The area is local in character due to its historic setting and with a small size and is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Capt. Robert Cogswell Memorial open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

31.Spring Gardens Allotments



Grid Reference

SU 57815 31648

Description and purpose

The triangular-shaped open green space is used as privately owned local gardening allotments. The open space is located in the southwest of the town outside of the Settlement Boundary. The site is framed by hedgerows to the west and south and by a row of willow trees along the northern edge. The area is separated into small gardening units and pathways with a row of small trees and a body of water running through the middle.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy MTRA4 (Countryside);

WCC 2022 Open Space Assessment Findings: (Site Ref: 1)

- Category: Allotments
- Public Access: Yes
- Reason for Protection: Amenity, Recreation

Allotments owned by local authorities are protected against disposal, sale or change of land use under the Allotments Act 1925. However, these allotments are privately

owned and leased to New Alresford Town Council, so they do not benefit from this protection.

Site Area (hectare)

0.69 ha

Planning history

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

The amenity open space is located on the settlement edge and at close distance to residential neighbourhoods. Due to its use as allotment gardens, the location is appropriate and in reasonable proximity to the local community as they are within walking distance from nearby residents.

The green space holds recreational and communal value due to its use. It serves the needs and interests of the local residents and provides a space for social interaction and engagement. The area contributes to food production, and biodiversity in the parish as it provides space for different species and interventions to increase wildlife.

With its simple layout, the open space is local in character and appropriate in size to the community it serves. The open space is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Spring Garden Allotments open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

32. New Allotments



Grid Reference

SU 57602 31804

Description and purpose

The open space has an irregular shape and is located just north of Spring Gardens at the southwest of the parish. A single waterbed is located on the right side of the open space and a small chalk stream is running along the southern edge parallel to Spring Gardens. The area is intended to be used as local gardening allotments for the community. However, at this stage, the open space is an open field. The site is partly framed by shrubs and trees but also provides some views into the open landscape. The open space can be accessed through Spring Gardens at the southern edge.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy MTRA4 (Countryside)

Allotments owned by local authorities are protected against disposal, sale or change of land use under the Allotments Act 1925. However, these allotments are privately owned and leased to New Alresford Town Council, so they do not benefit from this protection.

Site Area (hectare)

0.55 ha

Planning history

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

Similar to the Spring Garden Allotments site, the open space is located close to the residential neighbourhoods in the southwest of New Alresford. Therefore, the green space is considered to be in reasonably close proximity to the local community.

As the new allotments planned at the site will provide additional space for the residents to enjoy recreational activities and engage in social interaction, the open space adds significant value to the local community. In addition, the landscape setting and intended use of the open space support a tranquil atmosphere and enhance biodiversity and wildlife.

The intended use of the open space is locally characteristic and a valuable addition for New Alresford's residents. The size of the area is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The New Allotments open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

33. Watercress Meadow



Grid Reference

SU 57842 31726

Description and purpose

The space is an open grassed area between residential buildings. The site is located in the southwest of the town and can be accessed from the road at Watercress Meadow. The site contains a couple of trees, a lamppost, and some knee-high wooden fence posts. The back of the open space is framed by a variety of hedgerows and some additional trees. The entrances of the houses to the north are directly facing the green space while in the south the backyards of the adjacent homes are oriented to the site.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM1 (Location of New Development – New Alresford Settlement Boundary)

Site Area (hectare)

0.06 ha

Planning history

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

The green space at Watercress Meadow is easily accessible by the nearby residents and provides a visual break that enhances the character of the residential neighbourhood. It is well-located to serve the local community.

The green space contributes to the residential and tranquil character of the surrounding neighbourhood and adds recreational value as an informal open area.

Due to its small size, the site is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

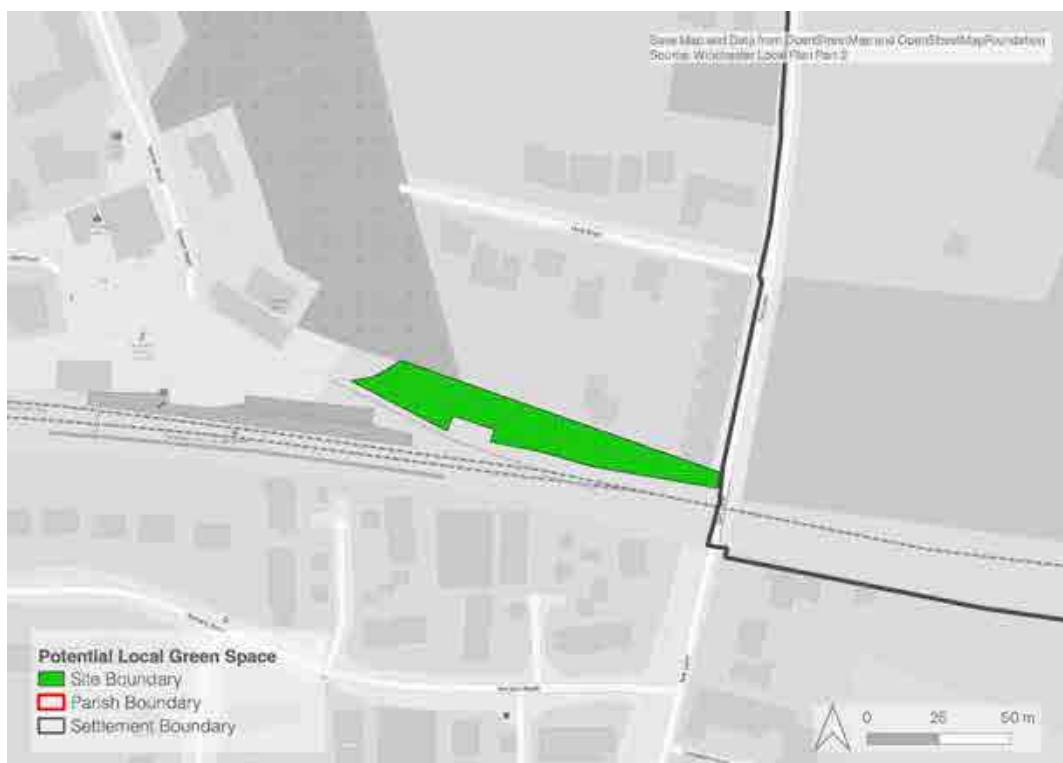
Conclusion

The Watercress Meadow open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

34. Watercress Line Picnic Area



Grid Reference

SU 58961 32449

Description and purpose

The space is an elongated grassed area with several picnic tables next to the historic Watercress Line train station near the town centre and within the Conservation Area. The picnic area sits higher up and looks down on the train tracks from the northern side. The site is bound by fencing to the south and north. It can be accessed by pedestrians from the station area through a small footpath.

Policy designations and evidence base

2017 Local Plan Part 2: Policy DM1 (Location of New Development – New Alresford Settlement Boundary)

Site Area (hectare)

0.15 ha

Planning history

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

The open space is in a central and significant location of the town that is suitable for its purpose as a picnic location for visitors of the station area and the historic Watercress Line. Therefore, this open space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

The picnic area holds recreational value as it provides space for relaxation and social interaction. It also supports the appreciation and accessibility to experience the historic environment around the New Alresford train station and the Watercress Line. Therefore, it adds to the local and historic significance. In addition, the informal layout of the grassed area creates a tranquil atmosphere for the user.

The area is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Watercress Line Picnic Area open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

35. De Lucy Avenue



Grid Reference

SU 57764 32274

Description and purpose

The small rectangular green space is in the middle of a cul-de-sac and surrounded by residential buildings. The open space is located in a residential neighbourhood in the northwest of New Alresford. The grassed amenity space is framed by kerb stones on the eastern side and a sidewalk to the west. Therefore, it is accessible for all. Four mature trees are scattered on the site. There are also several picnic tables and a BBQ in the grassed area.

Policy designations and evidence base

None

Site Area (hectare)

0.02 ha

Planning history

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This small informal amenity space is in very close proximity to the local community as it is adjacent to houses and at walking distance from the wider neighbourhood.

With its natural landscaping and extensive tree coverage, the green space creates a tranquil atmosphere and holds recreational value.

With a small size of 0.02 ha, the site is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The De Lucy Avenue open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

36. Windermere Gardens



Grid Reference

SU 58783 31713

Description and purpose

The small amenity open space is set in the middle of a cul-de-sac and encircled by housing. The green space is located in a residential neighbourhood to the southeast of the town. The grassed area is defined by kerb stones and contains one tree. It is openly accessible for all. The residents have placed a bench and a few flowerpots on the grassed area.

Policy designations and evidence base

None

Site Area (hectare)

0.01 ha

Planning history

No relevant recent planning history.

Assessment

This small informal green space is in very close proximity to the local community it serves as it is located within the residential neighbourhood.

With its informal landscaping and outside furniture, the green space creates a tranquil atmosphere and holds amenity and recreational value for the surrounding residents. As a central point for the adjacent homes, the green space encourages interaction and exchange and adds to the local communal value.

Due to its small size, the site is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Windermere Gardens space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

37. Huxley Drive



Grid Reference

SU 58440 32781

Description and purpose

The L-shaped area is located on the edge of a new housing development at Huxley Drive in the north of the town. The green space was designed as an accessible wildlife area. It is accessible from the southeast as the green space is open to the communal parking area and vehicular movement space of the housing development. The landscaping is minimal with a grassed surface and a row of young trees being planted alongside the building line.

Policy designations and evidence base

None

Site Area (hectare)

0.03 ha

Planning history

The open space was designed as a publicly accessible wildlife area as part of an approved planning application (16/01854/FUL).

Assessment

The area is located near residential development and functions as a transition and wildlife zone between the built-up area and Alrebury Park. It is within walking distance from nearby homes, and it is considered to be in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

The open area holds amenity value, creates a tranquil surrounding for the adjacent homes and softens the transition between the housing plots and Alrebury Park. As a dedicated wildlife area, the open space also enriches the local wildlife and biodiversity.

It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

The Huxley Drive open space meets the NPPF test for designation as a Local Green Space.



Source: New Alresford Town Council

Conclusion

- 2.1 This assessment concludes that the following sites warrant designation as Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan. These sites all meet the NPPF's criteria for LGS designation and do not have other conflicting evidence that would advise against their designation.

Recommended Sites for Local Green Space Designation:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Nicholson Place (1) | • Ash Walk (20) |
| • Mitford Rd Roundabout (2) | • Sun Lane (21) |
| • Stratton Bates Recreation Ground and Play Area (3) | • Alresford Bowling Club (22) |
| • Lovells Walk (4) | • The Avenue (23) |
| • Makins Court (5) | • Thornton Close (24) |
| • Meryon Road (6) | • St. John the Baptist Church Yard (25) |
| • Fair View A (7) | • Paddock Way (26) |
| • Fair View B (8) | • Arlebury Park Recreation (27) |
| • Off Hasted Drive (9) | • Arlebury Park – Rugby Grounds (28) |
| • Orchard Close (10) | • Memorial Gardens (29) |
| • Appledown Close (11) | • Capt. Robert Cogswell Memorial (30) |
| • Lindley Gardens (12) | • Spring Garden Allotments (31) |
| • Sun Hill Recreation Ground and Play Area (13) | • New Allotments (32) |
| • Oak Hill Open Space (14) | • Watercress Meadow (33) |
| • Benenden Green (15) | • Watercress Line Picnic Area (34) |
| • Brill Close (16) | • De Lucy Avenue (35) |
| • Carpenters (17) | • Windermere Gardens (36) |
| • Chestnut Walk (18) | • Huxley Drive (37) |
| • Nursery Road (19) | |

- 2.2 WCC's 2022 Open Space Assessment found that between 2015 and 2022, New Alresford went from having a surplus of open green space to a deficit based on the

town's number of dwellings. Designating new Local Green Spaces would help to ensure that the town has sufficient provision to meet its current needs.

- 2.3 Many of the sites recommended for designation in this report (22) are currently designated as 'Protected Open Space' under policy DM5 in Local Plan Part 2. As explained in the report, that policy is somewhat permissive of development under certain conditions and circumstances. Therefore, designating these recommended sites as Local Green Spaces would provide a needed increase in the enhanced protection of New Alresford's green spaces which meet the Local Green Space designation criteria as defined in the list above.
- 2.4 Therefore, New Alresford's Neighbourhood Plan would maintain continuity with the Development Plan and WCC's evidence base whilst also enhancing and introducing protection to green spaces that provide value to the local community as evidenced in this report.
- 2.5 These recommendations will be subject to consultation with landowners and through the public consultation process for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.6 We recommend that New Alresford Town Council and Winchester City Council should continue to monitor the provision of green spaces in New Alresford and may consider new sites for designation as Local Green Spaces in the future.

Appendix 1: Planning Practice Guidance

The following is extracted from Planning Practice Guidance and provides an overview of the Local Green Space Designation, how these should be identified and what is conferred by designation. The most recent Planning Practice Guidance for Local Green Space designations was published on 6 March 2014.

What is Local Green Space designation?

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

Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

How is land designated as Local Green Space?

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

Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

How does Local Green Space designation relate to development?

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

Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What if land has planning permission for development?

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

Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space?

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

Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

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

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

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

Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 37-010-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

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

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

Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 37-011-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What about new communities?

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

Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 37-012-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

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

The green area will need to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Whether to designate land is a matter for local discretion. For example, green areas could include land where sports pavilions, boating lakes or structures such as war memorials are located, allotments, or urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis.

Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

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

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

Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

How big can a Local Green Space be?

There are no hard and fast rules about how big a Local Green Space can be because places are different and a degree of judgment will inevitably be needed. However, paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework is clear that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land. Consequently blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. In particular, designation should not be proposed as a 'back door' way to try to achieve what would amount to a new area of Green Belt by another name.

Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Is there a minimum area?

Provided land can meet the criteria at paragraph 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework there is no lower size limit for a Local Green Space.

Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What about public access?

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

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

Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

What about public rights of way?

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

Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Does land need to be in public ownership?

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

Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Would designation place any restrictions or obligations on landowners?

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

Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Who will manage Local Green Space?

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

Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

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

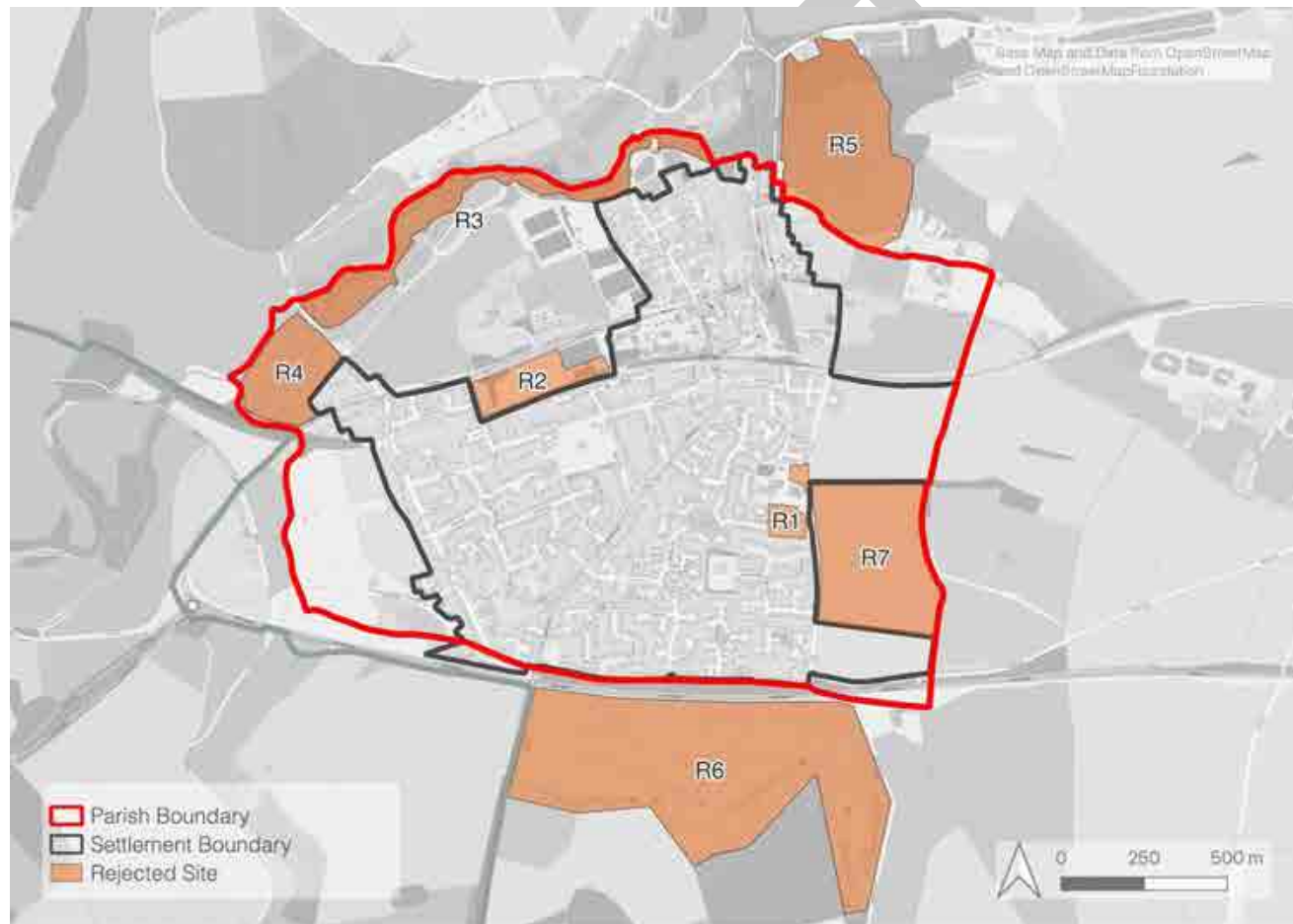
Land designated as Local Green Space may potentially also be nominated for listing by the local authority as an Asset of Community Value. Listing gives community interest groups an opportunity to bid if the owner wants to dispose of the land.

Related policy: paragraphs 99-100

Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Appendix 2: Rejected Sites



Site Number	Site Name	Reason for Rejection
R1	Sun Hill Junior School sports fields	The sites' playing fields are protected by Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010 and Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. This legislation already ensures that the land will continue to be used as school playing fields, so additional designation as a Local Green Space in the Neighbourhood Plan is not necessary and would be redundant. The fields are also not publicly accessible, limiting their claim to being demonstrably special to the local community.
R2	Perins School playing fields	
R3	River Arle	This site constitutes an extensive tract of land and is not appropriate for LGS designation. It also already receives protection from development due to its location within the River Itchen SSSI and the River Itchen SAC.
R4	Barn Meadow	The site is considered to be an extensive tract of land with an area of 6.12 ha and further PPG describes that the <i>"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."</i> Given that the site is being considered as a potential housing allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan it is not appropriate for this report to assess the for an alternative designation (Local Green Space).
R5	Old Alresford Pond	This site is outside of the parish boundary. It also already receives protection from development through its location within the Alresford Pond SSSI.
R6	Alresford Golf Club	This site is outside of the parish boundary, therefore outside of the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.
R7	Sun Lane Green Infrastructure	The detailed design has not yet been approved and although the site will be required to include significant green space not enough information about its design is available at this time. The site should be protected under the emerging Local Plan as an Open Space.

New Alresford Town Council
New Alresford Neighbourhood Plan

Local Green Space Assessment
January 2025

DRAFT

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