



# BENTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2018-2036

## LOCAL GREEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

AUGUST 2020

## **BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES**

The parish of Bentley has several important 'green spaces' that are either within or close to the Built Up Area Boundary.

Paragraph 99 and 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) identifies the possibility of identifying green spaces that meet certain characteristics as "Local Green Spaces".

The paragraphs state:

99. 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.

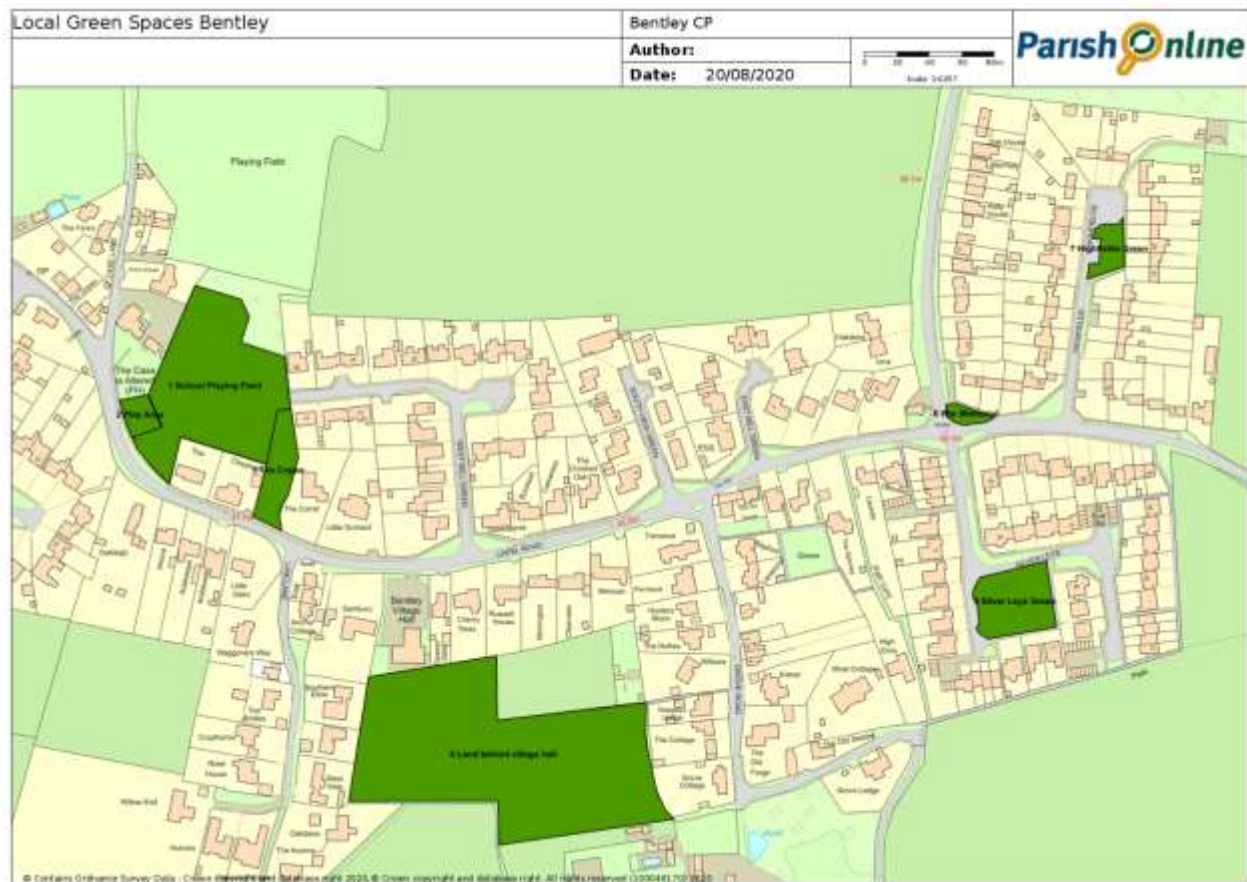
100. The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is :

- 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

This paper provides an assessment of the green spaces in the village against the criteria in paragraph 100 in order to support the designation of local green spaces in the emerging Bentley Neighbourhood Plan.

## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### The Identified Green Spaces



A list of the green spaces is detailed below. Some of the spaces are grouped together but have different attributes.

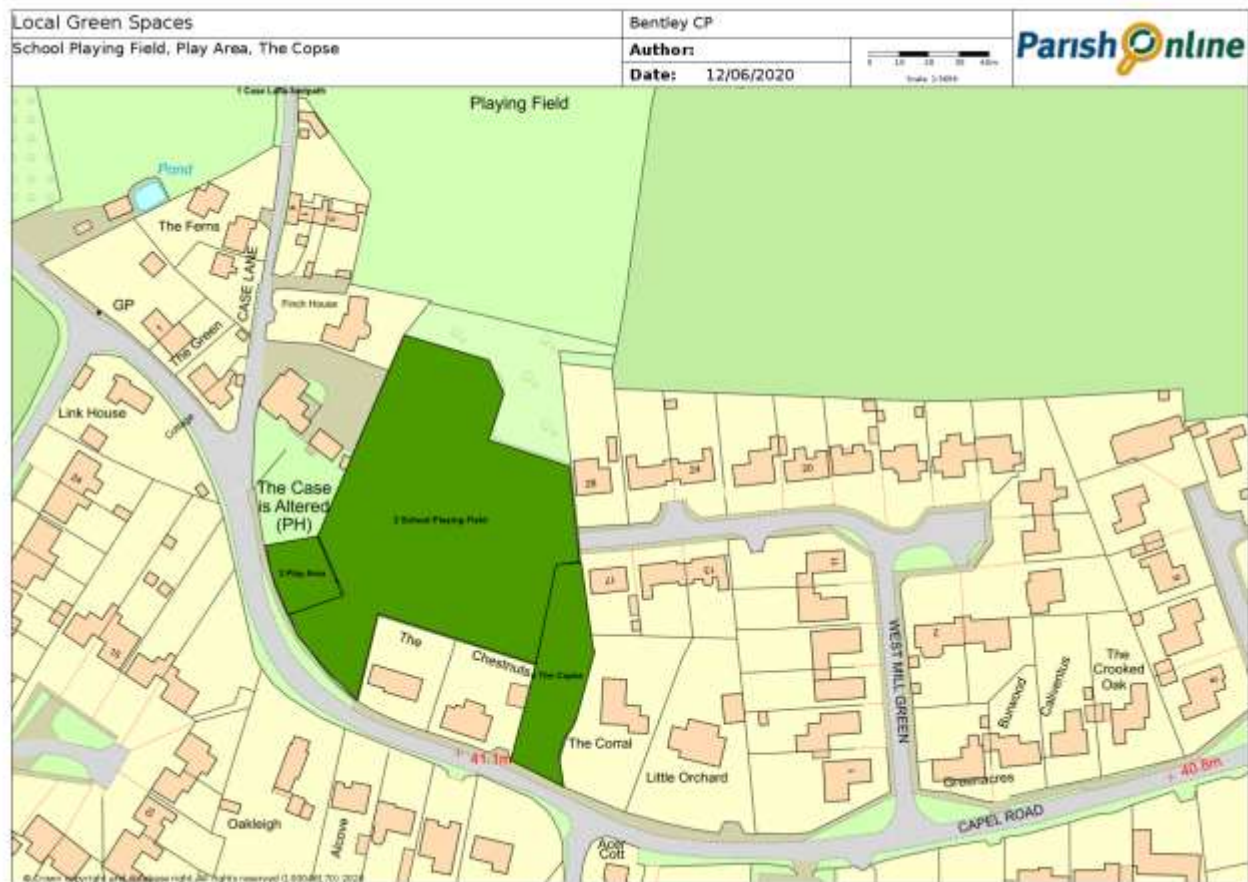
1. School Playing Field
2. Play Area
3. The Copse
4. Land Behind Village Hall
5. Silver Leys Green
6. War Memorial
7. Highfields Green

### Appraisal

The following pages provide a detailed assessment of the identified spaces to ascertain whether they conform with the Local Green Space definition of the NPPF.

## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### 1. School Playing Field





## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### Local Green Space Assessment Framework

Site Details	
Description and purpose	School Playing Field. Recreation/Sport
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.62 hectares
Who owns it?	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it services?	Yes
Is there public access?	Yes when permission given by Bentley Primary School
Is there any ecological significance?	Yes. Has several important wildlife sites: a very large oak tree that supports many species; a stag beetle emergence zone; and blackthorn scrub on the northern edge that supports many bird species, including nightingale.
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Yes. It joins on to the Village Playing Field. Apart from being used by Bentley Primary School as their only sports field, it is also used for entrance/parking for outdoor village events such as the annual Family Fun Day and Firework Night on the Village Playing Field
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land (less than 2.5 hectares)?	Yes Rural in character, surrounded by hedges/trees on three sides. Less than 2.5 hectares.
Conclusion: Meets LGS criteria?	Yes

## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### 2. Play Area



## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### Local Green Space Assessment Framework

Site Details	
Description and purpose	Play Area. Recreation
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.04 hectares
Who owns it?	Suffolk County Council leased to Bentley Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it services?	Yes
Is there public access?	Yes
Is there any ecological significance?	No
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Yes. It is well used by local children and also by children whose parents visit the adjacent community owned and run village pub and shop.
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land (less than 2.5 hectares)?	Yes. Rural in character. Less than 2.5 hectares.
Conclusion: Meets LGS criteria?	Yes



## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### 3. The Copse





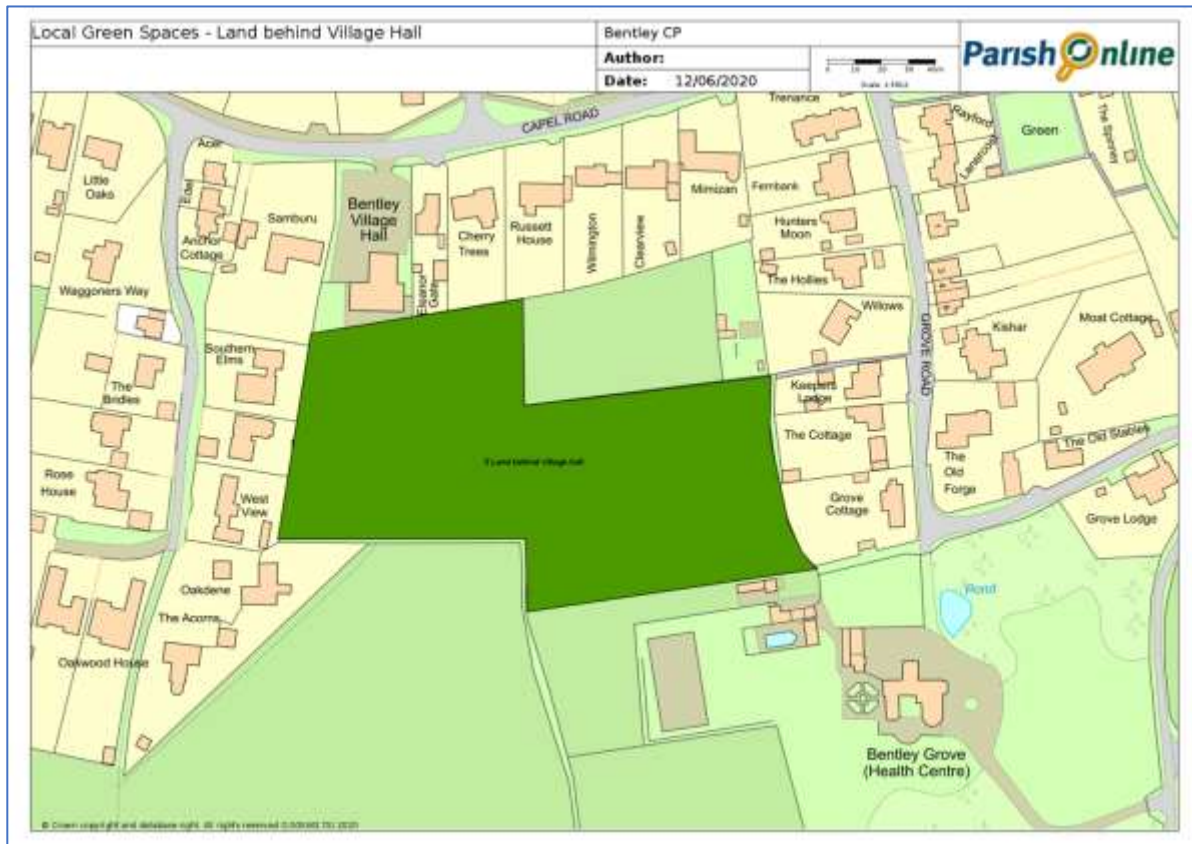
## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### Local Green Space Assessment Framework

Site Details	
Description and purpose	The Copse. Wildlife Sanctuary
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.11 hectares
Who owns it?	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it services?	Yes
Is there public access?	Yes from the School Playing Field which is adjacent
Is there any ecological significance?	Yes. Due to the fact that the land has remained undisturbed for many years, wildlife, particularly birds, mammals and insects flourish here.
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Yes. It is now a haven for wildlife with stag beetles, raptors, ground birds, hedgehogs and deer being seen/heard.
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land (less than 2.5 hectares)?	Yes. Rural in character. Consists of fir, oak and wild cherry trees as well as scrub and brambles. Less than 2.5 hectares.
Conclusion: Meets LGS criteria?	Yes

## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### 4. Land Behind Village Hall





**BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES**





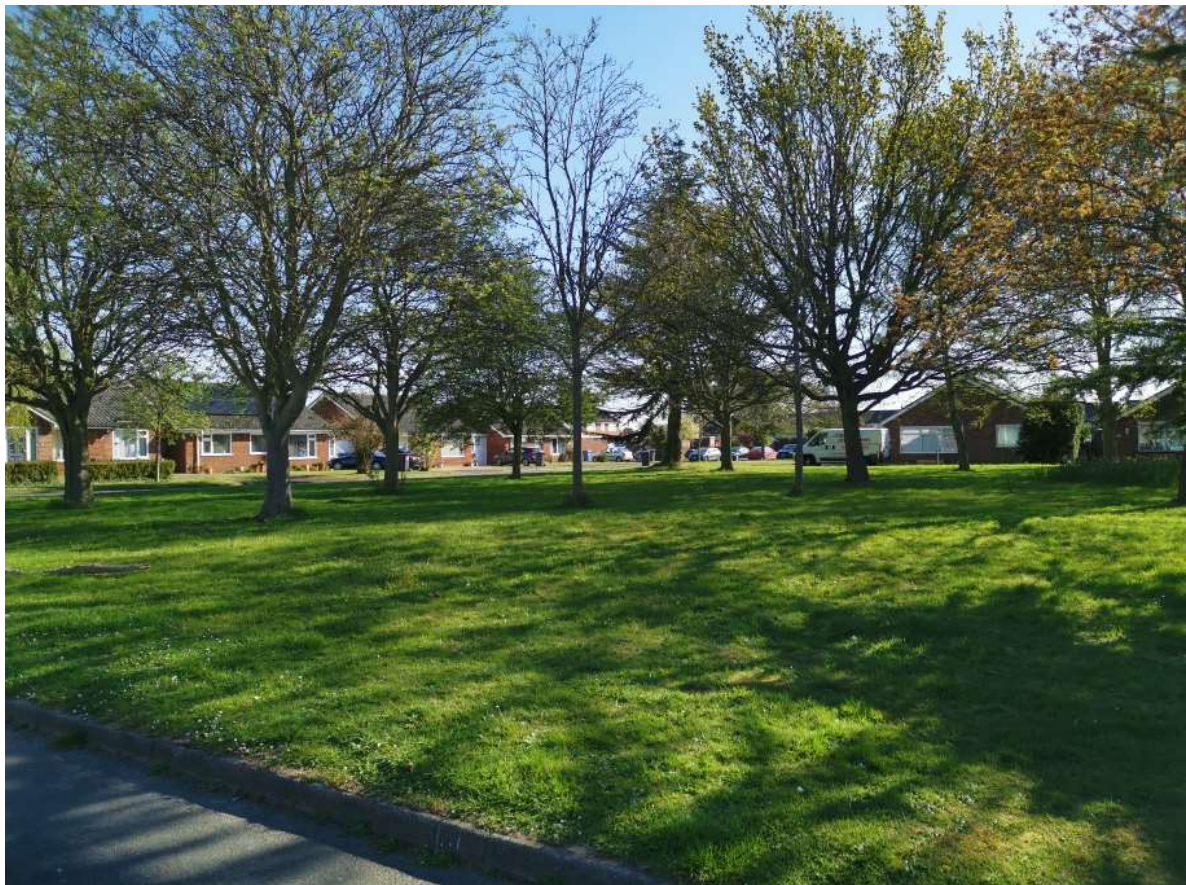
## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### Local Green Space Assessment Framework

Site Details	
Description and purpose	Land Behind Village Hall. Recreation tranquillity and wildlife
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	1.33 hectares
Who owns it?	Bentley Grove
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it services?	Yes
Is there public access?	Yes (public footpath crosses it through an arrangement of stiles)
Is there any ecological significance?	Yes. Nature conservation interest and access to natural green space close to the settlement. This area of open space forms a transition between the village and wider agricultural landscape.
Is it historically significant?	Yes. Part of the original parkland of Grade 2 listed Bentley Grove. Remnant area of small scale enclosures close to the settlement edge accessed via rights of way. Area is valued for its historic enclosures and veteran tree
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Yes. Part of the village 'circular walk' using local footpaths. Includes a large much admired ancient oak tree. This small scale pasture landscape feature has been identified as an important element contributing to the local sense of place in the Landscape Appraisal for our Neighbourhood Plan
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land (less than 2.5 hectares)?	Yes. Rural in character. Less than 2.5 hectares.
Conclusion: Meets LGS criteria?	Yes

## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### Silver Leys Green



## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### Local Green Space Assessment Framework

Site Details	
Description and purpose	Silver Leys Green. Recreation and Wildlife
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.18 hectares
Who owns it?	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it services?	Yes
Is there public access?	Yes
Is there any ecological significance?	<p>Yes. Supports six different tree species: Birch, Rowan, Hawthorn, Cedar, Oak and Acer. Many of these were planted in the 70s so are large mature trees. The trees are used daily by roosting birds that also feed on the many insects that this tree habitat supports.</p> <p>There are plans to create a community nature conservation project as suggested in the Landscape Appraisal for the Neighbourhood Plan by adding bird and bat boxes to trees and to create a wild flower meadow.</p>
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Yes. Young children use it for informal play. This area of open space is also of amenity value to the local residents. This area does have potential to be managed by the local community for nature conservation.
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land (less than 2.5 hectares)?	Yes. Rural in character. Less than 2.5 hectares.
Conclusion: Meets LGS criteria?	Yes



## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### 5. War Memorial



## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### Local Green Space Assessment Framework

Site Details	
Description and purpose	War Memorial. Recreation and Worship
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	Yes. War Memorial is a Grade II listed building
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.03 hectares
Who owns it?	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it services?	Yes
Is there public access?	Yes
Is there any ecological significance?	No.
Is it historically significant?	Yes. First World War memorial, unveiled 27 November 1921, with Second World War additions
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	<p>Yes. The War Memorial is one of the village's key built landmarks which contribute to sense of place and orientation.</p> <p>This area forms an important break in the street scene and provides an immediate setting and context for the village War Memorial and a focal point at the western end of the village and was highlighted in the Landscape Appraisal to be considered for Local Green Space Designation.</p> <p>Remembrance Day Service is held here every year.</p> <p>A commemorative bench is present on the green for reflection and rest.</p> <p>Police approved site for use by the Community Speedwatch Group for speeding surveillance.</p>

## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land (less than 2.5 hectares)?	Yes. Rural in character. Less than 2.5 hectares.
Conclusion: Meets LGS criteria?	Yes



## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### 6. Highfields Green



## BENTLEY PARISH COUNCIL - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LOCAL GREEN SPACES

### Local Green Space Assessment Framework

Site Details	
Description and purpose	Highfields Green. Recreation
Checklist	
Are there any statutory designations?	No
Is the site designated for any purpose in the Local Plan?	No
Are there any current planning permissions on the site?	No
What is the Site Area?	0.05 hectares
Who owns it?	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Is it close to the community it services?	Yes
Is there public access?	Yes
Is there any ecological significance?	No
Is it historically significant?	No
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance	Yes. Young children use it for informal play. This area of open space is of amenity value to the local residents.  This area does not have an historic or nature conservation interest but does have potential to be managed by the local community for nature conservation.
Is it local in character and is not an extensive tract of land (less than 2.5 hectares)?	Yes. Rural in character. Less than 2.5 hectares.
Conclusion: Meets LGS criteria?	Yes

