

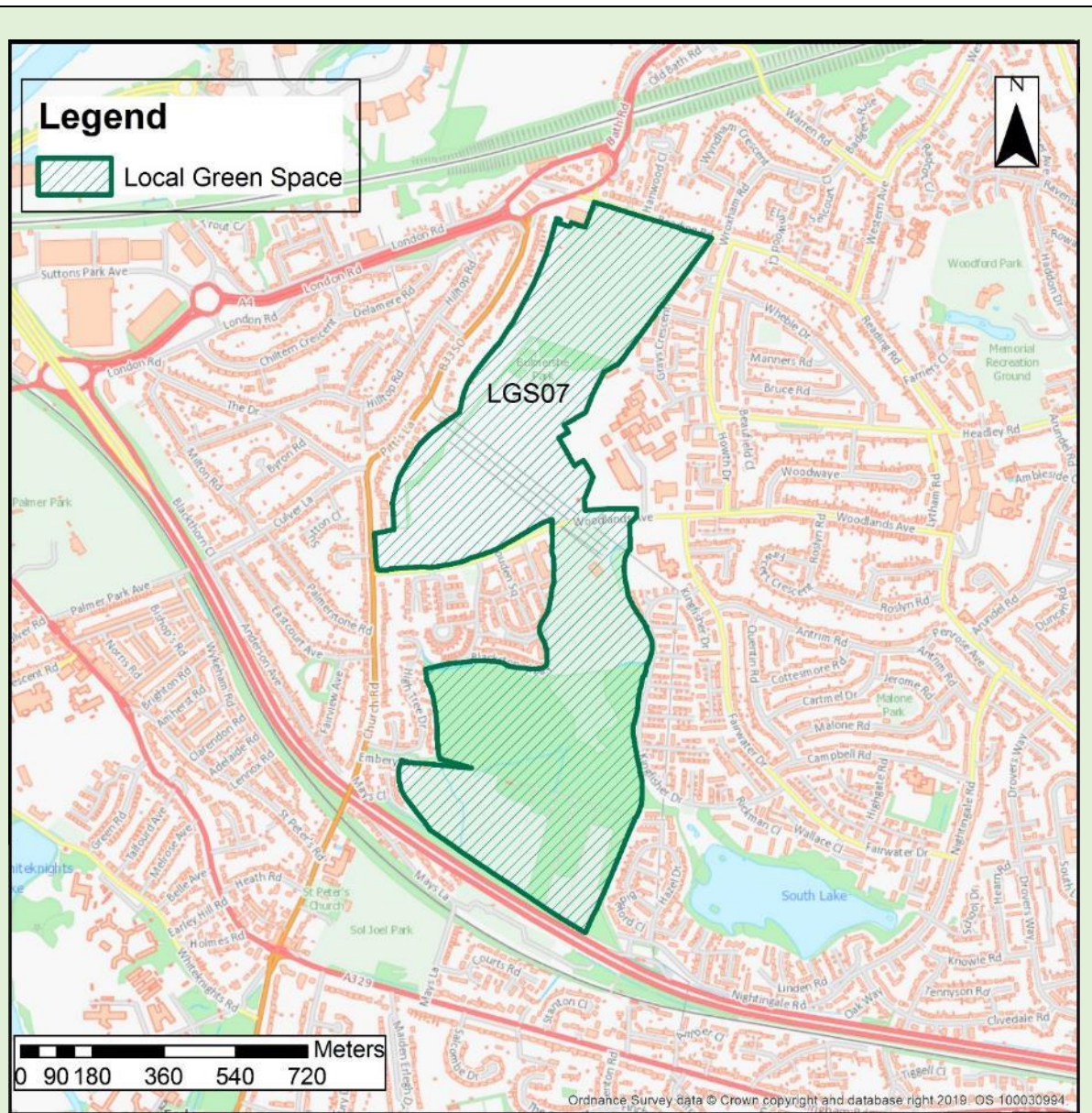
Land to the east of Maiden Erlegh Lake, Laurel Park, Earley



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Site reference	LGS06
Site name	Land to the east of Maiden Erlegh Lake
Site address	Laurel Park, Lower Earley
Site size	0.32ha
Site Description	A small area of land situated in the heart of Laurel Park which is Public Open Space, providing a range of leisure, sport and recreational opportunities. The site is adjacent to the Maiden Erlegh Lake, a Site of Urban Landscape Value and Maiden Erlegh Wood, a designated Local Wildlife Site.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. The site is situated in the heart of Laurel Park and provides leisure, sport and recreation facilities for existing residents in the surrounding area.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The site is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land as it is well contained, surrounded by residential development to the south and west and recreational uses, such as Laurel Park and the Recreation Ground to the north and east.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold some recreational value; but it is acknowledged that the area's proximity to the Maiden Erlegh Lake SULV and Laurel Park recreation ground provide wider recreation opportunities.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular historical value and has no known associations with an historic event or figure.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular ecological value.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold a moderate level of tranquillity, predominantly associated with the adjacent Site of Urban Landscape Value and the designated Local Wildlife Site at Maiden Erlegh Wood. However, most of the site holds limited tranquillity. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores relatively low, compared to areas further north of Maiden Erlegh Lake.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	No. Although the site has an element of tranquillity, associated with the adjacent Maiden Erlegh Wood and the Site of Urban Landscape Value, the site is not considered to be of any recreational value, due to the presence of Laurel Park and Recreation Ground which solely provide formal and informal opportunities for sport and recreation. The site is therefore not recommended for designation as Local Green Space.

Bulmershe, Land south of Reading Road, Earley



Site reference	LGS07
Site name	Bulmershe, Earley
Site address	Land south of Reading Road, Bulmershe, Earley
Site size	69ha
Site Description	The site is currently designated as a Site of Urban Landscape Value in Policy TB22 of the Managing Development Delivery Document (MDD) in which the Inspector, in his final report, acknowledged the separation between the settlements of Earley and Woodley at Bulmershe. The site contains allotments to the north and south of the site. The site is predominantly covered by ancient woodland, scrub and heathland and contains a Local Nature Reserve, Local Wildlife Site, playing fields and public open space in the centre.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. The site is situated to the west of the settlement of Woodley and is within close proximity to existing residents in the surrounding area. The site currently serves the western edge of Woodley and the north of Earley, in particular the Wards of South Lake and Bulmershe & Whitegates. Woodlands Avenue runs through the centre of the site, with minor residential roads running adjacent to parts of the site's eastern boundary. The southern portion of the site adjoins Woodlands Avenue/Church Road and provides public access and opportunities for informal recreation for the area's residents. Existing Public Rights of Way run through the centre of the site and along the eastern boundary, providing pedestrian access for residents in Woodley and Earley via a footbridge over the A3290. A connection of footpaths link Town Lane/Bulmershe Park to the north to High Wood and South Lake to the south. An existing bridleway is also adjacent to High Wood.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The site is well contained, surrounded by Addington School, Bulmershe School and Highwood Primary School to the east of the site and housing to the west. The A3290 forms the southern boundary.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The SULV is used as an area for informal and formal recreation, particularly the playing fields associated with the grounds of Bulmershe School and Addington School. This area also comprises Bulmershe Park and Bulmershe Fields. Bulmershe Park was recognised as being of low quality but high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012).</p> <p>High Wood Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site are also located to the south of the site, which contain exotic trees, including Giant Redwood and Monkey Puzzle within the ground of Woodley Lodge.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site also has an element of historical significance associated with John Claudius Loudon, an influential city planner and landscape architect who advocated the concept of 'breathing spaces' to provide access for</p>

Site reference	LGS07
	<p>residents to recreational areas within easy walking distance of their homes.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The southern part of the Bulmershe SULV contains High Wood Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site, and comprises a small area of heathland, ancient woodland and exotic trees, including Giant Redwood and Monkey Puzzle. The presence of exotic tree specimens are associated with a former arboretum within the grounds of Woodley Lodge.</p> <p>Most of the site also contains a diverse range of habitats and forms an area of mixed woodland, wetland and a mix of improved grassland for use of the playing fields and allotments.</p> <p>The site also contains several trees within the rear gardens of properties along Pitts Lane to the north-west and woodland to the north and south which provide a wooded horizon, seen as a distinctive characteristic of the SULV.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>Part of the site has moderate to high levels of tranquillity, characterised by High Wood Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site located to the south of the site. This consists of a small area of heathland and contains some ancient woodland indicator species which create a strong sense of place. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where some areas of the site score moderate for their tranquillity.</p> <p><u>Local significance:</u></p> <p>The value of the Bulmershe SULV was first articulated by Earley Town Council and Woodley Town Council in the Wokingham District Plan 1996-2004 and previous to this, in the Berkshire Structure Plan 1991-2006.</p> <p>The site has since been consistently supported by Earley Town Council, Woodley Town Council and the Association of Central Earley Residents, through an historic campaign during the Local Plan process, the Managing Delivery Development (MDD), and is supported by local communities in Earley and Woodley. Both Woodley Town Council and Earley Town Council have formed a Joint Working Group and Statement to protect the Bulmershe SULV, advocating the designation's importance in maintaining the green lung between the western edge of Woodley and the north of Earley. Both Town Councils continue to campaign for this site's additional protection through local and national policy.</p>

Site reference	LGS07
<p>Recommendation for Local Green Space designation</p>	<p>Yes. Although the site is covered by several designations, including a Site of Urban Landscape Value, and is therefore protected by local policy, the site is considered to be demonstrably special to the local community. Local residents, the Association of Central Earley Residents, Woodley Town Council and Earley Town Council have responded through Local Plan processes, including the MDD to protect and maintain the ‘green lung’ and the physical and visual separation between the settlements of Earley and Woodley.</p> <p>The site has an important visual and recreational amenity for residents to the west of Woodley and the north of Earley, in particular the wards of South Lake and Bulmershe & Whitegates.</p> <p>The longstanding history of this site and its value and significance to the local community, along with the SULV’s distinctive, local and special qualities associated with High Wood Local Nature Reserve and the Local Wildlife Site, warrant its designation as a Local Green Space. Its designation as a LGS will offer the site sufficient policy protection and ensure the site’s quality and capacity is capable of enduring beyond the plan period.</p>

Chalfont Woods and Chalfont Park, south of Chalfont Way, Earley



Site reference	LGS019
Site name	Chalfont Woods and Chalfont Park
Site address	South of Chalfont Way, Earley
Site size	5.8 ha
Site Description	<p>Chalfont Woods and Chalfont Park is a park and garden and urban park situated predominantly in Lower Earley District Centre. The park provides a range of facilities used by the residents for recreation, including a pavilion, sports courts, football pitches and play area.</p> <p>The site is bounded by existing residential on the northern and western boundary. Commercial and retail uses are situated along the site's southern boundary. The eastern boundary of the site is defined by Lower Earley District Centre which comprises community, retail and commercial uses.</p>
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	<p>Yes. The site is in relatively close proximity to the community as it serves the existing residents of Hillside ward. An existing Public Right of Way runs parallel to the site along its western boundary.</p> <p>The site is also situated predominantly within the District Centre of Lower Earley.</p>
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	<p>Yes. Chalfont Park is classified as a park and garden/urban park and is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land as it is relatively well self-contained surrounded by existing housing on its northern and western boundaries, commercial uses along the southern boundary and the District Centre of Lower Earley on the eastern boundary.</p> <p>The area of woodland to the south of Chalfont Park forms part of an allocation for mixed use in accordance with Policy SAL08 of the Managing Development Delivery (MDD) local plan (2014).</p> <p>The site is entirely local in character, as recognised in the Council's Landscape Character Assessment (2020), where this particular Landscape Character Area (J4 'Woodley-Earley Settled and Farmed Clay') is described as a <i>'densely settled area with strong urban and suburban character. There are pockets of open space remaining which include public parks and sports grounds, which are wooded and provide a verdant counterpoint to the built fabric from within and when viewed across the valley'</i>.</p> <p>Chalfont Park is lined on three sides by trees and other soft landscaping, including shrubs and bushes, and according to the Officer's Report to planning application (100192), which was for an extension to the play area, <i>'the landscaping is well established and mature and contributes to the open and green character of the area'</i>.</p>

Site reference	LGS019
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>Chalfont Park is classified as a park and garden / urban park, which is recognised as being of lower quality but higher value to the local community in the Council’s Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012). The site includes a pavilion, floodlit sports courts, football pitches and play equipment.</p> <p>Chalfont Woods and Chalfont Park is one of the most significant urban open spaces within Earley that is accessible, or in close proximity, to the community it serves. Only the Thames Water Reservoir (Hillside) (ref: LGS054) site is comparable in size, but this area does not offer the same type or quality of recreational facilities that are offered by Chalfont Park.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>Chalfont Park and Chalfont Woods is not considered to be of any particular historical value and has no known associations with an historic event and figure.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold limited ecological value as most of the area is classified as improved grassland, however, there is an area of woodland (known as Chalfont Woods) in the southern part of the nominated area.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>Chalfont Park and Chalfont Woods are considered to be of limited tranquillity value, predominantly due to the urban/suburban character of Earley and the site’s proximity to existing residential, commercial and community uses. This is supported by CPRE’s Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores relatively low in comparison to other areas of open green space in the locality.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	Yes. Chalfont Park is one of the most significant urban open spaces in Earley, which is both accessible and in close proximity to the community it serves. Whilst there are other areas of green space in the surrounding area, they do not offer the same type, quality or level of recreational facilities that are provided by Chalfont Park.

Lower Earley Events Field, Kilnsea Drive, Earley



Site reference	LGS020
Site name	Lower Earley Events Field
Site address	Kilnsea Drive, Earley
Site size	2.6 ha
Site Description	The events field comprises an area of amenity green space situated in the heart of Earley, situated along Kilnsea Drive and adjacent to Maiden Place Local Centre. The site was previously recognised as a former 'carnival field' and is a valued open space for recreation.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. Lower Earley Events Field is in close proximity to the community as it is an area of green space serving the residents of Hawkedon ward. Pedestrian access to the site is provided by either Gipsy Lane or Kilnsea Drive.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The site is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land as it is well self-contained within the urban area of Earley. Lower Earley Events Fields has clearly defined edges, screened by a line of trees and hedgerows and bounded by residential properties along Gipsy Lane and Paddick Drive. The northern part of the site is bounded by Kilnsea Drive.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>Lower Earley Events Field is classified as amenity greenspace, which is recognised as being of high quality and high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012). The site also comprises a play area (Carnival Field Play Area) which provides play facilities for toddlers and juniors, and was also recognised as being of high quality and high value to the local community in the report.</p> <p>The site has been used to hold events for the local community, including family fun days and the Earley Carnival.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site holds no particular historical value and has no known associations with an historic event or figure.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The field is classified as predominantly cultivated/disturbed amenity grassland, and therefore holds limited ecological value.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular tranquillity value, presumably as the site is bounded by existing residential properties. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores relatively low compared to the</p>

Site reference	LGS020
	tranquillity offered by other green spaces in the locality, for instance Laurel Park.
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	Yes. Lower Earley Events Field is an area of green space which offers recreational value for residents in the Hawkedon ward. The site is both accessible and in close proximity to the community it serves, being situated within the urban area of Earley and adjacent to Maiden Place Local Centre.

The wilderness area and Harris Gardens on the University of Reading, Earley



Site reference	LGS021
Site name	Wilderness and Harris Gardens
Site address	University of Reading, Wilderness Road, Earley
Site size	18.9 ha
Site Description	<p>The Wilderness and Harris Gardens is a Local Wildlife Site and area of natural and semi-natural greenspace situated on the edge of Earley, within the University of Reading's Whiteknights Campus.</p> <p>The northern boundary of the site is defined by Whiteknights Road and the administrative boundary of Reading Borough. To the east, the site is defined by existing housing along the B3350 (Wilderness Road). The western boundary is defined by educational facilities at the University of Reading Whiteknights Campus and the southern boundary is bounded by existing housing along Pepper Lane.</p>
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	<p>Yes. The site is situated adjacent to residential areas in Maiden Erlegh and Hillside wards and residents in Reading Borough.</p> <p>The Wilderness and Harris Gardens are publicly accessible via the B3350 (Wilderness Road) which runs south of the site.</p>
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The site is local in character and is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land. The area is relatively self-contained with clearly defined boundaries.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The eastern part of the site, known as 'The Wilderness' is classified as an area of natural and semi-natural greenspace, which is recognised as being of low quality but high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012).</p> <p>The site also comprises Harris Gardens. Whilst not identified as formal recreational space, the site does provide an area of well-used open space for activities such as walking.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is situated in Whiteknights Park which is designated as a Local Historic Park and Garden in the council's Managing Development Delivery (MDD) local plan (2014). According to Reading Borough's adopted Local Plan <i>'the Whiteknights Park was identified in the 19th Century and includes a significant amount of parkland, woodland and lakes.'</i></p> <p>The site also comprises 'The Wilderness', a recognised Local Wildlife Site, which was originally one of the most ornamental areas in the Marquis of Blandford's garden. The University of Reading's Reading War Room, a Grade II Listed Building lies adjacent to this area. The War Room was a former regional base for the Home Defence Region</p>

Site reference	LGS021
	<p>6 during the early Cold War, designed to protect the functions of the regional government and to co-ordinate defence.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site comprises Whiteknights Park, a designated Local Wildlife Site. According to Thames Valley Environment Records Centre (TVERC), the ecological value of the site is recognised by its veteran trees within areas of woodland and grassland, and comprises several habitats, notably wood pasture and eutrophic standing water.</p> <p>Whiteknights Park consists of a mosaic of landscaped trees with mown grassland, a large shaded, eutrophic lake, mixed secondary woodland, shrubs and trees and an area of meadow. The large eutrophic lake is situated in the centre of the park, which provides a habitat for some aquatic species, notably white water-lily and common duckweed.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold some degree of tranquillity value, predominantly due to the character of the Local Wildlife Site and Whiteknights Lake. However, the remaining area is considered to be of limited tranquillity value, given the site's proximity to residential and educational uses and the level of activity across the campus. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007), where most of the site scores relatively low in tranquillity terms, apart from the area to the east focused on the Local Wildlife Site.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	<p>No. Whilst the Wilderness and Harris Gardens holds some recreational and ecological value, the area is not considered to hold sufficient value to warrant designation.</p> <p>The Development Plan provides a suitable framework for managing development proposals, including the consideration of wildlife and green infrastructure networks.</p>

Laurel Park, Marefield, Earley



Site reference	LGS022
Site name	Laurel Park
Site address	Marefield, Earley
Site size	6.7 ha
Site Description	<p>Laurel Park is a park and garden / urban park situated in the heart of Earley, adjacent to Maiden Erlegh Lake Site of Urban Landscape Value (SULV). The park provides a range of facilities used by the residents for recreation, including playing pitches, a play area and a recreation ground.</p> <p>The site is bounded by Rushey Way to the south and Maiden Erlegh Lake SULV to the north. To the east and west, the site is bounded by existing housing at Marefield and Mawbray Close.</p>
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	The site is adjacent to residential areas in Hawkedon, Hillside and Maiden Erlegh wards. Laurel Park can be accessed from either Rushey Way or Marefield.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	The site is local in character and is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land. It is relatively self-contained with clearly defined boundaries.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>Laurel Park is classified as a park and garden / urban park, which is recognised as being of low quality but high value to local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012). The park includes a play area which was recognised as being of high quality and high value to the local community. The site has three senior football pitches and three mini football pitches, all available for community use.</p> <p>A series of 'Wokingham Health Walks' are available at the park which provide routes for walking/running. Such routes include Maiden Place to the Library at Silverdale Centre, Earley Station to Brookside Surgery and Sindlesham Mill to Maiden Erlegh, which all operate via Laurel Park Recreation Ground.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>Laurel Park is situated within the Maiden Erlegh Lake Site of Urban Landscape Value (SULV) which is in the settlement of Earley. The SULV consists of a lake within a wooded setting and extensive woodland is visually significant locally and provides a wooded backdrop to the surrounding properties and playing fields. The Draft Local Plan Update proposes an amendment to the boundary of the existing SULV to include this site. According to the Council's assessment in the SULV Topic Paper (January 2020) it is considered that <i>'although these areas of more open in character than the woodlands surrounding the lake, they form an integral part of the</i></p>

Site reference	LGS022
	<p><i>wider public open space and represent an important recreation resource for local people’.</i></p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>Laurel Park is considered to hold limited ecological value, being predominantly classified as disturbed/cultivated amenity grassland. However, the recreation ground does provide a link into Maiden Erlegh Lake which is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve. The informal grassland and scrub support a large variety of bird, mammals and insects (SULV Topic Paper).</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>Laurel Park is not considered to hold any particular tranquillity value, predominantly due to the site’s proximity to existing residential and Rushey Way. This is supported by CPRE’s Tranquillity Weighted Composite Score (April 2007) where Laurel Park scores poorly compared to the tranquillity of the adjacent Maiden Erlegh Lake which offers a higher degree of tranquillity.</p> <p><u>Local significance</u></p> <p>In addition to being an important recreational facility for the community, Laurel Park Recreation Ground also hosts a number of local events, including the annual firework display and the 10km run.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	Yes. Laurel Park is a park and garden / urban park that forms an integral part of the wider public open space and represents an important recreational resource for local people in Earley.

Loddon Fields, Lower Earley Way, Earley



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Site reference	LGS023F
Site name	Loddon Fields
Site address	Lower Earley Way, Earley
Site size	3.85 ha
Site Description	Loddon Fields forms part of a linear corridor of planned open green space situated in the southern part of Earley, that runs along the route of Lower Earley Way (B3270). This area of green space forms part of the wider area of Pearman's Copse (LGS ref: LGS025) and provides further links to adjacent areas of green space along Lower Earley Way.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	<p>Yes. The site is in relatively close proximity to the community as it serves the existing residents of Hillside and Shinfield North wards. This area of green space can be accessed from Beeston Way to the east via an existing Public Right of Way to the east and through the adjacent Pearman's Copse to the west, connecting to a recognised green route along Shinfield Road. The green space can also be accessed from Rushey Way via the surrounding residential roads.</p> <p>This area of greenspace forms a wider green corridor running along the route of Lower Earley Way, from Loddon Bridge at Wokingham Road to Danehill. Lower Earley Way also provides a footpath and cycle path which can be used to access some areas of amenity greenspace.</p>
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	<p>Yes. The site is local in character and is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land, as it is relatively well self-contained with clearly defined edges. For instance, to the north the site is bounded by existing housing, to the west the site is bounded by the wider area of green space and ancient woodland at Pearman's Copse (LGS ref: LGS025) and to the east by Beeston Way. To the south, the site is bounded by Lower Earley Way (West).</p> <p>Further, in conjunction with Pearman's Copse Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site, this area of green space along Lower Earley Way (B3270) was planned in as part of the adjacent residential estates and provides a degree of amenity and recreational value. This corridor of greenspace is a recognisable feature of the physical form and layout of Lower Earley and forms a natural buffer from existing residential and main roads, notably Lower Earley Way and to some extent the M4.</p>
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The site forms linkages to the wider area of Pearman's Copse Local Nature Reserve, which is classified as an area of natural and semi-natural greenspace. The nominated area was identified as being of high quality and high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012). The site also comprises Ryhill Way Play Area (Worrell Way) which provides play facilities for children in the form of a Local Area for Play (LAP).</p>

Site reference	LGS023F
	<p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>Pearman’s Copse, which forms part of the nominated area, comprises many classical archaeological features such as boundary banks and ditches which are typical of ancient woodland sites, according to the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre’s (TVERC) assessment of the site for Local Wildlife Site designation (April 1993).</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold some ecological value, as it forms part of the wider area of Pearman’s Copse, which is a recognised Local Nature Reserve and a Local Wildlife Site. Part of the copse contains an area of ancient and semi-natural woodland which contains several tree species, notably ash, hazel and oak. The nominated area also comprises an area of woodland and veteran trees and single TPOs.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>This area of green space is considered to hold some tranquillity value, but some parts are somewhat diminished due to the site’s proximity to the M4 and Lower Earley Way. This is acknowledged by the Woodland Trust who recognise this area as <i>‘a fairly noisy broadleaf woodland at the edge of the M4’</i>. However, some parts of the site do offer a degree of tranquillity value, as supported by CPRE’s Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007), where the eastern part of the site scores highly. Despite its limited tranquillity, the site does perform an important function by acting as a natural buffer from the M4 and Lower Earley Way to the existing housing surrounding Pearman’s Copse.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	<p>Yes. The nominated area forms wider linkages, including for recreational purposes, with other areas of greenspace along Lower Earley Way, notably Red House Close, Swallows Meadow. The area of green space also comprises the wider area of Pearman’s Copse Local Nature Reserve and Local Wildlife Site (ref: LGS025) which is recognised for its ecological value. Further, in addition to its recreational and ecological value, this site performs an important function as part of a wider green corridor running along the route of Lower Earley Way (B3270), comprising an extensive linear strip of trees and hedgerows which form a natural buffer from existing housing and the main road.</p>

London Road (the green area between the A4 and residential along London Road), Earley



Site reference	LGS024
Site name	London Road (the green area between the A4 and housing along London Road)
Site address	London Road, Earley
Site size	1.9 ha
Site Description	This area forms a corridor running along the southern side of the A4 (London Road) between the Shepherd's Hill roundabout to the A3290 roundabout, and also includes a triangular shaped area of greenery at The Drive.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. The site is situated in the Bulmershe and Whitegates ward, but is not considered to serve the local community as it performs a functional role as an area of incidental space between the A4 (London Road) and existing housing.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	In part. The site is not recognised or classified as public open space or amenity greenspace, and appears to be characterised as a road-side verge which provides a natural buffer from the A4 (London Road) and existing housing opposite. The site is not considered an extensive tract of land and it is clearly defined by the A4 and existing housing along this corridor.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>This area of greenery is not recognised or classified as public open space, and holds limited recreational value. The site is characterised as a road-side verge which performs a natural buffer from the A4 (London Road) and existing housing. This area also performs a thoroughfare from the existing housing on the southern side of London Road to services and facilities at Suttons Business Park and Thames Valley Park.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>This site is considered not to hold any particular historical value and has no known associations with an historic event and figure.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>This site is not considered to hold any particular ecological value that would warrant further consideration for Local Green Space designation.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>Whilst it can be considered that this area of land serves as a natural buffer from the dual carriageway and other main arterial roads into Reading from the east to the existing housing in the surrounding area; the site does not hold any particular tranquillity value due to its proximity to the A4 (London Road) and Suttons Business Park and the retail park north of the site. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity</p>

Site reference	LGS024
	Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores poorly compared to the tranquillity offered by other areas of green space in the surrounding area.
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	No. The area of green space comprises a road-side verge along the A4 (London Road) that performs a natural buffer from the main road and existing housing, and therefore offers very limited recreational value, which does not warrant the site's further consideration as a Local Green Space designation.

Pearman's Copse, Ryhill Way, Shinfield



Site reference	LGS025
Site name	Pearman's Copse
Site address	Ryhill Way, Shinfield
Site size	8.2 ha
Site Description	Pearman's Copse is a small area of ancient woodland situated in Lower Earley, covering 2 hectares and comprises ecological and archaeological features. The copse is surrounded by community woodland and provides links to adjacent areas of green space along Lower Earley Way (West).
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. The site is in relatively close proximity to the community as it serves the existing residents of Hillside and Shinfield North wards. Pearman's Copse can be accessed via Shinfield Road which is recognised as a green route, Lower Earley Way and Rushey Way which are existing Public Rights of Way, and to the north via an existing Public Right of Way along Wilsford Close.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The site is local in character and is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land, as it is relatively well self-contained with clearly defined edges. For instance, to the north, east and west, the site is bounded by existing housing, notably Ryhill Way, Wilsford Close and Worral Way. To the south, the site is bounded by Lower Earley Way (West).
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The site is designated as a Local Nature Reserve, containing a small area of ancient and semi-natural woodland, and includes large areas of natural and semi-natural green space. Pearman's Copse was identified as being of high quality and high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012). The site also comprises Ryhill Way Play Area (Worrell Way) which provides play facilities for children in the form of an Local Area for Play (LAP).</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>Pearman's Copse comprises many classical archaeological features such as boundary banks and ditches which are typical of ancient woodland sites, according to the Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre's (TVERC) assessment of the site for Local Wildlife Site designation (April 1993).</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold significant ecological value, as it is designated as a Local Nature Reserve and a Local Wildlife Site. Part of the copse contains an area of ancient and semi-natural woodland which contains several tree species, notably ash, hazel and oak. As a Local Nature Reserve, the site comprises natural and semi-natural greenspaces. Surrounding the copse is a section of community</p>

Site reference	LGS025
	<p>woodland, as well as footpaths forming pedestrian links to adjacent areas of green space along Lower Earley Way (West).</p> <p>Pearman's Copse Local Wildlife Site is a small area of ancient woodland, situated on the edge of housing developments, and which is surrounded by publicly accessible open space. The shrub layer comprises hazel and maple. Bramble and bluebells are also present in the field layer. The site also contains lowland mixed deciduous woodland, a Habitat of Principal Importance.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>Pearman's Copse is considered to hold some tranquillity value, but some parts are somewhat diminished due to the site's proximity to the M4 and Lower Earley Way. This is acknowledged by the Woodland Trust who recognise this area as '<i>a fairly noisy broadleaf woodland at the edge of the M4</i>'. However, some parts of the site do offer a degree of tranquillity value, as supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007), where the eastern part of the site scores highly. Despite its limited tranquillity, the site does perform an important function by acting as a natural buffer from the M4 and Lower Earley Way to the existing housing surrounding Pearman's Copse Nature Reserve.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	<p>Yes. Pearman's Copse is a Local Wildlife Site and Local Nature Reserve, which is recognised as an important ecological resource in the south of Earley. The site also forms wider linkages with other areas of greenspace along Lower Earley Way, notably Red House Close and Swallows Meadow for recreation. Further, in addition to its recreational value, the site performs an important function as part of a wider green corridor running along the route of Lower Earley Way (B3270), comprising an extensive linear strip of trees and hedgerows which form a natural buffer from existing housing and the main road.</p>

Sol Joel Park, Church Road, Earley



Site reference	LGS026
Site name	Sol Joel Park
Site address	Church Road, Earley
Site size	6.6ha
Site Description	<p>Sol Joel Park is an urban park located along the Wokingham Road on the edge of Earley. The park provides a range of facilities used by the residents for recreation, including playing pitches, basketball court, skate park, parkour facility, play area and a small garden.</p> <p>The site is bounded by the main railway line to the north and the A329 to the south. To the west, the site is bounded by existing residential and commercial uses along the B3350 and is adjacent to the administrative boundary of Reading Borough. To the east the site is bounded by existing residential properties along Mays Lane.</p>
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	<p>Yes. The site is in relatively close proximity to the community as it provides a recreational resource which serves the existing residents of Maiden Erlegh ward. The site is the only recognisable and significant area of recreational space in this part of Earley. There are no other immediate areas of open green space in the area. A large area of open space can be found at Whiteknights Campus, immediately to the south-west of Sol Joel Park, but this does not offer the same type and level of recreation provision for the community. Further, other green spaces in the locality, notably towards the north of the site are severed by the A329(M), A3290 and railway line, therefore making access difficult via walking/cycling.</p> <p>Sol Joel Park is publicly accessible from Wokingham Road and is within proximity to Earley railway station. The site is also located on a designated green route enhancement area.</p>
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	<p>Yes. The site is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land as it is relatively well self-contained with clearly defined edges, for instance the site is bounded to the south by the A329 and the north by the railway line and the A3290. To the west, the site is bounded by the B3350 and forms a degree of separation between the administrative boundaries of Reading Borough with Wokingham Borough. To the east, the site is bounded by Mays Lane.</p> <p>The site is considered to be entirely local in character as it is situated in between Whiteknights Park, a Local Historic Park and Garden and the Bulmershe Site of Urban Landscape Value (SULV) and proposed Local Green Space.</p>
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>Sol Joel Park is classified as an urban park. A significant proportion of the park is also classified as amenity greenspace. The park includes a variety of recreational facilities and provision for all users, including those with visual, physical and multi-sensory impairments. Sol Joel Park comprises three senior football pitches, mini soccer pitches, a</p>

Site reference	LGS026
	<p>cricket pitch, hard court basketball court and small garden area. A skate park, parkour facility and a play area provide recreation for teenage/youth provision and younger children. Both the playing fields and playing area were recognised as being of high quality and high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012).</p> <p>Sol Joel Park also includes a picnic area and summer wildflower planting and small garden area, which provides some form of recreation for residents and visitors.</p> <p>There are no immediate areas of green space in the surrounding area as they either do not offer the same level or type of provision, or are severed by the main railway line, A3290 or A329(M) making it difficult to access via walking/cycling.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>Sol Joel Park was given by way of a charitable endowment to Reading Borough Council by Solomon Joel in 1927. Solomon Joel was recognised as one of the great benefactors of Reading, and gifted the park in perpetuity for it to be used as playing fields or for similar purposes of exercise and recreation.</p> <p>The site is also adjacent to St Peter's Church and therefore provides some degree of setting to the Grade II Listed Building.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold limited ecological value, predominantly as the park is classified as cultivated, disturbed land and amenity grassland, according to the Thames Valley Environment Records Centre (TVERC).</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to be of any particular tranquillity value, predominantly as the park is situated in the Major Development Location of Earley and is therefore within proximity to potential sources of noise, notably the railway line and Earley St Peter's Church of England Primary School. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores relatively low compared to the tranquillity offered by other areas of green space in the surrounding area.</p> <p><u>Local significance:</u></p> <p>In addition to the site's recreational and historical significance, Sol Joel Park also hosts the annual fireworks display on Bonfire Night, which is particularly popular for residents and visitors alike.</p>

Site reference	LGS026
	In 2012, Sol Joel Park was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II field status by the Fields in Trust. As part of the Jubilee celebrations for 2012, sevens trees were planted in Earley, one of which is situated in Sol Joel Park.
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	Yes, Sol Joel Park is the only recognisable and significant area of open, recreational space in this part of Earley. There are other areas of green space in the surrounding area, but they either do not offer the same level or type of recreational provision, or access to the sites are severed by the main railway line, A3290 or the A329(M).

The Drive, Earley



Site reference	LGS028
Site name	The Drive
Site address	The Drive, Earley
Site size	0.07 ha
Site Description	A small area of incidental space situated on the junction of The Drive and Erleigh Court Gardens in the northern part of Earley.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	No. The site is situated in the Bulmershe and Whitegates ward, but is not considered to serve the local community as it is a small area of incidental space within an existing housing estate.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	No. The site is not recognised or classified as public open space or amenity greenspace, but appears to form an area of incidental space for residents at The Drive and Erleigh Court Gardens. This area of green space is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land, as it is relatively well self-contained, with clearly defined boundaries, bounded to on all sides by existing housing at The Drive and Erleigh Court Gardens.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>This area of green space is not recognised or classified as public open space and holds limited recreational value.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered not to hold any particular historical value and has no known associations with an historic event or figure.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular ecological value that would warrant further consideration for Local Green Space designation.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>This area of incidental space is considered to be of limited tranquillity value, predominantly due to the sub-urban character of Earley and the site's proximity to existing housing development. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores very low in comparison to other areas of green space in the surrounding area, notably Thames Valley Park and Bulmershe Site of Urban Landscape Value (SULV).</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	No. The site comprises a small area of incidental open space within an existing housing estate, offers very limited recreational value and therefore does not warrant further consideration as a Local Green Space designation.

Land south of the River Thames, Earley / Sonning



Site reference	LGS009; LGS027; LGS029; LGS119
Site name	Land south of the River Thames, Earley / Sonning
Site address	Land south of the River Thames, Earley / Sonning
Site size	27.4ha
Site Description	<p>To the south, the site is adjacent to Sutton Business Park, but is screened relatively well by the 1840 Great Western Railway embankment. Thames Valley Business Park, an allocated employment and commercial site in the adopted Managing Development Delivery (MDD) local plan, is also located to the south of the site.</p> <p>The area of land identified as a proposed Local Green Space designation is also safeguarded for strategic transport network improvements in Policy CP10 of the adopted Core Strategy (2010) and Policy CC08 of the MDD (2014) local plan (notably a high-quality express bus service or mass rapid transit along the A4 and A329 corridors). Both safeguarding highway schemes are proposed to be carried forward in the Local Plan Update and are identified in Reading Borough Council's Local Plan (adopted November 2019).</p> <p>A smaller area of open green space was promoted at an earlier stage of the Local Plan by Save Our Ancient Riverside (SOAR) which included the parcel of land lying solely between Thames Valley Business Park and Napier Road (LGS09). In isolation, the site was considered to hold limited formal recreational or historical value and was not suitable for consideration as Local Green Space. As a result, the site was not included as a proposed Local Green Space designation in the Draft Local Plan consultation undertaken in February 2020.</p> <p>The site now forms part of a wider promotion, incorporating a further area of greenspace at Thames Valley Park. This follows additional information provided by Save Our Ancient Riverside (SOAR), Earley Town Council and ACER in response to the Draft Local Plan consultation. By taking forward a wider promotion, this would also assist in maintaining and facilitating access to further open spaces, notably Kings Meadow and the Coal Woodland in Reading Borough, which is situated along the Thames Path National Trail to the west and was designated as a Local Green Space in Reading Borough Council's Local Plan (adopted in November 2019).</p>
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	<p>Yes. The site forms part of the Thames Path National Trail, a designated long-distance route that provides informal and formal recreation for visitors, residents and commuters accessing Reading and the surrounding area by walking, cycling and horse-riding. Further, the site provides a recreational space for the existing communities to the east of Reading such as Newtown and Old Earley and Woodley which are accessed via a footbridge under the railway. The site is also located on the National Cycle Route 4 which forms a long-distance cycling route from London to Fishguard.</p>

Site reference	LGS009; LGS027; LGS029; LGS119
	<p>The wider LGS promotion recognises the importance of facilitating access to further open spaces, notably Kings Meadow and the Coal Woodland which is designated as a Local Green Space in accordance with Policy ENV7 of Reading Borough Council’s Local Plan (adopted in November 2019).</p>
<p>Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?</p>	<p>Yes. The site is designated as open countryside and is located on the edge of the Core Employment Area at Thames Valley Business Park. The site also borders the edge of the urban area of Reading.</p> <p>The site is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of open land despite the proposed extension of the site now incorporating the wider amenity greenspace at Thames Valley Park. The site is relatively self-contained with clearly defined boundaries, as it is bounded to the south by the railway embankment and Thames Valley Business Park, to the west by the River Kennet and to the east by the wider greenspace adjacent to Thames Valley Park. The northern boundary is open but is also defined by the course of the River Thames. The proposed extension of the eastern boundary is defined by the edge of the Thames Valley Park (East) Local Wildlife Site.</p> <p>The land adjacent to the west is designated as Local Green Space by Reading Borough Council in accordance with Policy ENV7 of their Local Plan (adopted in November 2019). The site is identified as the Kings Meadow and the Coal Woodland LGS and was designated due to it being <i>‘one of Reading’s largest and best public open spaces with a wide variety of facilities’</i>. The site was considered by Reading Borough Council to fulfil every aspect of particular significance as outlined in the NPPF.</p> <p>The land adjacent to the Kings Meadow and Coal Woodland LGS was also considered as a Local Green Space by Reading Borough Council (Coal Woodland & Kennet Mouth) but it was concluded in their final assessment that the horse-shoe bridge and railway bridge were not particularly well-used by the public and was poorly maintained. Additionally, it was considered that the site would not expect to endure through the plan-period due to it being safeguarded for transport projects. Therefore, the site was not suitable for designation.</p> <p>Assessment of the original promotion (LGS09 of the Local Green Space Topic Paper) concluded that <i>‘although the site holds an element of recreational and ecological value, associated with the Thames Path National Trail and riverside environment, the site is not considered to be of particular local significance’</i>. Therefore, the site was not proposed as a Local Green Space designation in the Draft Local Plan consultation undertaken in February 2020.</p> <p>However, together the newly proposed area and the existing promotion would support the site’s ecological and recreational role,</p>

Site reference	LGS009; LGS027; LGS029; LGS119
	<p>whilst maintaining and facilitating access to further open spaces along the Thames Path National Trail, notably Kings Meadow and Coal Woodland in Reading Borough.</p> <p>Furthermore, despite the site including an area of land safeguarded for a proposed high-quality express bus service or mass rapid transit along the A4 and A329 corridors, the designation of this area as a LGS is unlikely to prejudice the scheme's future delivery as policies for managing development within a LGS should be consistent with Green Belt policy, as set out in paragraph 101 of the NPPF. Paragraph 146 (c) of the NPPF identifies types of development that are considered not inappropriate in the Green Belt provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. This includes proposals for local transport infrastructure.</p>
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The site incorporates the wider area of greenspace at Thames Valley Park situated along the River Thames and Thames Path National Trail. This area of open space is heavily used by walkers, cyclists, runners and commuters. It also provides an important link for active travel between Reading Borough and Wokingham Borough as well as further afield for long-distance walks to Sonning and the Chilterns.</p> <p>Thames Valley Park is classified as natural/semi-natural greenspace and is recognised as being of high quality and high value to the local community in the Open Spaces Assessment report (2012). The report indicated that the greenspace at Thames Valley Park had the potential to score highly against the Green Flag criteria. The criteria are used to recognise and reward well managed parks and green spaces and sets a benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.</p> <p>The area of greenspace and footpaths situated along the Thames Path National Trail facilitate access to further open spaces, notably Kings Meadow and the Coal Woodland in Reading Borough which is recognised as <i>'one of Reading's largest and best public open spaces with a wide variety of facilities according to Reading Borough Council's Local Green Space and Public Open Space Background Paper (March 2018)¹</i>. Kings Meadow and the Coal Woodland is designated as a Local Green Space in accordance with Policy ENV7 of the Reading Local Plan (adopted November 2019).</p> <p>The proposed boundary of the LGS designation also covers the Wokingham Waterside Centre which is <i>'a unique riverside, water sports and conference venue'</i> according to the organisation's website. Thames Valley Park Rowing Club are also based here, and this centre,</p>

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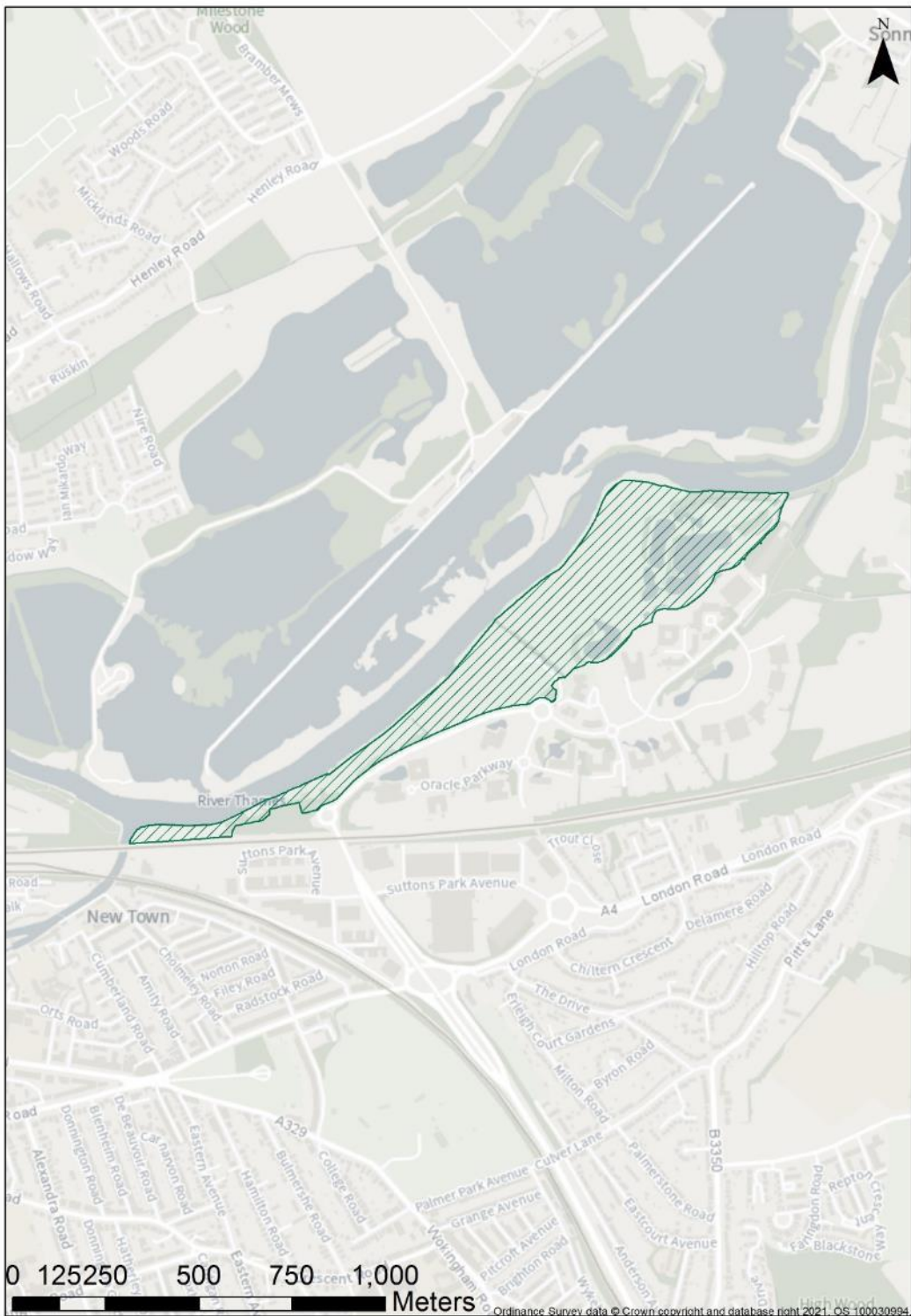
[https://images.reading.gov.uk/2019/12/EV033 Local Green Space and Public Open Space Background Paper.pdf](https://images.reading.gov.uk/2019/12/EV033%20Local%20Green%20Space%20and%20Public%20Open%20Space%20Background%20Paper.pdf)

Site reference	LGS009; LGS027; LGS029; LGS119
	<p>along with the Dreadnought Reach of the River Thames, are frequently used by canoeists, paddle-boarders and rowers of all ages who are members or non-members of the club for formal and informal recreation activities.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is located adjacent to the Isambard Kingdom Brunel bridge and the adjoining Horseshoe Bridge over the River Kennet which are both designated as Grade II Listed Buildings due to their special architectural or historic interest.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The north-eastern part of the Thames Valley Park comprises a Local Wildlife Site (Nature Reserve), which forms part of the River Thames floodplain. The Local Wildlife Site consists of a mosaic of habitats including man-made lakes, wildflower seeded grassland, ponds, planted scrub, secondary woodland and small area of wet woodland and swamp habitat.</p> <p>The Local Wildlife Site also contains lakes which include several ecological species, notably common reed, bulrush, common club-rush and areas of arrowhead and bogbean. A strip of grassland surrounds the lakes and contains species such as gypsywort, marsh woundwort, lesser skullcap, wild angelica, meadowsweet and sneezewort. There are also two areas of swamp habitat in the north comprising reed sweet grass and bulrush. A couple of small, shallow ponds are present which are shaded by trees. An area of wet woodland is present with a series of drains towards the east.</p> <p>The Thames Valley Park (East) Local Wildlife Site also comprises several habitats of principal importance that are protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Habitats include a small area of wet woodland, fen and eutrophic standing water.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The northern and western parts of the site have some particular tranquil value as they score medium/high in CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) mapping, predominantly due to the site's proximity to the River Thames and the surrounding landscape. The site is situated within the A1 'River Valley with Open Water' Landscape Character Area as identified in the Landscape Character Assessment (2020). The LCA recognises that this Landscape Character Area contains a reservoir of 'dark skies', providing an element of tranquillity and remoteness in this area. This is despite the site being situated on the edge of Reading and close to Thames</p>

Site reference	LGS009; LGS027; LGS029; LGS119
	<p>Valley Business Park which are affected by light pollution from sources of artificial/external lighting.</p> <p><u>Local significance</u></p> <p>The Kennet Mouth was a ceremonial site in 2003 to commemorate the life of Peter Hay, the artist and founder of the Two Rivers Press. Peter Hay was a local visionary artist who studied at Reading University and resided in Reading. The junction of the River Thames and the River Kennet was close to his home and was a frequent symbolic theme in his work. Peter Hay founded Two Rivers Press in 1994 which gave him an opportunity to pursue his passion for campaigning through illustration², notably a campaign saving the space from the Cross-Town Route in the 1980s. This scheme was before a proposal to safeguard the area of land for a Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) between the A4 and A329 corridor. A plaque, designed by him, was placed on the Horseshoe Bridge to commemorate the act following the campaign against the Cross-Town Route.</p> <p>The suitability of the area of greenspace between Thames Valley Business Park and Napier Road, for Local Green Space designation, has been actively supported by several organisations, including Earley Town Council, Earley Environmental Group, Save Our Ancient Riverside (SOAR) and the Association of Central Earley Residents (ACER).</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	<p>Yes. The site is demonstrably special to the local community due to its recreational and ecological value. The site is an important visual amenity, frequently used by walkers, cyclists and commuters for recreational and leisure activities. Furthermore, the site provides access to further important open spaces in the area, notably Kings Meadow and the Coal Woodland located in Reading Borough which is designated as a Local Green Space in their adopted Local Plan. The northern part of the site includes the Thames Valley Park (East) Local Wildlife Site that comprises a variety of habitats and species of principal importance that contribute towards the character of the River Thames floodplain.</p> <p>The proposed Local Green Space designation for land south of River Thames is shown on the map below.</p>

² <https://tworiverspress.com/shop/the-art-of-peter-hay/>

Land south of the River Thames, Earley / Sonning



Maiden Erlegh Lake and Local Nature Reserve, Maiden Erlegh Park, Earley



Site reference	LGS038
Site name	Maiden Erlegh Lake and Local Nature Reserve
Site address	Maiden Erlegh Park, Earley
Site size	13.1 ha
Site Description	<p>The site is situated within the residential settlement of Earley, and comprises an area of public open space, streams, lake and extensive woodland. Laurel Park Recreation Ground is adjacent to the southern boundary.</p> <p>The site is currently designated as a Site of Urban Landscape Value (SULV) in Policy TB22 of the Managing Development Delivery (MDD) local plan in which the Inspector, in his final report, recognised the extensive woodland and lake as features contributing to its local and visual significance.</p>
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	<p>Yes. The site is in close proximity to the community as it is situated within the settlement of Earley, serving the existing residents of Hillside and Maiden Erlegh wards.</p> <p>Maiden Erlegh Lake and Woods can be accessed from a Public Right of Way on the western edge of the SULV off Beech Lane. A good network of footpaths exist across the site connecting Maiden Erlegh Lake and Woods to the surrounding residential development and the adjacent Laurel Park Recreation Ground. For instance, access to the site is provided from Gipsy Lane to the east, Lakeside to the north, and Instow Road to the south.</p>
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	<p>Yes. The site is entirely local in character and is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land as it is self-contained, surrounded by housing and bounded by extensive woodland.</p> <p>Maiden Erlegh Lake and Woods is currently designated as a Site of Urban Landscape Value (SULV) in line with Policy TB22 of the Managing Development Delivery (MDD) local plan (2014). The Inspector acknowledged in his final report that Maiden Erlegh Lake and Woods is an important ecological and landscape resource as the extensive areas of woodland are both visually and locally significant.</p> <p>According to the SULV Topic Paper (2020), Maiden Erlegh Lake and Woods <i>‘provides a wooded backdrop to the surrounding properties and playing fields’</i> and <i>‘when combined with other significant trees within Earley, parts of the residential area acquire a verdant character’</i>. Further, the ancient and semi-natural woodlands, which comprise Oak Wood, Old Pond Copse and Moor Copse <i>‘provide a maturity to the landscape with the trees providing a wooded setting to the surrounding urban area’</i>.</p> <p>The assessment of the Maiden Erlegh Lake SULV also highlights that this is an area of high landscape quality due to its well-preserved naturalistic character provided by the lake and the mature woodlands. According to the assessment, the site also provides a</p>

Site reference	LGS038
	green lung within existing residential development, which is entirely local in character.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>Maiden Erlegh Lake and Woods is classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace, which is recognised as being of high quality and high value to the local community in the Council’s Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012).</p> <p>According to the assessment of the Maiden Erlegh Lake SULV (2020), there are surfaced paths and seating around the lake and in some parts of the woodland which provide opportunities for recreation.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>Maiden Erlegh Lake SULV consists of a lake within a wooded setting and extensive woodland is visually significant locally, providing a wooded backdrop to the surrounding properties and playing fields. According to the Council’s assessment in the SULV Topic Paper (January 2020) it is considered that <i>‘although these areas of more open in character than the woodlands surrounding the lake, they form an integral part of the wider public open space and represent an important recreation resource for local people’</i>.</p> <p>The site is considered to hold some historical value due to the former Maiden Erlegh Estate. According to British History Online (2019) the estate was associated with well-known and local historic figures, notably Solomon Joel who was recognised as one of the great benefactors of Reading and was once lord of the manor. Maiden Erlegh Lake and surrounding woodland were eventually sold to Earley Town Council and is now recognised as a valued ecological and local landscape resource.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>Maiden Erlegh Lake is designated as a Local Nature Reserve, which is of local significance. This is supported by the assessment of the SULV in the Topic Paper (2020) which recognises that the woodlands, lake, lake margins and stream running through the woodland are of local importance.</p> <p>Further, the woodland areas to the south and east of the lake are also designated as a Local Wildlife Site. According to the Thames Valley Environment Records Centre (TVERC) (2016), the Maiden Erlegh Woods Local Wildlife Site consists of ancient and semi-natural woodland, lowland mixed deciduous woodland, wet woodland and a few associated marshy areas, which support a variety of wildlife, notably crayfish, kingfisher, common frog and mute swan.</p>

Site reference	LGS038
	<p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>As a whole, the site holds limited tranquillity value, predominantly as Maiden Erlegh Lake and Woods is surrounded by existing residential development and local highways in the urban settlement of Earley. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores relatively low. The site is designated as a Site of Urban Landscape Value (SULV) and is considered to hold some tranquillity value, as according to the Council's assessment <i>'the large expanse of Maiden Erlegh Lake provides a tranquil setting for the western part of the SULV'</i>. Furthermore, public access to some areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland are often restricted due to their ecological value, and therefore provide a strong sense of isolation and tranquillity within the urban area of Earley.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	Yes. Maiden Erlegh Lake and Woods is an important and valued ecological and local landscape resource, and the associated woodlands and open spaces are significant features of value within the urban setting of Earley.

Meadow Park, Meadow Road, Earley



Site reference	LGS052
Site name	Meadow Park
Site address	Meadow Road, Earley
Site size	0.8 ha
Site Description	Meadow Park is a park situated in Earley, between existing housing at Roman Way and Meadow Road. The park comprises a wildflower meadow, recreational space, garden, play facilities and an urban gym.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. Meadow Park is in relatively close proximity to the community as it serves the existing residents of Maiden Erlegh ward, notably existing housing at Roman Way, Meadow Road and Robindale Avenue. The site can be accessed via pedestrian footpaths off Meadow Road and Roman Way.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The site is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land as it is bounded on all sides by existing housing along Meadow Road, Roman Way and Robindale Avenue. The site is also situated in the heart of Earley, a Major Development Location.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>Meadow Park is classified as a park and garden / urban park, which is recognised as being of high quality and high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012). The site comprises a play area and gym equipment, providing facilities for children, teenagers and adults.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>Meadow Park became a 'Fields in Trust' park as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold limited ecological value, predominantly as the park is classified as cultivated/disturbed amenity grassland according to Thames Valley Environment Records Centre (TVERC). A small area of traditional orchards (BAP Priority Habitat) is located to the north of Meadow Park.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular tranquillity value, predominantly as it is situated in proximity to existing housing and community uses, notably Loddon Primary School. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores very low compared to the tranquillity offered by other areas of green space in the surrounding area, for instance Maiden Erlegh Lake.</p>

Site reference	LGS052
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	Yes. Meadow Park is an important recreational resource for the residents in this part of Earley. There are other areas of green space in the surrounding area, notably Maiden Erlegh Lake, but this does not offer the same level or type of recreational opportunities.

Redhatch Copse, Redhatch Drive, Earley



Site reference	LGS053
Site name	Redhatch Copse
Site address	Redhatch Drive, Earley
Site size	4.2 ha
Site Description	Redhatch Copse is an area of natural and semi-natural greenspace situated in the heart of Earley, adjacent to residential south of Redhatch Drive. The site comprises an area of woodland that is adjacent to a recent housing development.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. Redhatch Copse is in close proximity to the community as it is an area of green space serving the existing residents of Hillside ward. The site is privately owned, although pedestrian access is provided either side of the site connected by a circular path through the copse.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The site is local in character and is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land as it is relatively well self-contained with clearly defined edges, bounded by existing residential properties on all sides, notably Redhatch Drive, Westcroft Close and Collins Drive.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>Redhatch Copse is privately owned and is not classified or recognised as public open space, however national guidance is clear that a site does not need to be publicly accessible, provided it satisfies the criteria for designation set out in national policy. A circular footpath has been laid out and is well used.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular historical value and has no known associations with an historic event or figure.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and contains a small area of varied ancient woodland, classified as lowland mixed deciduous woodland. According to the Thames Valley Environment Records Centre (TVERC), parts of the site comprise ash with hazel coppice and elder. Bramble and bluebells are also present, along with other tree and plant species, including hairy wood-sedge, yellow pimpernel and wood sorrel. Some wetland species are also found in the wetter parts of the site, including marsh marigold and water mint.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>Redhatch Copse is not considered to hold any particular tranquillity value, predominantly as the site is bounded on all sides by existing residential properties, notably along Redhatch Drive, Collins Drive and Elm Lane. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site performs relatively low in</p>

Site reference	LGS053
	comparison to the tranquillity of other areas of green space in the locality.
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	Yes. Redhatch Copse is a significant area of natural and semi-natural greenspace which offers some recreational value. The site is both accessible and in close proximity to the community it serves.

Thames Water Reservoir (Hillside), Elm Lane, Earley



Site reference	LGS054
Site name	Thames Water Reservoir (Hillside)
Site address	Elm Lane, Earley
Site size	3.2 ha
Site Description	This site is recognised as a park and garden / urban park, which comprises an underground reservoir supplying water to buildings in Earley, Lower Earley, Woodley and south Reading. The reservoir is predominantly covered by improved grassland and also comprises trees and flowers. This area also provides a degree of recreational value for residents in Earley. The urban park is situated in central Earley along Elm Lane, close to the administrative border of Reading Borough.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. The site is in relatively close proximity to the community as it serves the existing residents of Hillside ward. The former reservoir site can be accessed via a pedestrian footpath along Elm Lane to the east and Fair Lawn Green to the west.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The site is local in character and is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land, as it is relatively well self-contained with clearly defined edges. For instance, to the north / north-east the site is defined by Elm Lane, to the west the site is bounded by community uses, notably Whiteknights Primary School. The site is also bounded on three sides by existing housing along Tamarind Way and Elm Road.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The former Thames Water Reservoir (also known as Hillside) is classified as a park and garden / urban park, which is recognised as being of lower quality but higher value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012).</p> <p>There are no immediate areas of green space in the north-western part of Hillside ward that are used for recreation purposes.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular historical value and has no known associations with an historic event and figure.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>Hillside is predominantly classified as improved grassland by Thames Valley Environment Records Centre (TVERC) but is not considered to be of any significant ecological value. However, the area does contain a mature woodland in the north-western and south-western boundaries and a small area has also been planted with saplings.</p>

Site reference	LGS054
	<p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular tranquillity value, predominantly as it is situated in proximity to existing residential and community uses, notably Whiteknights Primary School. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores relatively low compared to the tranquillity offered by other areas of green space in the locality.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	Yes. The former Thames Water reservoir is the only recognisable and significant area of open, recreational space in this part of Earley, that serves residents in the western part of Hillside ward.

Lower Earley Meadows (Riverside Park) and Woodlands (A), Wokingham Road and Danehill, Earley

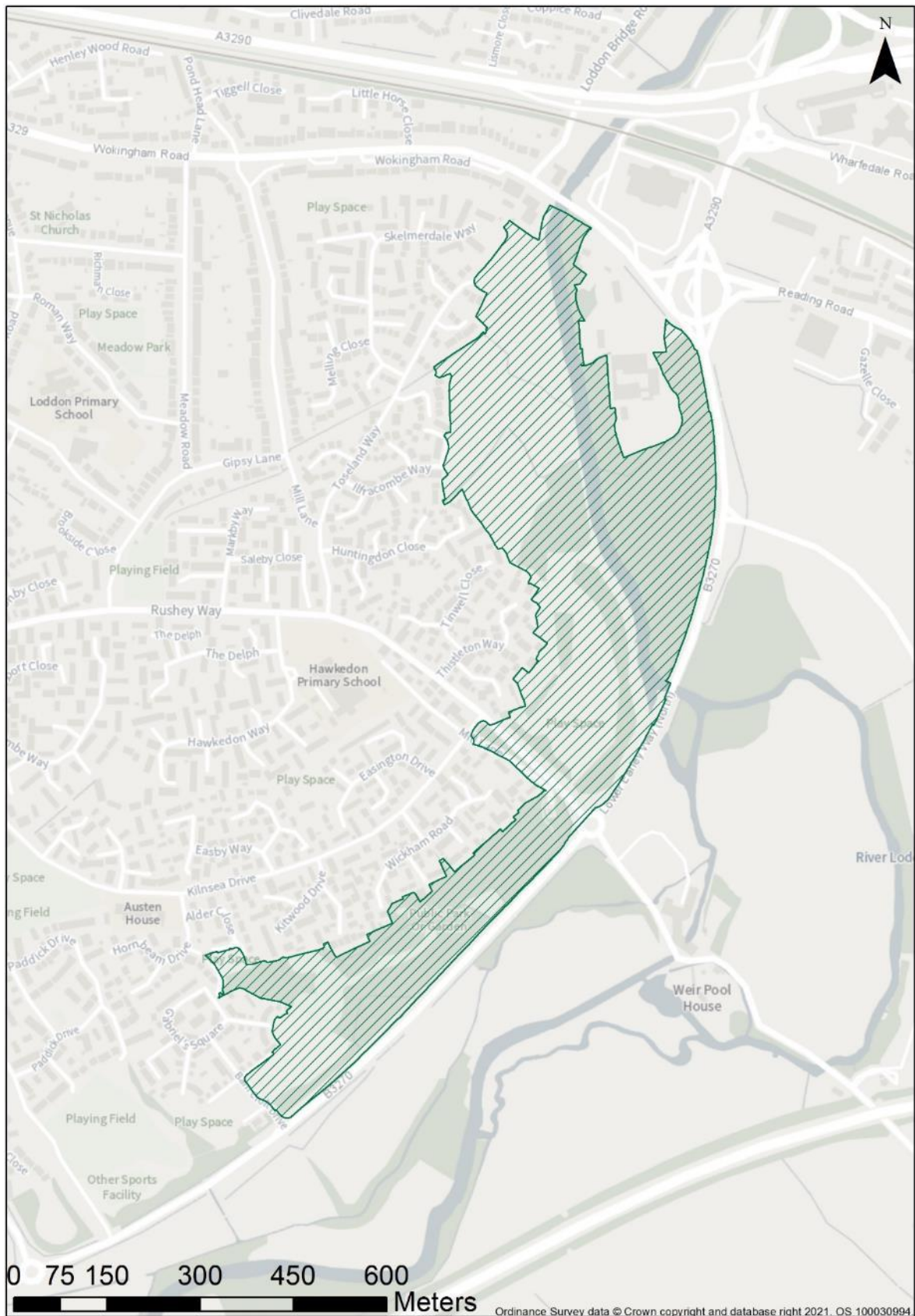


Site reference	LGS055
Site name	Lower Earley Meadows (Riverside Park) and Woodlands (A)
Site address	Wokingham Road and Danehill, Earley
Site size	91.95 ha
Site Description	<p>Lower Earley Meadows (Riverside Park) and Woodlands comprises of parcels of privately owned land and other areas of greenspace that straddle the parishes of Winnersh and Earley.</p> <p>The northern part of the nominated area forms a linear corridor of planned green space running along the route of Lower Earley Way (B3270 which provides a natural buffer between the residential estate and the main road.</p> <p>The southern part of the nominated area comprises the following areas of greenspace: Hatch Farm country park, Sindlesham Meadows amenity greenspace and Riverside Park. Hatch Farm country park is an allocated public open space in Policy SAL04 of the Council's Managing Development Delivery (MDD) local plan (2014). Sindlesham Meadows is classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace. Riverside Park is classified as a park and garden.</p> <p>The remainder of the nominated area comprises multiple parcels of land which are in private ownership.</p>
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes, in part. The northern part of the nominated area is in reasonably close proximity to the community as it serves the existing residents of Hawkedon, Winnersh and Maiden Erlegh wards. An existing Public Right of Way runs along the western boundary of the site connecting Sindlesham village to the top of Reading Road. The Public Right of Way also runs parallel to the course of the River Loddon.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	<p>Yes, but only in part.</p> <p>The area of greenspace to the north of Lower Earley Way is considered local in character as it forms part of a wider green corridor that provides a natural buffer between the residential estate and the main road. The area of greenspace was planned in as part of the adjacent residential estates and provides a degree of amenity and recreational value. Further, this corridor of greenspace is a recognisable feature of the physical form and layout of the settlement of Earley and acts to separate the built development from the open countryside beyond.</p> <p>The area to the north of Lower Earley Way is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land as it is relatively well self-contained, with clearly defined boundaries, for instance the corridor of green space is bounded by existing housing to the north and Lower Earley Way (B3270) to the south. Further north of Lower Earley Way, the site is bounded by the junction of the A329 and B3270 and commercial uses.</p>

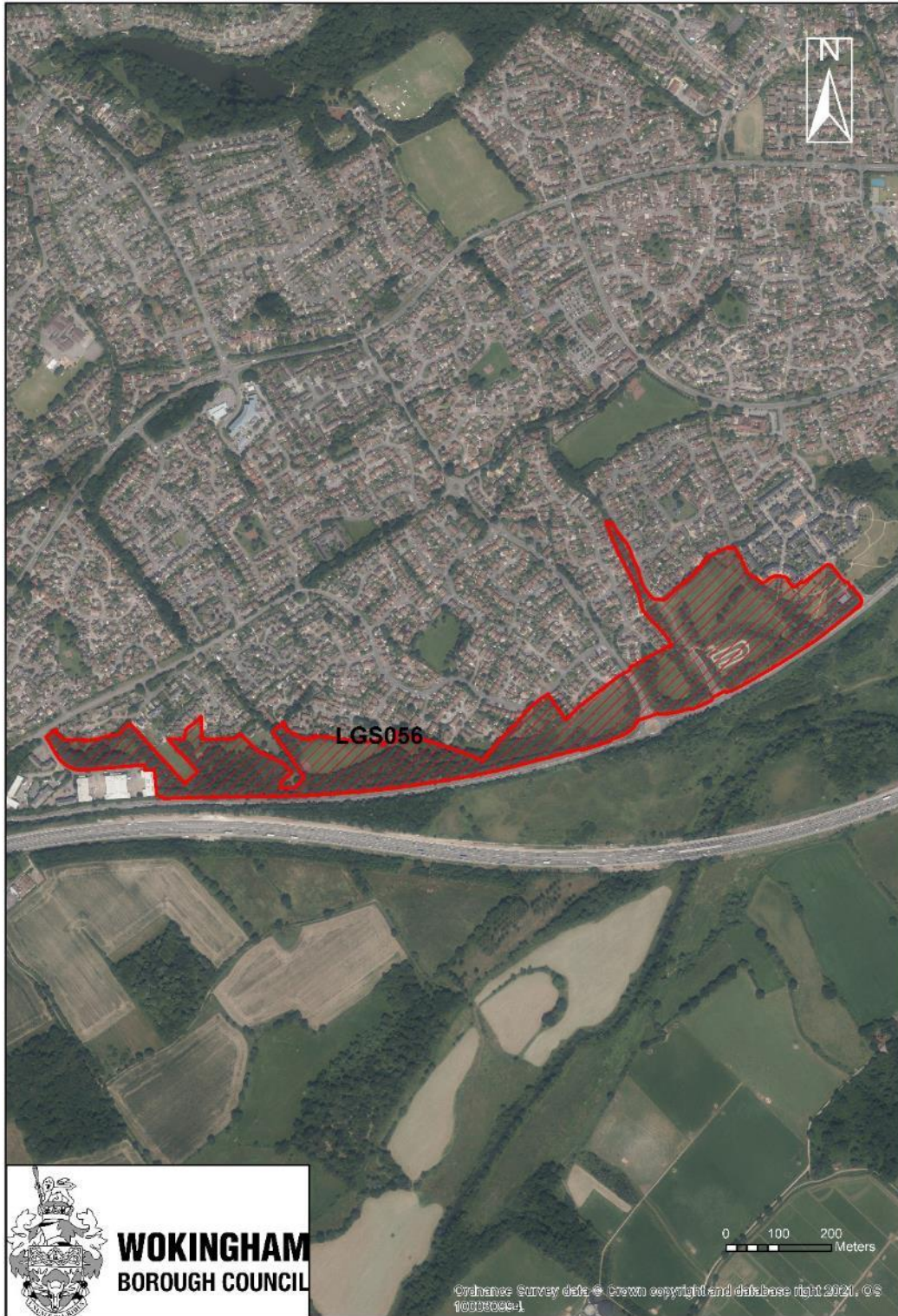
Site reference	LGS055
	<p>The area to the south of Lower Earley Way and the Winnersh Relief Road is not local in character and is considered to constitute an extensive tract of land. The area is separated from the community by these roads with the character being more open countryside.</p>
<p>Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?</p>	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The site comprises several areas of open green space. For instance, the southern part of the site contains Sindlesham Meadows which is classified as natural and semi-natural greenspaces. The western part of the site is classified as a park and garden / urban park, known by the community as Riverside Park. To the east, this area is predominantly public open space in the form of Hatch Farm Country Park, which serves residents at Hatch Farm.</p> <p>Riverside Park also includes a play area which provides play facilities for children and teenagers in the form of a Local Area of Play (LAP).</p> <p>Due to the site's location along the River Loddon, this route is popular for walking and is used extensively by the community for other formal and informal recreation activities. It also provides an attractive walking and cycling route from Lower Earley to Winnersh Triangle railway station, as well as Winnersh Triangle Business Park to Showcase Cinema and Dinton Pastures Country Park.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold some historical value due to the presence of important historic riverside features such as traditional brick humpback bridges and water mills, which can be found at Sindlesham Mill and Sindlesham Bridge, both Grade II Listed Buildings.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is situated within the Loddon River Valley Biodiversity Opportunity Area, which is dictated by the extent of alluvium and sand and gravels in the valley. There are three Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) within the nominated area: The Loddon Bridge/Lower Earley Community Woodland, The River Loddon and the Alder Carr.</p> <p>The Loddon Bridge/Lower Earley Community Woodland (LWS) comprises grassland, planted in part with trees as a community woodland site. The site is now managed as a public open space between Lower Earley and the River Thames.</p> <p>The River Loddon LWS is a 17km stretch of the River Loddon running from Swallowfield to its confluence with the River Thames near Wargrave. The particular section of the river which falls within this area of greenspace has a diversity of features such as marsh, islands, inlets, riffles, river cliffs and extensive and varied channel vegetation.</p>

Site reference	LGS055
	<p>This includes uncommon Loddon Pondweed, Water Vole and a variety of dragonflies and damselflies that are mostly identified as Section 41 habitats of principal importance.</p> <p>Alder Carr LWS lies adjacent to the River Loddon and is an extensive area of larger alder coppice between the River Loddon and an old channel of the Loddon. This area has a shrub layer with hazel coppice and dog's mercury which is abundant in the ground. Wetland plants such as purple loosestrife and water mint are found along the Loddon.</p> <p>Part of the site also comprises several priority habitats, notably lowland mixed deciduous woodland, wet woodland, broadleaved woodland/semi-natural and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>No. This area of open greenspace forms a natural buffer between the residential estate and Lower Earley Way (B3270) and Winnersh Relief Road, and therefore holds limited tranquillity value. This is supported by the Council's Landscape Character Assessment (2020), which states that the area has a <i>'largely peaceful area, disturbance comes from major roads which cross the floodplain including the M4 and adjacent developments in Earley and Winnersh'</i>.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, some parts of the site are considered to hold some tranquillity value, due to their proximity to the River Loddon and the natural landscape of the River Loddon area, but this is not sufficient to satisfy the criteria.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	<p>Yes, in part.</p> <p>The part of the nominated area north of Lower Earley Way and the Winnersh Relief Road is considered to be suitable for designation as Local Green Space, providing a clear amenity and recreational role to the local community.</p> <p>The parts of the nominated area to the south of Lower Earley Way and the Winnersh Relief Road, whilst holding a degree of recreational and ecological value, (notably at Sindlesham Meadows and Hatch Farm Country Park) and playing a role in the separation of settlements, this is not considered to hold sufficient value to be suitable for designation.</p> <p>The proposed Local Green Space designation is shown on the map below.</p>

Lower Earley Meadows (Riverside Park) and Woodlands (A), Wokingham Road and Danehill, Earley



Lower Earley Meadows (Riverside Park) and Woodlands (B), Wokingham Road and Danehill, Earley



Site reference	LGS056
Site name	Lower Earley Meadows (Riverside Park) and Woodlands (B)
Site address	Wokingham Road and Danehill, Earley
Site size	17.1 ha
Site Description	<p>This part of Lower Earley Meadows (Riverside Park) and Woodlands forms a linear corridor of planned open green space situated in the southern part of Earley, that runs along the route of Lower Earley Way (B3270). This corridor holds a degree of amenity value as it provides a natural buffer from adjacent housing and the main road.</p> <p>The nominated area provides important recreational facilities for local residents including at Red House Close, Paddick Drive and Lower Earley Woodland Meadows.</p>
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	<p>Yes. The site is in relatively close proximity to the community as it serves the existing residents of Hawkedon ward. Whilst there is no identified public access in some parts of the nominated area, particularly to the west of Meldreth Way, this area forms part of a wider framework of open space providing an important fringe to the local community.</p> <p>To the east of Meldreth Way, pedestrian access to the site is provided from several points including Lidstone Close, Simmonds Crescent, Barn Croft Drive and Mill Lane.</p> <p>This area of greenspace forms a wider green corridor running along the route of Lower Earley Way, from Loddon Bridge at Wokingham Road to Danehill. Lower Earley Way also provides a pedestrian/cycleway which can be used to access some areas of amenity greenspace.</p>
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	<p>Yes. Whilst the site is not considered truly local in character, the areas of amenity greenspace along Lower Earley Way (B3270) form part of a wider green corridor and form a natural buffer from existing residential and main roads, notably Lower Earley Way and to some extent the M4.</p> <p>The site is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land as it is relatively well self-contained, with clearly defined edges, for instance the corridor of green space is bounded by existing residential properties to the north and Lower Earley Way to the south.</p>
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>For the assessment, the site has been divided into two parts, west of Meldreth Way and east of Meldreth Way:</p> <p><i>West of Meldreth Way</i></p> <p>The site comprises several areas of open green space and play areas, notably Red House Close which is classified as natural and semi-</p>

Site reference	LGS056
	<p>natural greenspace and Swallows Meadow, which is classified as amenity greenspace. Both areas of green space were recognised as being of mostly high quality and high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012).</p> <p>Red House Close and Chatteris Way (Wimblington Drive) play areas provide facilities for children in the form of Local Areas of Play (LAP). The play areas were recognised as a popular facility for the community as supported in the Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012).</p> <p><i>East of Meldreth Way</i></p> <p>The eastern part of the site forms a number of individual open spaces and green spaces, notably Paddick Drive which is classified as amenity greenspace and Lower Earley Woodland and Meadow, which is classified as natural and semi-natural greenspace.</p> <p>Paddick Drive was recognised as being of high quality and high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012). This area of open space also includes a play area which provides facilities for children and teenagers, most notably the Paddick Drive Dirt BMX track.</p> <p>Lower Earley Woodland and Meadows is not classified in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012) but is recognised as a popular recreational resource for the community.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular historical value, but further north of the site is Rushy Mead a Grade II Listed Building.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is situated within the Loddon Valley South Berkshire Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) and comprises known ecological species and habitats including Lowland meadows. Most of the site comprises a combination of improved grassland, scrub and semi-improved grassland. This corridor of green space comprises areas of woodland and individual Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). An area TPO also surrounds a part of Swallows Meadows amenity green space, which is closest to the junction of Meldreth Way.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular tranquillity value, primarily due to its proximity to Lower Earley Way (B3270), the M4 beyond and existing residential properties. This is supported by</p>

Site reference	LGS056
	CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores very low for its tranquillity.
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	Yes. This nominated area of green space was planned in as part of the adjacent residential development and functions as a wider, linear green corridor running along the route of Lower Earley Way (B3270). It is acknowledged that small parts of the nominated area do not have public access, but the area does form part of a wider framework of open space which provides an important buffer to the local community. This particular corridor of green space also forms wider linkages to other valued areas of green space notably Pearman's Copse Local Nature Reserve, Red House Close public open space and Paddick Drive which are important recreational facilities for the residents of Earley.

Rushey Way Green Route, Earley



Site reference	LGS057
Site name	Rushey Way Green Route
Site address	Land between Moorhen Drive West and Beech Lane; Land between Chatton Close and Beeston Way
Site size	1.5 ha
Site Description	Two areas of amenity greenspace forming a green corridor running along the southern side of Rushey Way between Moorhen Drive West and Beech Lane, and between Chatton Close and Beeston Way.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	<p>Yes. The site is in relatively close proximity to the community as the amenity greenspace serves the existing residents of Hillside and Hawkedon wards.</p> <p>Both areas of amenity greenspace are publicly accessible, including from Rushey Way to the north.</p>
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	<p>Yes. The site is considered local in character as both areas of amenity greenspace form part of a wider green corridor running along Rushey Way, which form a natural buffer to the housing and therefore provides some degree of amenity value.</p> <p>The eastern parcel is not considered to constitute an extensive tract of land, as it is relatively well self-contained, with clearly defined edges, bound by local roads and existing housing. However, the south-western edge of the western parcel is less clearly defined as it forms a wider area that extends south towards Cutbush Lane and could be considered an extensive tract of land.</p>
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The site comprises two parcels of land that are classified as amenity greenspace (Rushey Way and Bradmore Way) which form part a wider green corridor along Rushey Way, forming a natural buffer from existing housing and the main road (Rushey Way), and therefore provides some degree of amenity value.</p> <p>However, both sites were recognised as being of low quality in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012), and it is considered that there are other significant areas of open space/green space in Earley that are in closer proximity to the community and provide access to a wider range of facilities and provision for recreation, notably Lower Earley Meadows and Woodland and Chalfont Park.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular historical value and has no known associations with an historic event or figure.</p>

Site reference	LGS057
	<p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>Both areas of greenspace are covered by medium to large trees. Rushey Way amenity greenspace is considered to hold limited ecological value as it is predominantly classified as scrubland and improved grassland according to Thames Valley Environment Records Centre (TVERC). Bradmore Way amenity greenspace holds some ecological value due to its classification as broadleaved woodland according to TVERC.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>This particular area of amenity greenspace is not considered to hold any particular tranquillity value, predominantly due to its proximity to Rushey Way. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scores very low compared to the tranquillity offered by other areas of greenspace in the surrounding area.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	No. The site comprises two areas of incidental open space adjacent to existing residential development. This green space only holds limited recreational value, but it is acknowledged that the corridor of amenity greenspace performs a natural buffer from Rushey Way and existing housing. The south-western edge of the western parcel is less clearly defined and forms part of a wider area of greenspace that extends further south towards Cutbush Lane, which is considered to constitute an extensive tract of land. As a result, the site does not warrant further consideration as a Local Green Space.

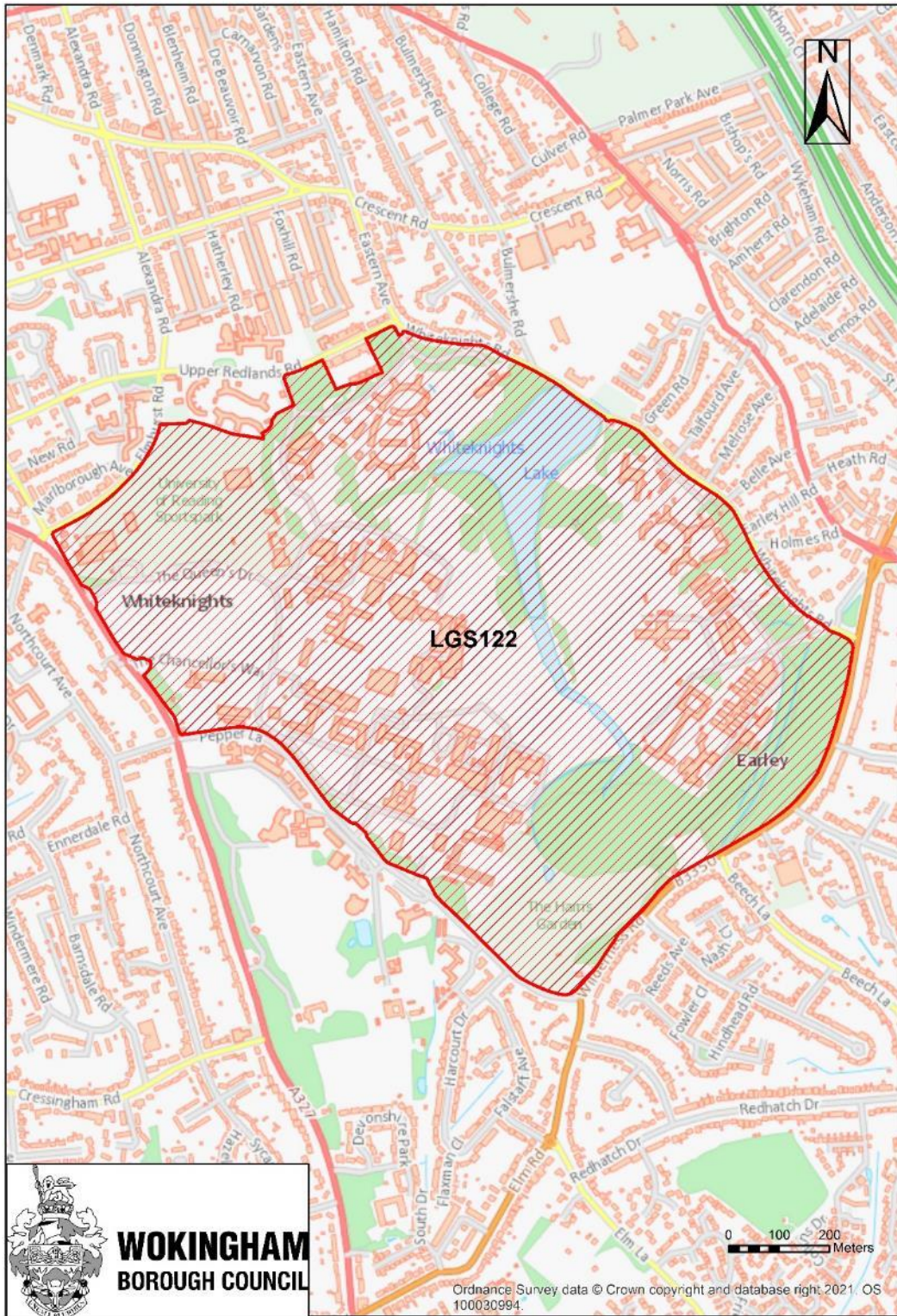
Radstock Lane (green triangle with Beech Lane), Earley



Site reference	LGS058
Site name	Radstock Lane (green triangle with Beech Lane)
Site address	Radstock Lane, Earley
Site size	0.2 ha
Site Description	The site comprises an area of greenspace situated in the heart of Earley, between housing at Radstock Lane, Beech Lane and Redhatch Drive.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. The site is in relatively close proximity to the community as it serves the existing residents of Hillside and Maiden Erlegh wards.
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes. The area of green space is situated in the Major Development Location of Earley and is not considered to be an extensive tract of land as it is relatively well self-contained with clearly defined boundaries. For instance, the site is bounded by existing housing to the south and Radstock Lane and Beech Lane to the east and west.
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The site comprises an area of open space but is not classified or recognised in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012). A footpath runs across the site and provides some connectivity to Maiden Erlegh Lake Nature Reserve which is east of the site, albeit pedestrian access to this area is severed by Beech Lane.</p> <p>Due to the size of the area, it is considered that the site holds limited recreational value, despite its connectivity to the nature reserve, as well as performing a natural buffer between the existing housing along Radstock Lane and Beech Lane.</p> <p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is not considered to hold any particular historical value and has no known associations with any historic event or figure.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold only limited ecological value as the site is covered by a group of trees. The area of green space is in close proximity to Maiden Erlegh Park, which is designated as a Local Nature Reserve, and therefore the site could act as a wildlife corridor. A watercourse flows through the centre of the site, which may also provide a habitat for wildlife.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The area of green space is not considered to hold any particular tranquillity value, as supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007) where the site scored fairly low compared to the tranquillity offered by other areas of open green space in the locality, notably Maiden Erlegh Lake.</p>

Site reference	LGS058
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	No. The site comprises a small area of amenity greenspace in between existing housing and the local road network at Radstock Lane, Beech Lane and Redhatch Drive. This green space only holds limited recreational value, and whilst it is acknowledged that the site provides some connectivity to the adjacent Maiden Erlegh Lake Nature Reserve, this does not warrant the site's further consideration as a Local Green Space.

The wilderness area and Harris Gardens on the University of Reading, Earley



Site reference	LGS122
Site name	Whiteknights Campus
Site address	University of Reading, Wilderness Road, Earley
Site size	117.7 ha
Site Description	<p>The nominated area comprises the whole extent of the University of Reading's Whiteknights Campus (including land that falls within Reading Borough). The Whiteknights Campus is designated in Policy TB14 of the Council's Managing Development Delivery (MDD) local plan (2014).</p> <p>The majority of the nominated area comprises substantial built development and associated infrastructure. There is a comparatively small area of natural / semi-natural greenspace and Local Wildlife Site (known as Wilderness and Harris Gardens) to the east.</p> <p>The northern boundary of the site (within Reading Borough) is defined by Elmhurst Road and Upper Redlands Road. The eastern boundary of the Campus is defined by existing housing along the B3350 (Wilderness Road). The western and southern boundary is defined by Shinfield Road (A327) and Pepper Lane.</p>
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	<p>Yes. The site is enclosed by residential areas at Maiden Erlegh and Hillside wards and is used by residents in Reading Borough.</p> <p>The Wilderness and Harris Gardens are publicly accessible via the B3350 (Wilderness Road) which runs south of the site. A Public Right of Way runs across the central part of the site, in an east-west direction along Chancellor' Way.</p>
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	<p>No. The majority of the Whiteknights Campus comprises substantial built development and associated infrastructure. The area is not considered to be local in character.</p> <p>The nominated area is considered to constitute an extensive tract of land.</p>
Does the site have a particular local significance? Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to a local community?	<p><u>Recreational value:</u></p> <p>The eastern part of the site, known as 'The Wilderness' is classified as an area of natural and semi-natural greenspace, which is recognised as being of low quality but high value to the local community in the Council's Open Spaces Assessment Report (2012).</p> <p>The site also comprises Harris Gardens. Whilst not identified as formal recreational space, the site does provide an area of well-used open space for activities such as walking.</p> <p>The remainder of Whiteknights Campus is considered to hold limited recreational value, as some of the facilities at the Campus are not publicly accessible.</p>

Site reference	LGS122
	<p><u>Historical value:</u></p> <p>The site is situated in Whiteknights Park which is designated as a Local Historic Park and Garden in the council's Managing Development Delivery (MDD) local plan (2014). According to Reading Borough's adopted Local Plan <i>'the Whiteknights Park was identified in the 19th Century and includes a significant amount of parkland, woodland and lakes.'</i></p> <p>The site also comprises 'The Wilderness', a recognised Local Wildlife Site, which was originally one of the most ornamental areas in the Marquis of Blandford's garden. The University of Reading's Reading War Room, a Grade II Listed Building lies adjacent to this area. The War Room was a former regional base for the Home Defence Region 6 during the early Cold War, designed to protect the functions of the regional government and to co-ordinate defence.</p> <p><u>Ecological value:</u></p> <p>The site comprises Whiteknights Park, a designated Local Wildlife Site. According to Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC), the ecological value of the site is recognised by its veteran trees within areas of woodland and grassland, and comprises several habitats, notably wood pasture and eutrophic standing water.</p> <p>Whiteknights Park consists of a mosaic of landscaped trees with mown grassland, a large shaded, eutrophic lake, mixed secondary woodland, shrubs and trees and an area of meadow. The large eutrophic lake is situated in the centre of the park, which provides a habitat for some aquatic species, notably white water-lily and common duckweed.</p> <p><u>Tranquillity value:</u></p> <p>The site is considered to hold some degree of tranquillity value, predominantly due to the character of the Local Wildlife Site associated with Whiteknights Lake. However, the remaining area is considered to be of limited tranquillity value, given the site's proximity to residential and educational uses and the level of activity across the campus. This is supported by CPRE's Tranquillity Composite Weighted Score (April 2007), where most of the site scores relatively low in tranquillity terms, apart from the area to the east focused on the Local Wildlife Site.</p>
Recommendation for Local Green Space designation	No. Whilst the Wilderness and Harris Gardens holds some recreational and ecological value, the nomination of the whole Whiteknights Campus does not warrant consideration as Local Green Space given the level of built development.

Site reference	LGS122
	Further, the Council's Development Plan supports continued growth at Whiteknights Campus and recognises its strategic importance to the Borough. The Development Plan provides a suitable framework for managing development proposals, including the consideration of wildlife and green infrastructure networks.

Private: Information that contains a small amount of sensitive data which is essential to communicate with an individual but **doesn't** require to be sent via secure methods.