



Bewdley Town Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Local Green Space Evidence Pack

Local Green Space Evidence Pack

Contents

1. Introduction and Context	
1.1 Local Green Space Evidence Base – Introduction	1
1.2 Regulation 15 Submission Statement	3
2. Process and Methodology	
2.1 Previous LGS Designations	4
2.2 WFDC Engagement and Review	5
2.2.1 Local Green Space Meeting - 11 March Meeting Notes	5
2.2.2 Report from WFDC Planning Officer Following LGS Meeting	10
2.2.3 Meeting notes presented to the Neighbourhood Steering Group Meeting for consideration of changes to LGS Designation	12
2.2.4 Meeting notes with agreed to changes to the Local Green Space Designation	16
3. Local Green Space Parcel Assessments	20
3.1 Parcel 1 – River Severn / Dowles Road	21
3.2 Parcel 2 – Land north of Bark Hill / Lakes Road and Dry Mill	22
3.3 Parcel 12 – Park Dingle and St Anne’s Playing Fields	24
3.4 Parcel 13 – Snuff Mill Dingle	26
3.5 Parcel 14 – South of Bewdley Centre	28
3.6 Parcel 17 – Winterdyne / River Severn	30
3.7 Parcel 18 – Wharton Park / Blackmanstitch Edge	32
3.8 Parcel 19 – Kidderminster Road / Cordle Marsh Ridge / Maypole Piece	34
3.9 Parcel 20 – Wribbenhall Gardens	37
3.10 Parcel 21 – Land off Netherton Lane	39
3.11 Parcel 22 – Leisure Centre Fields	41

3.12 Parcel 23 – Riverside Meadow	43
3.13 Parcel 24 – Derwent Drive	44
3.14 Parcel 25 – QE II Jubilee Gardens	45

1.1 Local Green Space Evidence Base – Introduction and Context

This document forms the supporting evidence base for the designation of Local Green Spaces (LGS) within the Bewdley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). It should be read in conjunction with Section 7 of the draft Plan and accompanying mapping and parcel assessments.

The identification of Local Green Spaces has been an iterative process, building upon earlier work undertaken as part of previous NDP drafts, including the 2018 Regulation 14 consultation. The current suite of proposed LGS designations represents a refinement of earlier proposals, informed by updated evidence, community feedback, and further site assessment.

A key stage in the development of the revised LGS designations was a meeting held on 11 March 2026 between representatives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group and Planning Officers from Wyre Forest District Council. The purpose of this meeting was to review the proposed LGS parcels and ensure alignment with national policy requirements and best practice.

At this meeting, Planning Officers raised concerns regarding the scale of certain parcels and emphasised that Local Green Space designation should focus on land that is:

- demonstrably special to the local community
- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
- local in character and not an extensive tract of land

Officers advised that particular weight should be given to evidence relating to:

- recreational and amenity use
- community value and accessibility
- contribution to the character and setting of Bewdley
- biodiversity and environmental function

Following this engagement, the Steering Group undertook a comprehensive review of all proposed parcels. This review process is recorded within the Steering Group meeting of 1 April 2026, where Members carefully considered officer feedback alongside the existing evidence base.

As a result, a number of **proportionate and evidence-led revisions** were agreed, including:

- Reduction of parcel boundaries to focus on areas of strongest demonstrable community value (e.g. Parcels 1, 2, 12 and 14)
- Reconfiguration of larger parcels into more tightly defined areas or corridors (e.g. Parcel 17)
- Removal of parcels where evidence was not considered sufficiently robust (e.g. Parcels 3 and 4)
- Retention of parcels where strong justification could be demonstrated (e.g. Parcel 13)

- Creation of new parcels to reflect differing land uses and characteristics (e.g. Parcel 18)
- Inclusion of additional sites identified through officer recommendation and local knowledge, particularly within the built-up area (e.g. Parcels 19–25)

These amendments demonstrate a clear willingness by the Steering Group to engage constructively with the Local Planning Authority and to ensure that all proposed LGS designations are:

- appropriately scaled
- evidence-based
- consistent with national policy
- reflective of genuine local significance

The revised LGS portfolio therefore represents a balanced and robust approach, safeguarding those green spaces that are demonstrably special to the community of Bewdley, while avoiding unnecessary designation of land that does not meet the required criteria.

Each parcel within this evidence base is supported by a detailed assessment, including site description, amenity and biodiversity value, planning justification, and a clear statement of why the land is demonstrably special to the local community.

1.2 Regulation 15 Submission Statement

The Local Green Space designations contained within this evidence base have been prepared in accordance with national policy requirements and reflect a proportionate, evidence-led approach. The revisions undertaken following engagement with Wyre Forest District Council Planning Officers demonstrate that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group has carefully considered all representations and has responded constructively to ensure compliance with the criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The evidence presented confirms that each designated parcel is:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
- demonstrably special to the local community
- local in character and not an extensive tract of land

On this basis, the Local Green Space designations are considered to be robust, justified, and appropriate for submission at Regulation 15 stage, forming a key component of the Bewdley Neighbourhood Development Plan in protecting valued green spaces for current and future generations.

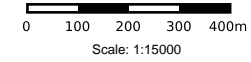
2.1 Previous LGS Designations

Original LGS Designation before discussion with WFDC Planning Officers

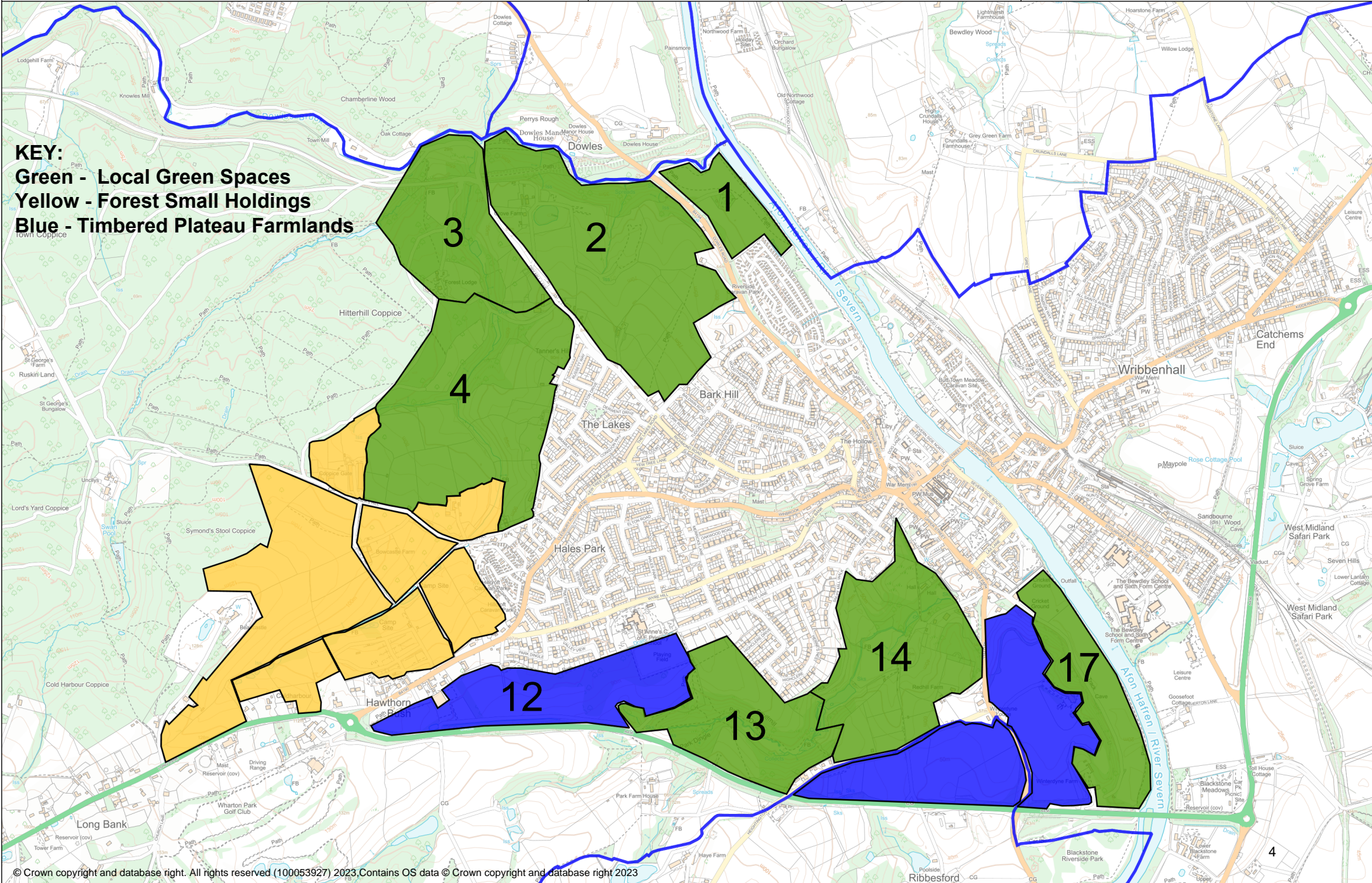
Bewdley

Author: T. Bodley

Date:



KEY:
Green - Local Green Spaces
Yellow - Forest Small Holdings
Blue - Timbered Plateau Farmlands



2 Process and Methodology

2.2 WFDC Engagement and Review

Section 2 of this Evidence Pack documents engagement undertaken with Wyre Forest District Council Planning Officers during the Regulation 14 consultation process in relation to the proposed Local Green Space designations. This section includes notes of meetings held, subsequent officer feedback and reports, together with consideration and decisions made by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group following review of the advice provided by Wyre Forest District Council.

For clarity and ease of reference, this section has been subdivided into the following parts:

2.2.1 Local Green Space Meeting – 11 March Meeting Notes

Notes and discussion points arising from the meeting held with Wyre Forest District Council Planning Officers on 11 March regarding the proposed Local Green Space designations.

2.2.2 Subsequent Report Provided by WFDC Officers Following the Meeting

Officer comments, observations and recommendations issued by Wyre Forest District Council following the meeting of 11 March.

2.2.3 Steering Group Meeting Notes – 1 April

Meeting notes presented to the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group on 1 April, requesting members to review and consider the proposed Local Green Space parcels in light of the discussions and subsequent officer report.

2.2.4 Agreed Amendments to Local Green Space Designations

Record of the amendments and agreed changes to the proposed Local Green Space designations following consideration by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

2.2.1 Record of Meeting 11 March 2026

Bewdley Neighbourhood Development Plan – Local Green Space Discussion

Meeting between:

Wyre Forest District Council Planning Officers and Representatives of Bewdley Town Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Date: Wednesday 11 March

Time: 3.30pm

Location: Wyre Forest House

Attendees

Wyre Forest District Council

- Helen Hawkes – Planning Manager
- Robert Wall – Senior Planning Policy Officer
- Paul Allen – Tree and Biodiversity Officer

Bewdley Town Council – NDP Steering Group

- Cllr Rod Stanczyszyn – Steering Group Chairman
- Tracy Bodley – Town Clerk
- Cllr Calne Edginton-White – Steering Group Member
- Tony Leach – Steering Group Member
- Rob Smith – Steering Group Member

Introduction

Helen Hawkes welcomed attendees to the meeting and invited introductions.

She explained that Planning Officers had concerns regarding the size of several parcels identified for Local Green Space (LGS) designation and welcomed further information to support the designations. In particular, officers indicated that justification should focus on:

- historical importance
- amenity and recreational use
- community value
- contribution to the character and setting of Bewdley

Cllr Calne Edginton-White noted that within the previous Regulation 14 consultation the Local Green Spaces had been zoned, and that the current draft LGS designations represented an improvement on the earlier 2018 draft.

During the discussion it became apparent that WFDC Planning Officers and the Steering Group held slightly different interpretations of how LGS designations should be applied.

Helen Hawkes remarked that designation should primarily relate to areas with demonstrable local use and amenity value. Where outer areas of parcels could not clearly demonstrate historic importance, community use, or contribution to the character of Bewdley, it was suggested that these areas should potentially be removed from the designation.

Additional Sites Raised by WFDC

Planning Officers queried why certain areas had **not been included as potential Local Green Spaces**, including:

- Maypole Piece
- Land at Church View
- Land at Mortimer Manor development – Wribbenhall Gardens
- Queensway
- Blackstone Picnic Area
- Devil’s Spittleful
- Worcestershire County Council land bordering the Leisure Centre open space off Netherton Lane
- Railway cuttings

Additional areas on the **western side of Bewdley** suggested for consideration included:

- Derwent Drive
- Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Gardens
- Greenacres

It was noted that **some of these areas are already referenced within Section 4 of the Plan and Figure 12.**

The meeting then moved on to discuss the **individual parcels currently proposed for Local Green Space designation.**

Parcel Discussions

Parcel 1

WFDC officers indicated that this parcel was not of major concern.

It was acknowledged that the site has strong linkage routes from the town centre and provides valuable green access, with increasing pedestrian access from Dowles Road towards the town centre and upstream riverside areas.

However, officers recommended that the southern boundary be amended, suggesting that a strip of approximately 20 metres be removed from the designation to allow for potential future expansion of the adjacent caravan park.

Parcel 2

Officers recommended reducing the extent of the designation in line with the existing settlement pattern, particularly along:

- Dry Mill Lane (west)

- Highfield House / Woodthorpe Drive

This would effectively reduce the parcel by approximately 50%.

Paul Allen advised that additional supporting evidence would be required to justify retaining the parcel at its current size, including:

- evidence of amenity use
- biodiversity value
- historic use

It was suggested that a 15-metre corridor either side of the designated footpath could provide a defensible LGS boundary.

Planning Officers strongly suggested that the northern and western areas should not be included in the designation.

Parcel 3

Planning Officers suggested that this parcel be removed entirely from the LGS designation.

They noted that the desire lines visible within the evidence were not strongly defined, suggesting the land may not be heavily used.

In response, Steering Group members noted that the area could potentially be identified as ancient woodland and contains heritage fruit trees, which contribute to its character and environmental value.

Paul Allen advised that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, due to be published in March, should be reviewed and referenced where relevant within the evidence base supporting the LGS parcels.

Parcel 4

Planning Officers asked the Steering Group to consider reducing the size of the parcel in order to strengthen the justification for its designation.

It was acknowledged that the historic land use and cherry orchard contribute to the character of Bewdley, which supports the case for designation.

Parcel 12

Planning Officers suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on landscape value and green corridor function for this parcel.

The parcel forms part of linked green space and walking routes between the town and surrounding countryside.

However, it was recommended that the parcel be reduced in size to focus more closely on the areas of demonstrable use.

Reference was made to the Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan, which includes wording acknowledging that some Local Green Spaces may be “relatively large spaces but still fitting local character.”

Parcel 13

Planning Officers acknowledged that strong desire lines demonstrate the parcel is well used.

They queried whether there were historical features associated with the land, or whether the justification was primarily based on community recreational value.

It was agreed that the parcel is accessible to neighbouring residential areas to the south-west of the town.

Parcel 14

Officers recommended that the boundary line be redrawn to end at the termination of Snuff Mill Walk, extending eastwards.

This would remove land near Redhill Farm from the designation up to the parish boundary.

Parcel 17

It was recommended that the parcel be reconfigured as a corridor designation.

Planning Officers suggested removing the wooded area to the west of the pathway, as it was considered unlikely that walkers regularly use this area.

Conclusion

Steering Group Members thanked the Planning Officers for their time and feedback.

It was agreed that the Steering Group would **meet with the remaining group members and the professional consultant** to review the recommendations arising from the meeting and determine whether amendments to the proposed LGS designations should be made.

Planning Officers emphasised that **Local Green Space designations could also be considered within the Wribbenhall area**, which WFDC would support.

Reference was again made to the **Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan**, noting that LGS sites are typically:

- close to residential areas
- relatively small
- well used by the community

rather than **large areas located on the outer edges of settlements.**

2.2.2 Report from WFDC Planning Officer Following LGS Meeting

Land parcels potentially suitable for Local Green Space Designation

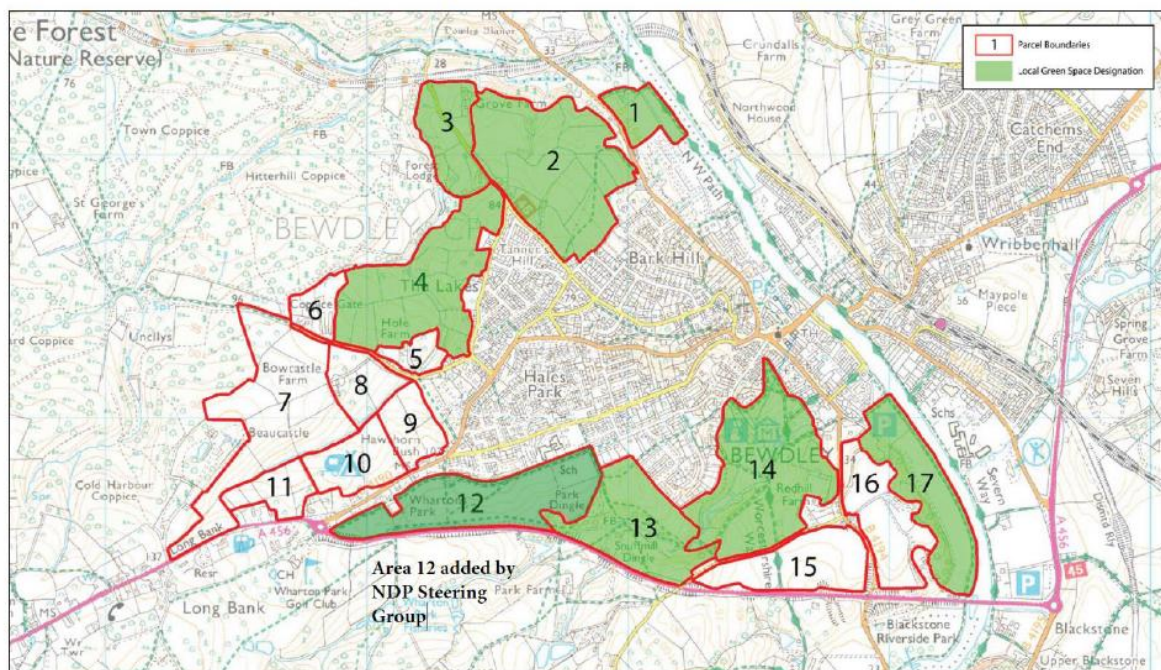
The Local Planning Authority have strong reservations that the areas to be designated as Local Green Spaces are extensive and that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate why all of the land is important to the community. We do not consider that land with Public Rights of Way does not justify designating the land as green spaces. The Landscape Appraisal can form part of the evidence but it's not the primary factor as it needs to be community value for land to be designated as green spaces. Your evaluation does not take into consideration green spaces within the town and on the opposite side of the River Severn.

To be designated as Local Green Space, land needs to meet very specific criteria – set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 107: The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

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

Following our meeting on 11th March 2026, we would like to offer support for Land Parcels 1 and 14, and parts of Land Parcels 12 and 13 to be designated as LGS.

Figure 22 – Land parcels potentially suitable for Local Green Space Designation



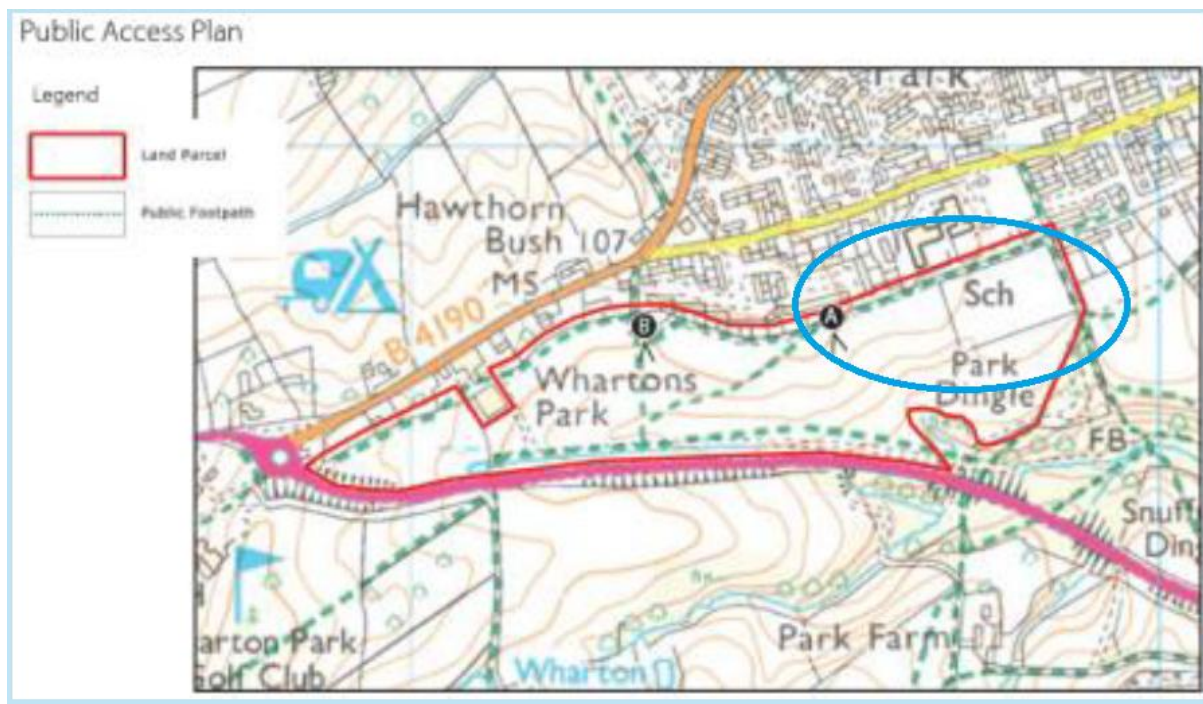
Land Parcel 1 – 1 River Severn & Dowles Road Parcel – Agree that it can be designated as green space but would encourage a set back to allow future expansion of the caravan park.

Land Parcel 2 – 2 Lakes Road and Dry Mill Parcel – Disagree that this land parcel provides significant value to the community because there is a nearby play space in Tudor Road and there is access directly to the Forest and the well-used footpath is statutory protected. This should be omitted.

Land Parcel 3 – Grove Farm Parcel - Disagree that this land parcel provides significant value to the community because it has no public access and limited community adjacent which has access to the Forest and has limited public viewpoints.

Land Parcel 4 – The Lakes Parcel - Disagree that this land parcel provides significant value to the community because the land is very difficult to access by the community and they have readily easier access to the Forest. The group of Cherry orchard can be statutory protected through a tree preservation order. It is not a community orchard.

Land Parcel 12 – Whartons Park Parcel – Agree that a limited proportion of this area has significant community value which needs to be defined, and we feel that it is mostly around the school playing field and the Park Dingle. The footpaths are statutory protected and do not need to be included in the designated green spaces.



Land Parcel 13 – Snuffmill Dingle – Agree but not the full extent. The woodland and footpaths provide significant community value but not the fields.

Land Parcel 14 – South of Bewdley Centre Parcel – Agree this parcel provides significant community value.

Land Parcel 17 – Disagree as it lacks community connection and value.

2.2.3 Meeting notes presented to the Neighbourhood Steering Group Meeting for Consideration of changes to LGS Designation

Proposed Local Green Space Designation Supporting Report – NDP Steering Group Meeting 1 April 2026

Introduction

Following meeting with WFDC Planning Officers on Wednesday 11 March members are asked to consider amendments to the Local Green Space Designation – Section 7 of the draft NDP.

Land Parcels for Discussion and Consideration

1. Parcel 1

A strip of approximately 20 metres has been removed from the designation to allow for potential future expansion of the adjacent caravan park – See revised map on page 3.

1. Members are asked to consider the revision and approve or propose an alteration.

2. Parcel 2

At the meeting WFDC Officers recommended reducing the extent of the designation in line with the existing settlement pattern, particularly along:

- Dry Mill Lane (west)
- Highfield House / Woodthorpe Drive

This would effectively reduce the parcel by approximately 50%.

Since the meeting it appears that Planning Officers had had a change of heart and are requesting that parcel 2 be removed from the LGS.

As the evidence suggests that the area is widely used by the community, it is proposed that the area is not removed in its entirety from LGS designation but as previously suggested the boundary line is reduced by 50% finishing just north of Severn Heights to the west and the track leading from properties off Dry Mill Lane to the east – See revised map on page 3.

2. Members are asked to consider the revision and approve or propose an alteration.

3. Parcel 3

Planning Officers suggested that this parcel be removed entirely from the LGS designation.

It is proposed to remove this land parcel from LGS Designation.

3. Members are asked to consider approving removal of parcel 3 from LGS designation.

4. Parcel 4

At the meeting WFDC Planning Officers asked the Steering Group to consider reducing the size of the parcel to strengthen the justification for its designation.

Subsequently the report from the Planning Manager suggests removal of the parcel from LGS stating that the land is difficult to access and it is not a community orchard. Other methods of protection can be achieved through application of TPOs.

It is proposed to reduce the size of parcel 4 by approximately 50% in a west/east split. Removing the most westerly part of the parcel in line with the Hitter Hill dwelling on the northern edge and the junction of Tanners Hill and The Orchard to the south.

4. Members are asked to consider the revision and approve or propose an alteration.

5. Parcel 12

Planning Officers suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on landscape value and green corridor function for this parcel.

Subsequently the report from the Planning Manager suggests that significant community value should be placed around the school playing field and Park Dingle.

St Anne's School is already covered in Fig.12 RA8.

It is proposed that parcel 12 remains unchanged other than excluding the top westerly end of the parcel now having a certificate of lawfulness use as a container storage facility and therefore not in public use - please refer to page 5 of the illustrated maps.

5. Members are asked to consider the revision and approve or propose an alteration.

6. Parcel 13

Planning Officers acknowledged that strong desire lines demonstrate the parcel is well used.

They have since stated that the woodland on the most southerly boundary edge provides significant community value but not the fields which is adjacent to the settlement edge.

It is proposed that parcel 13 remains unchanged.

6. Members are asked to consider the proposal to retain as the original designation.

7. Parcel 14

At the meeting Planning Officers recommended that the boundary line be redrawn to end at the termination of Snuff Mill Walk, extending eastwards.

It is proposed to reduce the boundary line retaining LGS on the west and removing land near Redhill Farm from the designation – please refer to page 5 of the illustrated maps.

7. Members are asked to consider the revision and approve or propose an alteration.

8. Parcel 17

At the meeting it was recommended that the parcel be reconfigured as a corridor designation.

Subsequently the report from the Planning Manager suggests removal of the parcel as it lacks community connection and value.

It is proposed that the land parcel remains but amended to a narrow corridor as first suggested at the meeting.

8. Members are asked to consider the revision and approve or propose an alteration.

9. Additional Sites Raised by WFDC

In response to queries raised by Planning Officers regarding areas considered to have been omitted as potential Local Green Space designations, **Members are invited to consider the inclusion of the areas identified below.** Members are also asked to indicate whether they wish to propose any additional areas for designation.

For ease of reference, the suggested areas are shown collectively on the proposed designation map (page 2) and are also illustrated individually on the corresponding pages as referenced below.

- Maypole Piece – page 7
- Land at Church View – page 8
- Land at Mortimer Manor development, Wribbenhall Gardens – Page 9
- Queensway – Already covered in Fig.12 RA14
- Blackstone Picnic Area – Do members wish to include this?
- Devil’s Spittleful – Do members wish to include this?
- Worcestershire County Council land bordering the Leisure Centre open space off Netherton Lane – Page 6
- Railway cuttings – Do members wish to include this?

Additional areas on the **western side of Bewdley** WFDC Planning Officers have suggested for consideration included:

- Derwent Drive - Already covered in Fig.12 RA13
- Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Gardens - Already covered in Fig.12 RA7
- Greenacres - Already covered in Fig.12 RA12

An additional inclusion of land on **Northwood Lane** – page 10 has also been suggested by the NDP Chairman.

Members are asked if they wish to include the addition of land at Northwood Lane to the LGS designation.

2.2.4 Meeting notes with agreed to changes to the Local Green Space Designation

Neighbourhood Plan Community Steering Group Minutes from Meeting on Wednesday 1 April, 14:00 hours at Guildhall, Load Street, Bewdley

Present: Group Members: Cllr Rod Stanczyszyn (RSt), Cllr Calne Edginton White (CEW), Cllr N Harper (NH), Tony Leach (TL), Richard Perrin (RP), Richard Brine (RB), Robert Smith (RSm)

Also Present: Town Clerk Tracy Bodley (TB), Town Clerk's Assistant Lynne Williams, Professional Planning Consultant Lee Searles (LS), Cllr S Harvey (until 14:37)

1. APOLOGIES

None received

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

3. NOTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

Minutes from the last meeting held 4 March 2026 were approved.

4. LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION MEETING BTC MEETING NOTES

The Town Clerk's report was NOTED. Members commented that the notes were comprehensive and accurate.

5. LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION MEETING WFDC MEETING NOTES

The contents of a report received from Helen Hawkes, WFDC Planning Manager, following the meeting differed from discussion that took place during the meeting. The change in stance by WFDC was NOTED.

RS asked if the Group were to decide not to make any changes or amendments to Local Green Space designations whether this would present an obstacle to adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan.

LS advised that the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is to protect key local sites and their amenity for the community. It should not create a Green Belt, which could be perceived as the case with proposed LGS for Bewdley. It would be pertinent to demonstrate that the Group is considering comments made by WFDC and potentially accepting some of the suggested changes.

Members felt that evidence previously submitted to WFDC in support of LGS designation may not have been comprehensively reviewed prior to the meeting, and that reasoned arguments for reduction in LGS parcel size were not made by WFDC. It was suggested by LS that use of a footpath is not sufficient evidence to support recreational use. A public right of way is already protected, and theoretically, development could take place up to the edge of a footpath. Members need to demonstrate that users are lingering in an area rather than merely traversing it.

6. REVIEW OF PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACE CHANGES IN VIEW OF AGENDA ITEM 4 AND 5

Parcel 1 - WFDC propose removal of a 20-metre strip of land adjacent to the existing caravan park. This amendment was APPROVED.

Parcel 2 - It was confirmed that this space is well used for recreation and forms part of a circular walk around Bewdley. This area was subject to a past Public Enquiry, the result of which was to retain the area as open space. It is proposed to reduce the area of the parcel to the settlement line, as suggested by WFDC in the meeting. This amendment was APPROVED.

Parcel 3 – WFDC propose this parcel be removed as the evidence does not support heavy use. Members AGREED that parcel 3 be removed from LGS designation.

Parcel 4 – It was confirmed that the majority of this parcel is SSSI and therefore could be excluded from LGS designation, as it is not recommended to double designate an area. It was proposed to reduce parcel 4 to cover the north-east corner only. LS asked Members to consider what attributes this area has, whether it has any real value to the community or for wildlife and how the site is accessed, as these are considerations the examiner will look at. It was proposed to remove parcel 4 from LGS designation. This amendment was APPROVED.

Cllr S Harvey left the meeting at 14:37.

Parcel 12 – It is proposed to reduce parcel 12, by removing the western triangle. TL confirmed there are several footpaths crossing this site, however access through the industrial site is restricted. It is possible to continue the walking route to the northern section of the parcel, but signage would need to be updated. RSt suggested that this part of parcel 12 is not well used and evidence could not be provided to support community use.

Footpaths will be protected as Public Rights of Way, even if development was to take place.

CEW presented arguments for including this area in LGS designation, as follows:

The topography provides the community with views to the south, Ribbesford Wood and the Severn Valley highlighting the historic characteristics of farm and woodland that were dissected during construction of the Bewdley Bypass.

There is recreational value to this site as it is reasonably close to the community it serves and the network of footpaths link to routes into the town centre.

RB suggested the hedge along the boundary of this site is in excess of 4 metres in height and obscures the view.

RSm suggested that in order to retain the majority of parcels 12, 13 & 14, the group should demonstrate to WFDC willingness to compromise, and that this corner of parcel 12 is a neglected area.

LS advised that each parcel is considered by the examiner on its individual merits and that it is not a case of sacrificing one area in order to retain another.

It was suggested that the triangle of land to the western end of parcel 12 could be separated, as this parcel is almost dissected by the industrial site. The evidence for its inclusion should be based on its landscape value with parcel 12 being recognised for its recreational value.

The proposal for creation of parcel 18 was APPROVED.

Members rejected WFDC comments in relation to parcel 12 and agreed that the whole parcel provides access for recreation and to landscape views. It was noted there is a central area that is fenced and used for livestock grazing, but that the remainder of the parcel is heavily used for recreation. It was confirmed by LS that the school playing field can remain within the parcel.

Parcel 13 – It was confirmed that properties at the south eastern edge have been excluded from this parcel. No further amendments were made.

Parcel 14 – at the meeting with WFDC there was lengthy discussion over the size of this parcel. District Council officers felt the eastern section should not be included as it is not a community space. The parcel has been amended to exclude the eastern area, with the boundary following the Public Footpath over Snuff Mill Brook down to Ribbesford Lane. Members APPROVED this amendment.

LS questioned how connected parcels 12, 13 & 14 are and whether the examiner might view them as one large parcel, particularly if the justification for each parcel is the same. He advised that the 3 parcels total approximately 52 hectares which is considered a large area.

Provision of a Green Corridor was mentioned, however LS confirmed a Green Corridor could be retained through a development. CEW suggested each of the 3 parcels have their own attributes and community worth which happen to be linked.

Parcel 17 – It is proposed to reduce this parcel to a narrow strip alongside the riverbank. The amendment was APPROVED.

At the meeting, WFDC proposed the inclusion of several green space areas to the east of the river as follows:

Maypole Piece – it was suggested that the whole area proposed did not need to be included as LGS, however Members agreed that there was no benefit to reducing the size of the area recommended by WFDC. It was AGREED to include Maypole Piece in its entirety.

Land off Netherton Lane – It was confirmed this area has been planted with trees by WCC. Inclusion of this parcel was AGREED.

Land at Church View – It was confirmed there is no public access to this area, and it is a steep site overgrown with scrubby vegetation. It does provide a view over the conservation area but due to the nature of the site it is unlikely it would provide any real value. Inclusion of this parcel was REJECTED.

Wribbenhall Gardens – It was confirmed by WFDC that although this area is not public open space, it is used extensively and informally by residents of the new housing development. Members AGREED to include this parcel.

Blackstone Riverside Park – the majority of this area falls outside the town boundary and is in close proximity to the bypass. It was proposed this area should not be included. Inclusion of this parcel was REJECTED.

Devil's Spittleful – it was confirmed this site is already designated SSSI so there is no merit for its inclusion as LGS. Inclusion of this parcel was REJECTED.

Land at Northwood Lane – there is a public right of way under the railway bridge that links with footpaths across the farmland beyond. RSt proposed this parcel should be included, however LS suggested it is quite isolated and may not be well used. Inclusion of this parcel was REJECTED.

Derwent Drive – it was confirmed this area has already been included in the draft NDP in Figure 12, and Members believed this meant it was protected. However, LS suggested it should be included as LGS to protect the area and create LGS within the town, reducing the perception that the proposed LGS designations are circling Bewdley.

It was proposed that the green spaces at Derwent Drive, Jubilee Gardens and Gas Works Meadow be included as LGS. This proposal was APPROVED.

Railway Cuttings – it was confirmed these areas are already protected in the Local Development Plan. Inclusion of this parcel was REJECTED

CEW suggested that Members consider the inclusion of the playing field adjacent to Bewdley Leisure Centre as it provides recreational opportunities and access to the river. Members APPROVED this proposal.

LS confirmed the addition of these areas as LGS could be documented as an appendix to the Consultation Report. Members were asked to visit the areas to gather appropriate supporting evidence.

Agreed Land Parcels are illustrated in the table below. Where further evidence base is required, it was agreed that the following members would supply photographs and text with a deadline date for submission to the Town Clerk of **15 April 2026**. A full appendix would be prepared to be circulated for approval at the next meeting.

Land Parcel Identity	Notes:	Assigned to:
Parcel 1	Agreed to reduce to allow for a 20 metre strip.	N/A - Completed
Parcel 2	Agreed to reduce boundary to settlement line.	N/A - Completed
Parcel 3 – Agreed to remove from LGS Designation		
Parcel 4 – Agreed to remove from LGS Designation		
Parcel 12	Agreed to reduce on the northern boundary to exclude semi industrial site.	N/A - Completed
Parcel 13	Retain as original.	N/A - Completed
Parcel 14	Agreed to reduce boundary line, removing easterly edge and Redhill Farm.	N/A - Completed
Parcel 17	Agreed to change parcel to narrow nature and natural habitat corridor.	N/A - Completed
Parcel 19 – Maypole Piece	At WFDC agreed to include in LGS	RSm to provide content and photographs – to contact John Frost
Parcel 20 – East of Wribbenhall Gardens	At WFDC agreed to include in LGS	RSt
Parcel 21 – WCC owned land	At WFDC agreed to include in LGS	CEW
Parcel 22 – Land at rear of Leisure Centre	CEW requested inclusion	CEW
Parcel 23 – Gas Works Meadow	At WFDC agreed to include in LGS	RSt
Parcel 24 - Derwent Gardens	At WFDC agreed to include in LGS	CEW
Parcel - QE II Jubilee Gardens	At WFDC agreed to include in LGS	RSm

7. BASIC CONDITIONS REPORT

Members made no additional comments regarding the Basic Conditions report. LS requested that any amendments or typos be brought to his attention.

8. TO REVIEW THE DRAFT NDP WITH TRACKED CHANGES

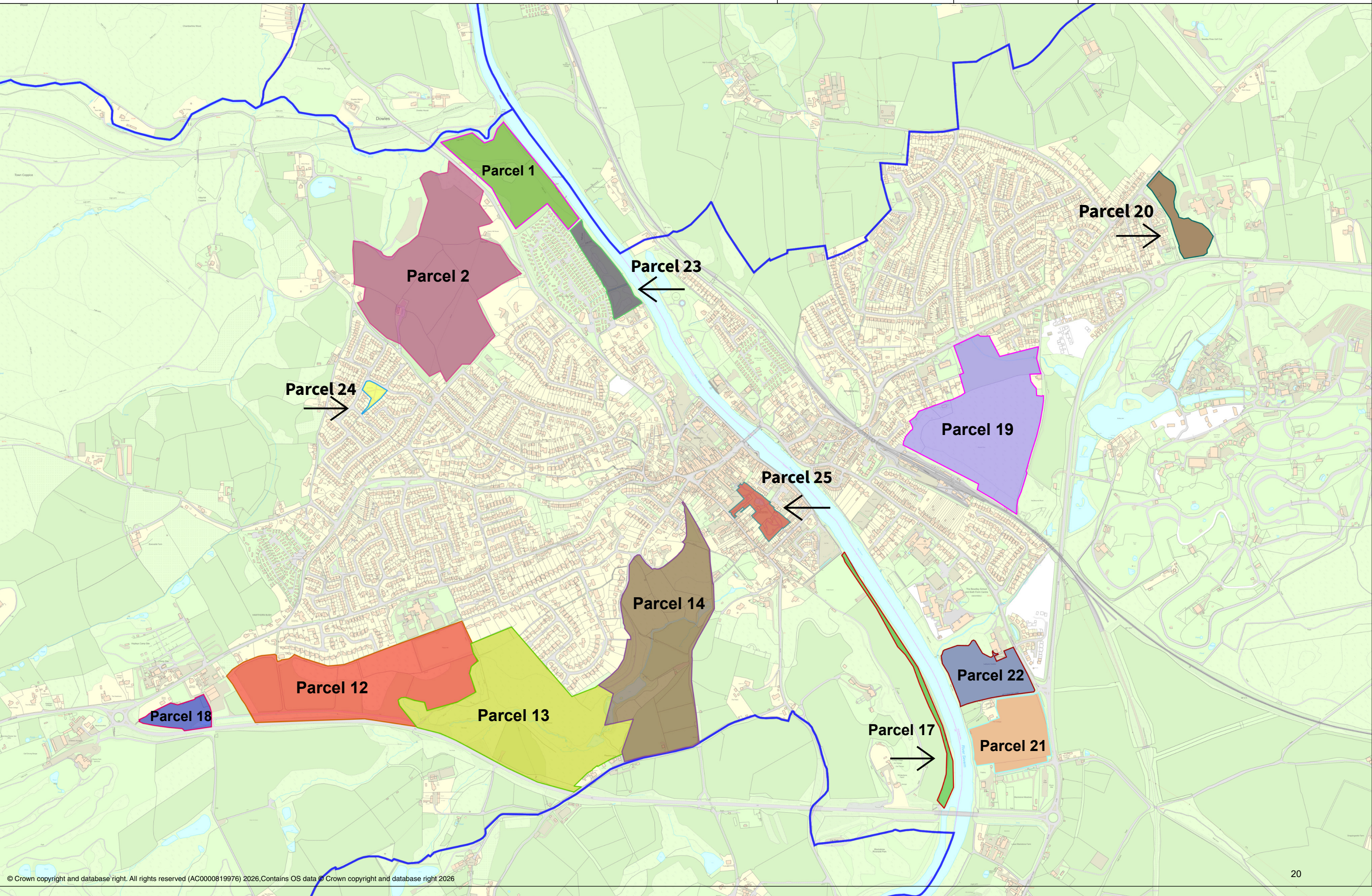
Public comments from the Regulation 14 consultation indicate that residents would welcome development of a new hotel on the site of the former Mercure Hotel. LS asked if Members wished to amend the response to support any proposed new hotel development. It was AGREED to remain as it stands.

LS advised that BTC draft NDP is based on the 2024 NPPF. A new version of NPPF is due to be released in the coming months, which is a very different document to the 2024 version. Therefore, BTC should aim to submit the draft NDP as soon as possible and before the new NPPF is released.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next NDP Steering Group Meeting will take place on 6 May 2026 at 10:00am, venue Back Meeting Room, Guildhall.

The meeting concluded at 16:13 hours.



PARCEL 1 - occupies part of the floodplain of the River Severn along its north-eastern edge, with the land rising approximately 10 to 15 metres towards the north-west boundary adjoining the B4194 (Dowles Road). This variation in topography contributes to the visual character of the site, providing a transition from low-lying riverside meadow to higher ground. A Public Right of Way, reference BW-533, traverses the parcel in a west-east direction and connects with Public Right of Way BW-535 at the riverbank. These routes are well used by pedestrians, providing access to the riverside and forming part of a wider walking network. In particular, the routes are frequently used to access the abandoned churchyard located at the northern end of the parcel, which is of local historic and community interest.

Following detailed discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, it was recommended that a strip of approximately 20 metres be removed from the original proposed designation boundary. This adjustment was advised to allow for potential future expansion of the adjacent caravan park.

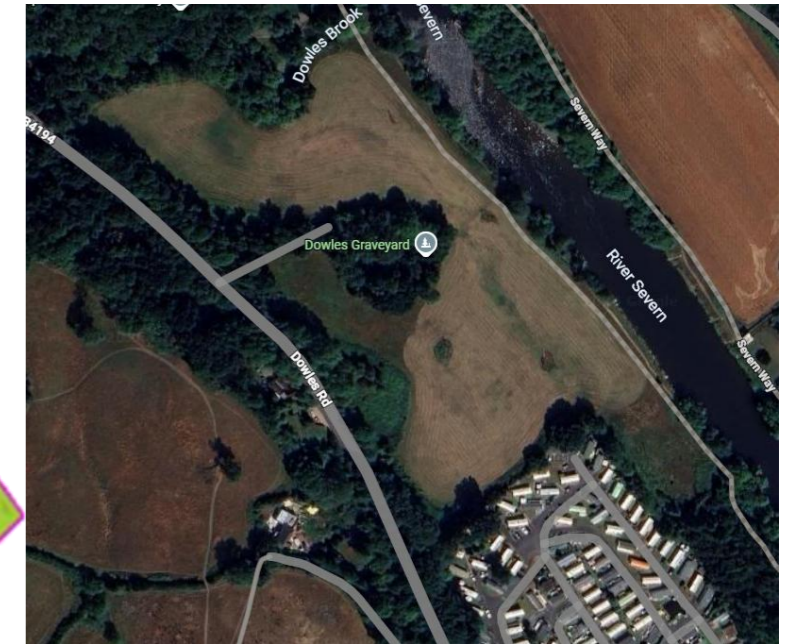
The Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group carefully considered this recommendation and agreed to amend the boundary accordingly. The revised parcel reflects a balanced approach, retaining the core area of local significance while accommodating potential future land use requirements. The accompanying layered plan to the right-hand side illustrates this amendment, showing the original, larger parcel (previously identified in yellow) and the revised designation (now shown in green).

The amendment to the Parcel 1 boundary demonstrates a proportionate and evidence-led approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. By removing a limited strip of land following engagement with Wyre Forest District Council Planning Officers, the designation focuses on the areas that are demonstrably special to the local community in terms of recreational use, landscape value, and accessibility, while avoiding unnecessary constraint on potential future development of adjacent land.

Revised Designation



Layered parcel mapping illustrating the original larger parcel and the revised designation



Parcel 2 – Land North of Bark Hill

Revised Boundary and Site Description

Parcel 2 comprises an area of open land bounded by established woodland to the north and north-east, a minor road to the west (which incorporates National Cycle Route 45), and built development to the south-west and south-east. The landform slopes notably from west to east, with an approximate change in elevation of 40 to 45 metres, contributing to its strong landscape character and visual prominence.

The parcel is traversed by Public Right of Way BW-518, which runs generally from south to north before turning eastwards. This route has been in use for at least 150 years, historically providing access to the former church site located within Parcel 1. The path remains well used today by local residents, dog walkers, and organised walking groups, including those following routes promoted in Worcestershire County Council walking leaflets. Informal “desire lines,” as indicated in supporting imagery, further demonstrate the extent of public use and interaction with the landscape.

Photographic evidence (as appended) supports a classification of the site as having High Landscape Value, reflecting its topography, openness, and relationship with surrounding woodland and settlement edges.

Following detailed discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, it was recommended that the extent of Parcel 2 be reduced to better align with the existing settlement pattern, specifically referencing the built form along Dry Mill Lane to the west and Highfield House / Woodthorpe Drive to the east.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group considered this recommendation and agreed to amend the boundary accordingly. The revised parcel retains the most significant areas in terms of landscape, recreational, and historic value, while responding proportionately to the relationship between open land and adjacent residential development. The accompanying layered plan illustrates this amendment, showing the original parcel (previously identified in blue) and the revised designation (now shown in pink).

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

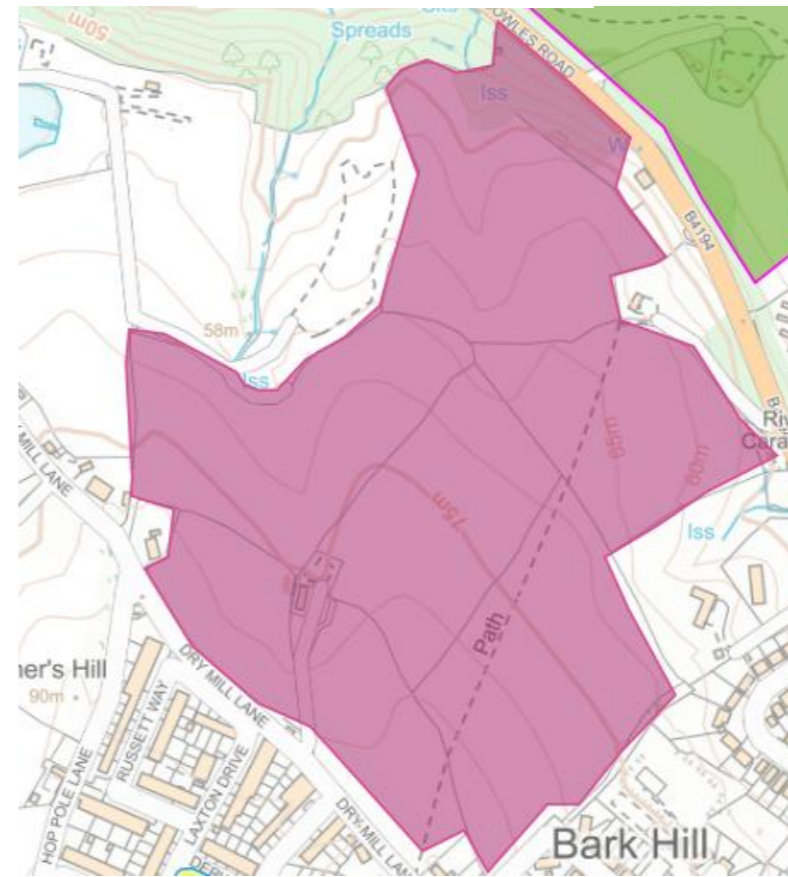
The refinement of Parcel 2 reflects a proportionate and evidence-based approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. The revised boundary ensures that the designation is tightly drawn and focused on land that is demonstrably special to the local community, particularly in terms of its landscape value, historic connectivity, and recreational use.

By aligning the boundary more closely with the established settlement pattern, the designation avoids unnecessary restriction on adjoining land while safeguarding the core characteristics that underpin its local significance. This balanced approach strengthens the defensibility of the designation and accords with best practice, thereby enhancing its robustness at independent examination.

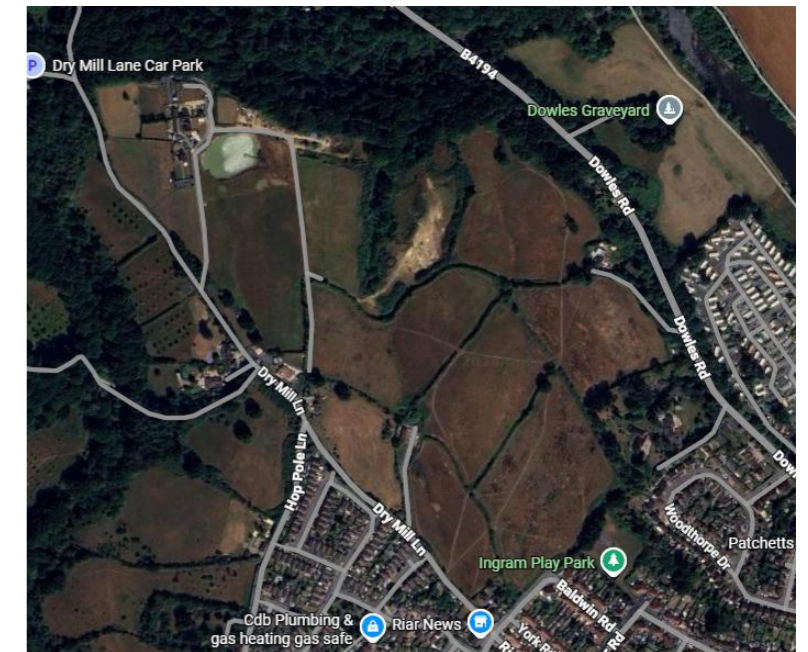
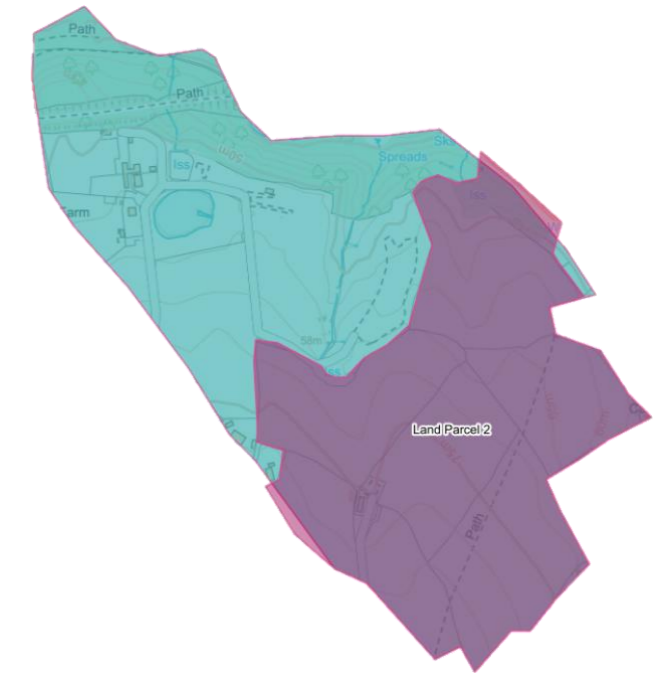
Demonstrably Special

Parcel 2 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its high landscape value, historic significance as a long-established route to the former church site, and its continued and extensive recreational use by walkers and local residents, providing an important and valued green space within close proximity to the settlement.

Revised Designation



Layered parcel mapping illustrating the original larger parcel and the revised designation



Parcel 2 Continued



PARCEL 12 – Park Dingle and St Anne’s Primary Playing Fields

Revised Boundary and Site Description

Parcel 12 comprises an area of gently sloping land situated on the edge of the built-up area, offering wide and attractive views across the surrounding countryside. The parcel includes St Anne’s School Playing Field and Park Dingle, forming an important transition between the urban edge and open countryside.

The land is crossed by four well-used Public Rights of Way, which provide valuable green access links from the adjacent residential areas—particularly the Hales Park development—into the wider countryside. These routes connect beyond the bypass to further footpaths, including those crossing Wharton Park Golf Course. In addition to these formal routes, a network of informal and permitted paths traverses the parcel, demonstrating a high level of community use for walking and informal recreation.

Following detailed discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, it was recommended that the extent of Parcel 12 be reduced to focus on land of greatest community value. The revised parcel therefore comprises St Anne’s Playing Field and Park Dingle only.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group agreed to remove the western extent of the original parcel, including Wharton Park Farm and the semi-industrial site accommodating storage containers. It was considered that this area differed in character and function from the remainder of the parcel and was not aligned with community green space use. As such, the westernmost land has been identified as a separate parcel (Parcel 18), with its own supporting evidence.

The accompanying layered plan illustrates this amendment, showing the original parcel (previously identified in blue) and the revised designation (now shown in salmon pink).

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

The refinement of Parcel 12 demonstrates a proportionate and evidence-led approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. By focusing the designation on St Anne’s Playing Field and Park Dingle, the boundary is tightly drawn around land that is demonstrably special to the local community in terms of recreational use, accessibility, and landscape value.

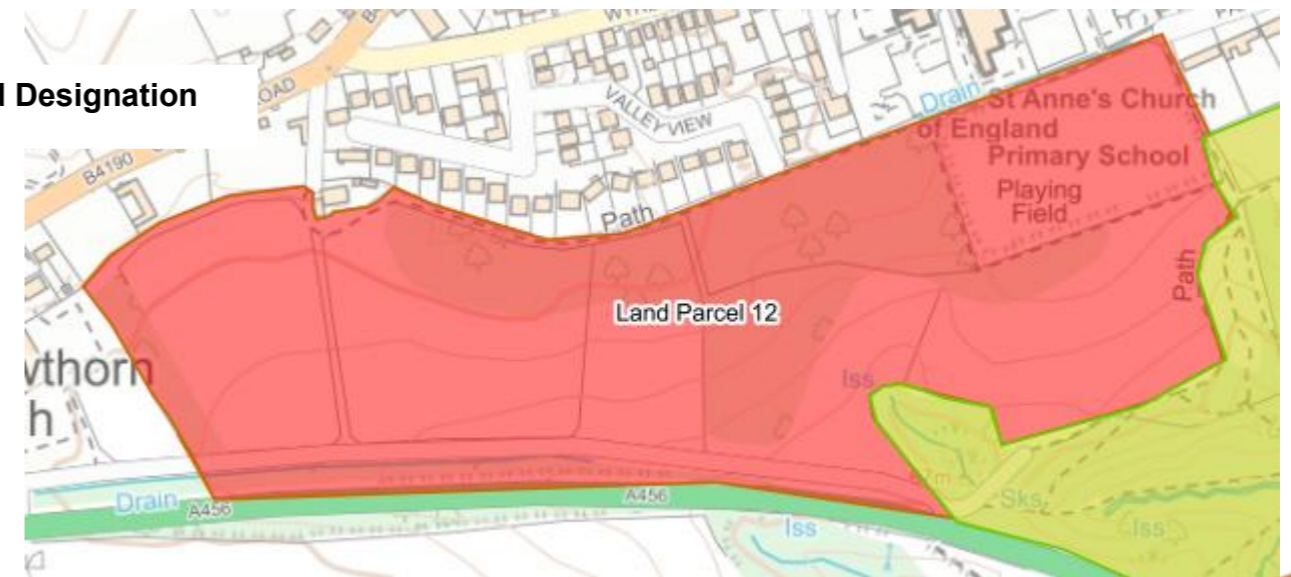
The exclusion of land with differing character and use ensures that the designation avoids unnecessary constraint on land not meeting the criteria for Local Green Space, thereby strengthening its clarity, defensibility, and alignment with best practice.

Demonstrably Special

Parcel 12 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its strong recreational value, extensive and well-used network of formal and informal footpaths, and its role in providing accessible green links from the Hales Park residential area to the surrounding countryside, combined with its contribution to local landscape character and openness at the urban edge.



Revised Designation



Layered parcel mapping illustrating the original larger parcel and the revised designation



Parcel 12 Continued



PARCEL 13 - Snuff Mill Dingle Footpaths

Parcel 13 comprises Snuff Mill Dingle, as identified within the Landscape Character Assessment. The site is characterised by a well-established and extensively used network of footpaths, forming an important recreational and access resource for the local community.

Public footpaths and informal routes are present throughout the parcel, including paths running around the outer edge in a westerly direction from Highclere Drive, as well as links across from Highclere. These routes are clearly visible on the ground as well-trodden paths, demonstrating consistent and frequent use. The network also connects to adjacent green spaces, including Whartons Park (Parcel 12), contributing to a wider integrated walking route across the area.

Site observations and photographic evidence confirm regular use of the space, including during periods of poor weather conditions (e.g. heavy rain and winter conditions), with multiple users recorded at the time of visit, including dog walkers. This reinforces the importance of the site as a valued, everyday recreational resource.

In addition to its recreational function, the parcel plays an important environmental role, with land draining into Snuff Mill Dingle, a key local watercourse. This contributes to the site's ecological and hydrological significance within the wider landscape.

Following discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, it was suggested that the parcel be reduced to include only the woodland located at the southern extent. However, the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group carefully considered this recommendation and did not agree to the proposed reduction. It was concluded that the full extent of the parcel is integral to its function, particularly in terms of recreational use, connectivity, and landscape character. The parcel therefore remains unchanged from the previously proposed designation.

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

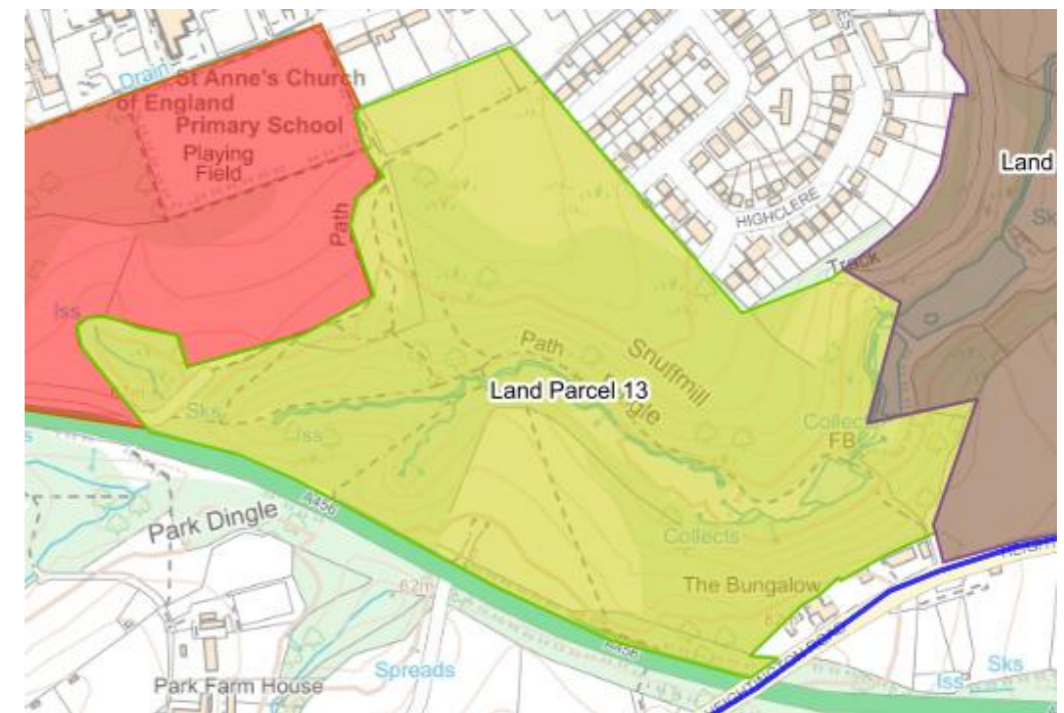
The decision to retain the full extent of Parcel 13 reflects an evidence-based and justified approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. The designation recognises the importance of the entire parcel in supporting recreational use, maintaining established access routes, and preserving the integrity of the landscape and drainage function.

Reducing the parcel to woodland alone would fail to capture the full extent of community use and the functional relationship between the open land, footpath network, and watercourse. Retaining the parcel in its entirety ensures that the designation properly reflects its demonstrable local significance and strengthens its defensibility at examination.

Demonstrably Special

Parcel 13 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its extensive and well-used network of footpaths, its role as a key recreational resource for walking and dog exercise, and its contribution to local landscape character and drainage, forming an integral part of a wider connected green infrastructure network.

The parcel is not considered an extensive tract of land, as its scale is proportionate to its function, comprising a clearly defined and locally contained area that is regularly and demonstrably used in its entirety by the community, with strong physical boundaries and a cohesive identity centred on Snuff Mill Dingle and its associated footpath network.



Parcel 13 Continued



PARCEL 14 - South of Bewdley Centre

Parcel 14 comprises an area of open land located to the south of Bewdley town centre, forming part of a well-connected network of public footpaths linking surrounding green spaces and the wider countryside.

The parcel is accessed via routes descending from Snuff Mill Walk, with pedestrian access provided across Snuff Mill Dingle stream via a footbridge. From this point, paths continue alongside grazing land and extend towards Heightington Road. This route forms part of established recreational walking trails, including the Worcestershire Way and the Ribbesford Circular Walk, which are well used by both local residents and visitors.

Additional footpath connections link the parcel to Snuff Mill Dingle (Parcel 13), as well as routes leading towards Bewdley town centre and Tickenhill Manor. These interconnected paths provide an important green corridor, enabling movement through the landscape and facilitating access between the town and surrounding countryside. The network is clearly defined on the ground and supported by mapped routes, demonstrating regular and sustained use.

Following discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, it was recommended that the parcel be amended to exclude the eastern section. The Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group considered this advice and agreed to reduce the extent of the parcel accordingly. The revised boundary focuses on the core area of recreational and landscape value, while responding proportionately to surrounding land uses.

The accompanying layered plan illustrates this amendment, showing the original parcel (previously identified in yellow) and the revised designation (now shown in beige).

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

The refinement of Parcel 14 demonstrates a proportionate and evidence-based approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. By excluding the eastern section, the designation is tightly drawn around land that is demonstrably special to the local community in terms of recreational use, accessibility, and connectivity.

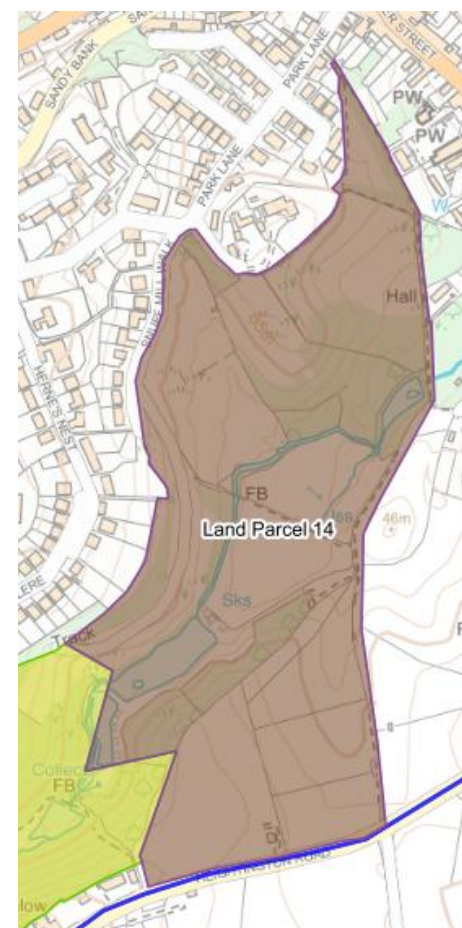
This approach ensures that the designation reflects the functional use of the land while avoiding unnecessary restriction on adjacent areas, thereby strengthening its clarity and defensibility at examination.

Demonstrably Special

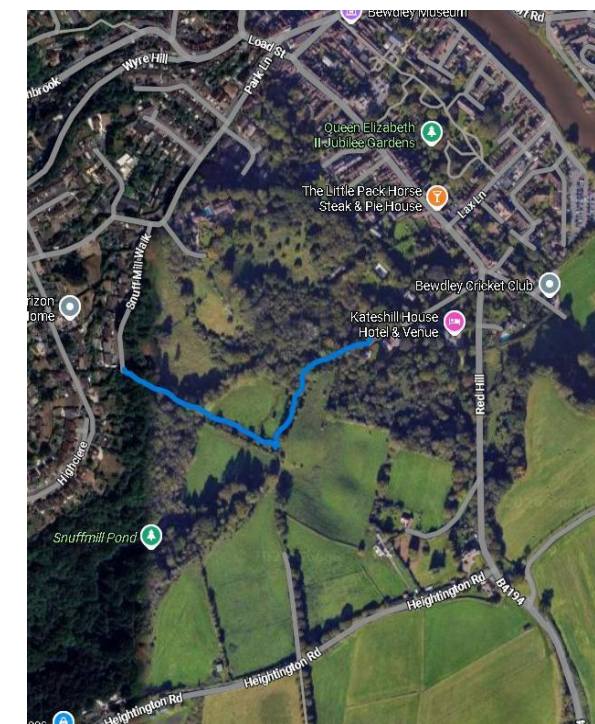
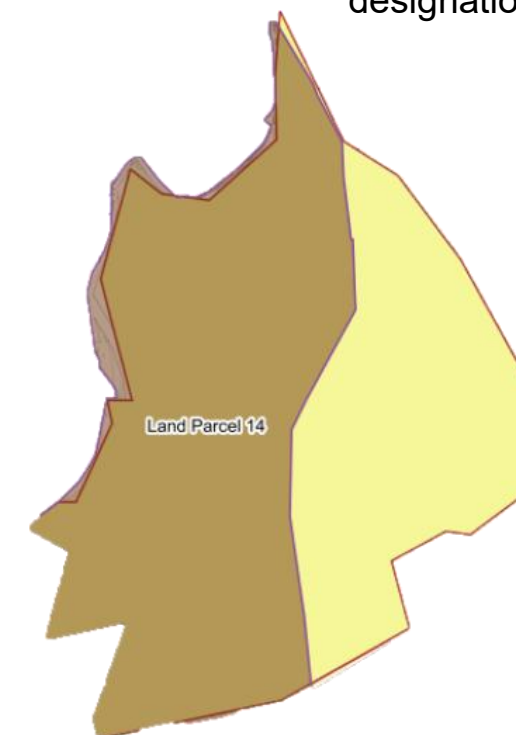
Parcel 14 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its role as part of a well-used and interconnected network of public footpaths, including recognised walking routes such as the Worcester Way and Ribbesford Circular Walk, providing valued access between Bewdley town centre, Snuff Mill Dingle, and the surrounding countryside.

The parcel is not considered an extensive tract of land, as it comprises a clearly defined and cohesive area centred on established footpath routes and landscape features, the full extent of which is regularly used and experienced by the community as a single, connected recreational space.

Revised Designation



Layered parcel mapping illustrating the original larger parcel and the revised designation



Parcel 14 Continued



PARCEL 17 - Winterdyne / River Severn

Parcel 17 comprises a linear riverside corridor running alongside the River Severn for approximately 1 kilometre, extending in a north-south direction from the Bewdley Cricket Club to the Bewdley by-pass. The parcel varies in character, with flat meadow land adjacent to the river transitioning sharply to a steep, wooded rock escarpment, creating a distinctive and visually striking landscape.

A well-established footpath runs along the riverbank and forms part of the Ribbesford Circular Trail, providing an important recreational route for walkers. Additional informal paths and “desire lines,” as evidenced in supporting imagery, indicate alternative routes and patterns of movement along the corridor. These routes demonstrate active and ongoing use of the space by the local community and visitors, reinforcing its value as a linear green route connecting different parts of the town and surrounding countryside.

Following discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, it was recommended that the parcel be reduced in size to focus on the green corridor element. A subsequent report from the Planning Manager suggested that the parcel, in its original extent, lacked sufficient community connection and value.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group carefully considered this feedback and agreed to significantly reduce the parcel to a narrower, clearly defined corridor aligned with the river and associated footpath network. This revision ensures that the designation focuses on the area of strongest recreational, landscape, and connectivity value, directly addressing the concerns raised.

The accompanying layered plan illustrates this amendment, showing the original parcel (previously identified in pink) and the revised designation (now shown in green).

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

The refinement of Parcel 17 demonstrates a proportionate and responsive approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. By reducing the parcel to a narrow green corridor, the designation is tightly drawn around land that is demonstrably special in terms of recreational use, landscape character, and its role as a riverside walking route.

This amendment directly addresses earlier concerns regarding the scale and perceived lack of community connection, ensuring that the designation reflects the functional use of the land and its clear value to the community. The revised boundary strengthens the defensibility of the designation and aligns with best practice by avoiding the inclusion of land that does not meet the criteria for Local Green Space.

Demonstrably Special

Parcel 17 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its role as a well-used riverside walking corridor, forming part of an established recreational route along the River Severn, and its distinctive landscape character created by the juxtaposition of open meadow and wooded escarpment.

The parcel has a clear and direct relationship with the local community, being readily accessible from nearby residential areas and regularly used by both residents and visitors for walking and informal recreation, forming part of daily and habitual use patterns.

The parcel is not considered an extensive tract of land, as it has been refined to a narrow, clearly defined linear corridor focused on the footpath and riverside environment, the entirety of which is experienced and used as a single, cohesive recreational route.

Revised Designation



Layered parcel mapping illustrating the original larger parcel and the revised designation



Parcel 17 Continued



PARCEL 18 - Wharton Park / Blackmanstitch Bypass Edge

Parcel 18 comprises an elevated area of land positioned at one of the highest points within the local landscape, offering expansive views across the Severn Valley towards the Clent Hills. The site includes a linking footpath and stile at its westernmost extent, providing access to the Blackmanstitch Bypass island and onward routes beyond. The bypass road is visible through the tree line, forming a defining feature of the parcel's context.

This parcel represents a remnant section of former agricultural land, left isolated following construction of the bypass and Cleobury Road, which dissected the original field pattern. Despite this fragmentation, a Public Right of Way established by Worcestershire County Council maintains connectivity across the site, ensuring continued public access and recreational use.

A Worcestershire County Council public footpath traverses the parcel, providing an important recreational link from the western edge of Bewdley across the landscape. The presence of this route reinforces the parcel's role within the wider walking network and supports its ongoing use by the community.

Following discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group determined that this area should be separated from Parcel 12. The removal of the semi-industrial site at Wharton Park Farm enabled the identification of this land as a distinct parcel, reflecting its differing character and function.

Parcel 18 is therefore designated in its own right, recognising its value as an area of natural habitat and as part of a wider wildlife corridor within the landscape.

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

The identification of Parcel 18 as a separate designation demonstrates a clear and evidence-based approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. The separation of this land from Parcel 12 ensures that each designation reflects a coherent and distinct character, with Parcel 18 focusing on landscape, ecological, and connectivity value.

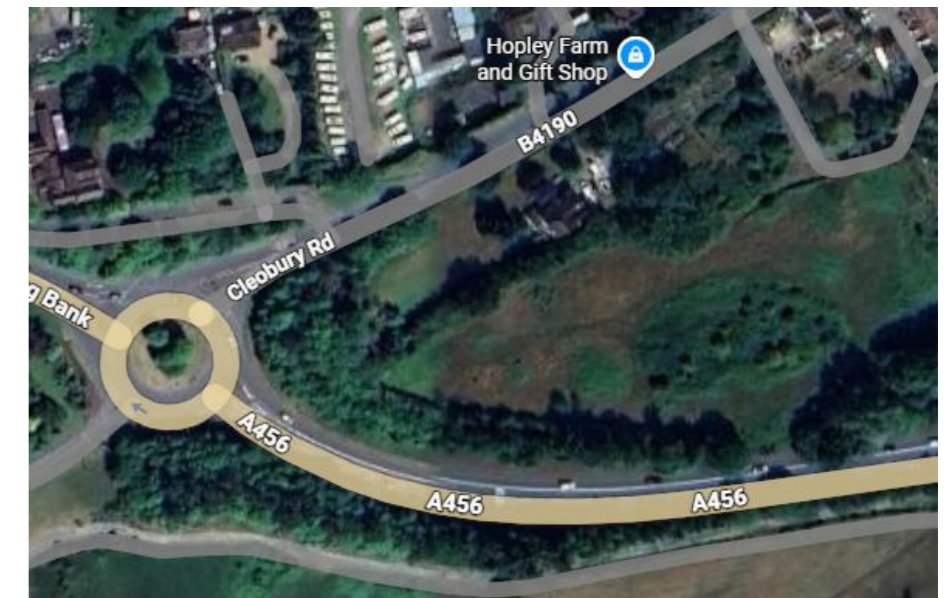
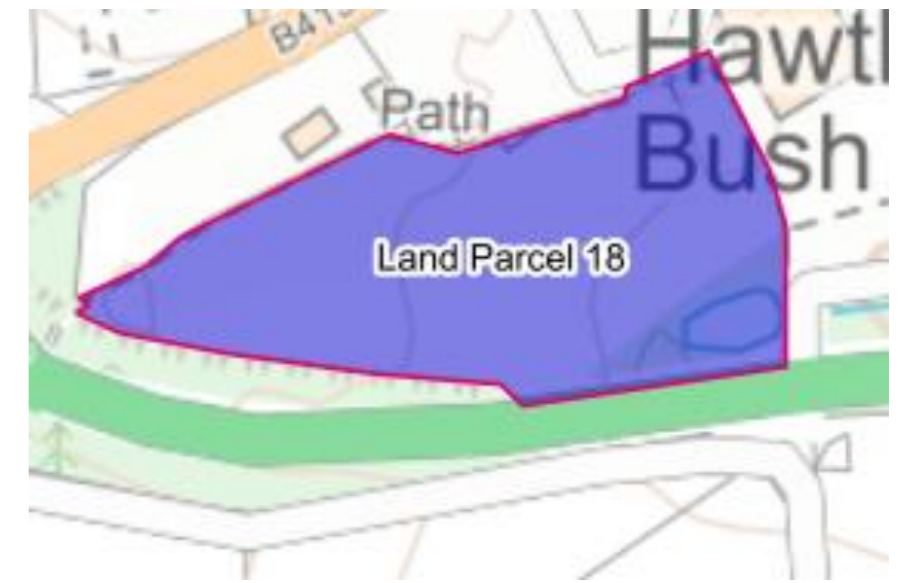
This approach strengthens the clarity and defensibility of the designation by ensuring that boundaries are appropriately drawn to reflect land use, function, and local significance.

Demonstrably Special

Parcel 18 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its elevated position providing valued long-distance views across the Severn Valley towards the Clent Hills, its role as part of the public footpath connected walkways, and its function as a natural habitat and wildlife corridor within a fragmented landscape.

The parcel has a clear relationship with the local community, being accessible via established footpaths and regularly used as part of a wider recreational network linking the western edge of Bewdley to the surrounding countryside.

The parcel is not considered an extensive tract of land, as it comprises a clearly defined and contained area shaped by the physical constraints of the bypass, forming a distinct and cohesive landscape unit.



Parcel 18 continued



PARCEL 19 – Kidderminster Road / Cordle Marsh Ridge / Maypole Piece

Parcel 19 comprises an area of rising land located adjacent to Kidderminster Road, opposite the Queensway housing estate, known as Maypole Piece. The landform transitions from a flat, low-lying area historically known as Cordle Marsh, situated near All Saints Church, Wribbenhall, to a more elevated ridge running in a southerly direction. This ridge is positioned alongside the Severn Valley Railway line, contributing to the parcel's distinctive landscape character.

The Riddings Brook flows through the site, having been culverted behind Springhill Rise before emerging as an open watercourse across the parcel. It continues onward to join the River Severn between the Leisure Centre and the secondary school. The brook plays an important role in local drainage, with the low-lying areas of the parcel, particularly the historic marshland, contributing to water storage during periods of heavy rainfall. This function is evidenced by occasional surface water flooding affecting Kidderminster Road in extreme conditions.

The parcel includes a flat foreground area, understood to have been retained as open space following adjacent residential development, providing opportunities for community use such as informal orchard planting and pedestrian access. The land then rises to form a prominent ridge, which has traditionally been used for informal recreational activities.

The site is well used by local residents for walking, dog exercise, and appreciation of its natural setting. It offers a variety of wild flora and provides elevated views westwards across the Severn Valley, enhancing its landscape and visual amenity value.

Following discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group resolved to include this parcel within the Local Green Space designation, recognising its clear and demonstrable community use and value.

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

The inclusion of Parcel 19 reflects an evidence-based approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. The parcel demonstrates strong alignment with LGS criteria, particularly in terms of its recreational use, landscape value, and contribution to local environmental function.

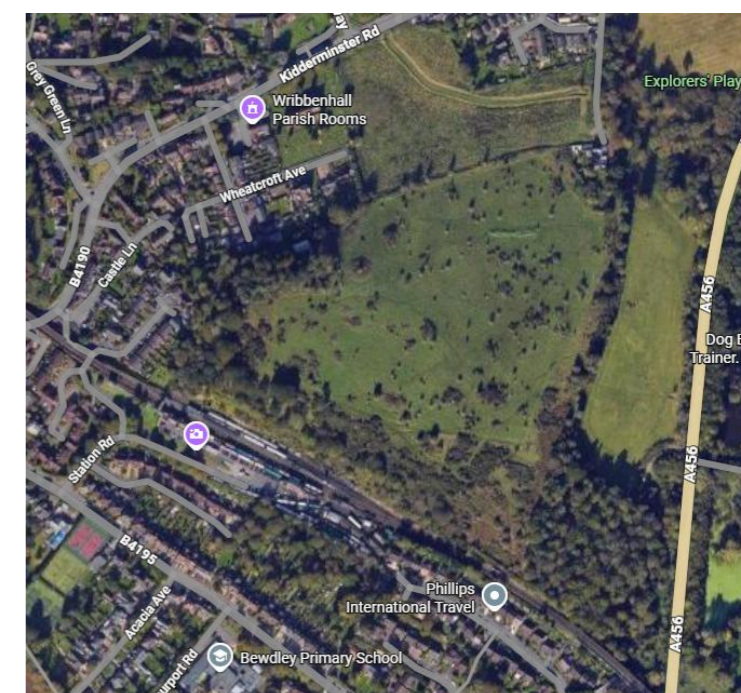
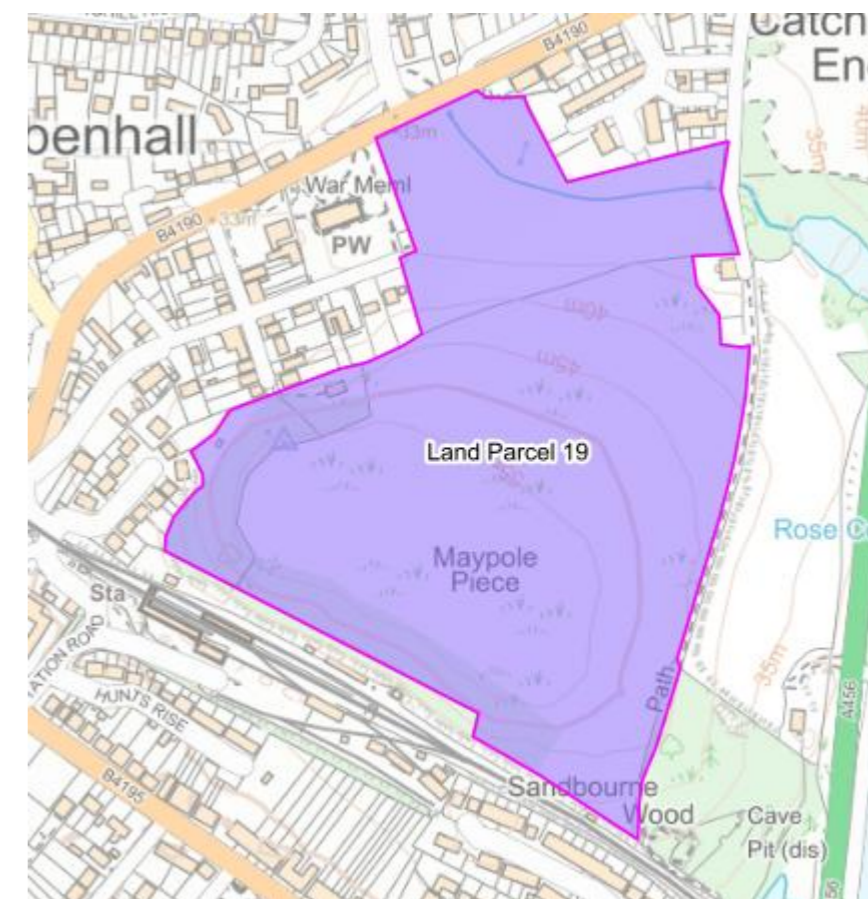
The site's role in surface water management, combined with its accessibility and regular use by the community, further supports its designation as a valued and locally significant green space. The boundary is clearly defined by physical features including the road, railway line, and topography, ensuring a coherent and defensible designation.

Demonstrably Special

Parcel 19 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its strong recreational value, its distinctive landscape formed by the transition from historic marshland to elevated ridge, and its contribution to local flood management and green infrastructure.

The parcel has a clear and direct relationship with the local community, being immediately adjacent to residential areas and regularly used for walking, informal recreation, and enjoyment of views across the Severn Valley.

The parcel is not considered an extensive tract of land, as it forms a clearly defined and contained landscape unit, bounded by established physical features and experienced as a cohesive and well-used local green space.



Parcel 19 continued



Parcel 19 continued



PARCEL 20 – Wribbenhall Gardens, B4090 to A456 Green Corridor

Parcel 20 comprises a narrow strip of land situated between the B4090 at its northern extent and the A456 at its southern boundary. The land is predominantly flat, with a raised embankment along the north-eastern edge, likely formed during the construction of adjacent development to the east. This feature contributes to the parcel's enclosure and separation from surrounding built form.

The site is crossed by a number of informal tracks, which are clearly visible on the ground and demonstrate regular use by the local community, particularly for dog walking and informal recreation. These routes create a small but valuable green corridor within an otherwise developed area, offering accessible open space for nearby residents.

Following discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group resolved to include this parcel within the Local Green Space designation, recognising its established community use and local amenity value.

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

The inclusion of Parcel 20 reflects an evidence-based approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. While modest in scale, the parcel performs an important function as a locally accessible green space and informal recreational route within a built-up area.

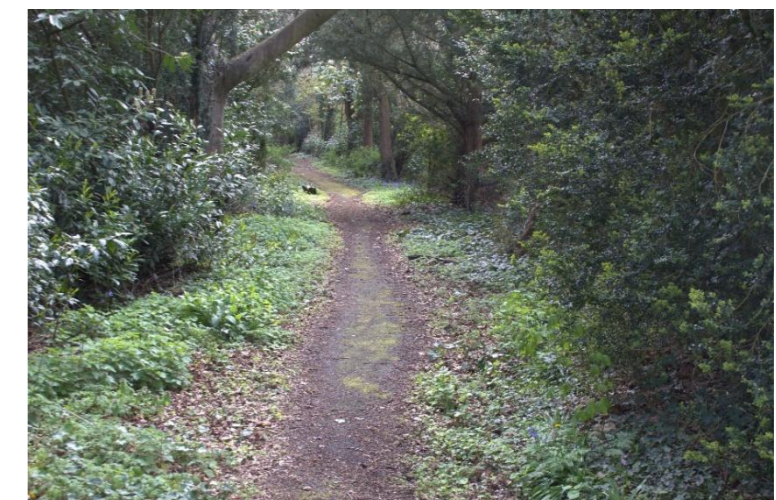
Its clear physical boundaries, defined by the adjacent road network and surrounding development, ensure that the designation is tightly drawn and proportionate, focusing on land that is demonstrably used and valued by the community.

Demonstrably Special

Parcel 20 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its regular and established use for informal recreation, particularly dog walking, and its role as a small but important green corridor within a predominantly developed area.

The parcel has a clear and direct relationship with the local community, being immediately accessible from surrounding residential areas and used on a daily basis for informal outdoor activity.

The parcel is not considered an extensive tract of land, as it comprises a narrow, clearly defined strip bounded by major roads, forming a contained and cohesive area of local green space.



Parcel 20 Continued



PARCEL 21 – Land off Netherton Lane – Biodiversity and Habitat Area

Parcel 21 comprises an area of land identified for its biodiversity and natural habitat value, contributing to the wider green infrastructure network within the local area. The parcel supports natural vegetation and provides habitat opportunities for a range of species, forming part of an interconnected ecological corridor.

Following discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, it was recommended that this parcel, alongside adjacent land, be included within the Local Green Space designation due to its biodiversity importance and role in supporting natural habitats.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group accepted this recommendation and resolved to include the parcel within the designation, recognising its contribution to ecological value and environmental sustainability.

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

The inclusion of Parcel 21 reflects a proportionate and evidence-based approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. The parcel meets the criteria for designation through its demonstrable local significance in terms of biodiversity and habitat provision.

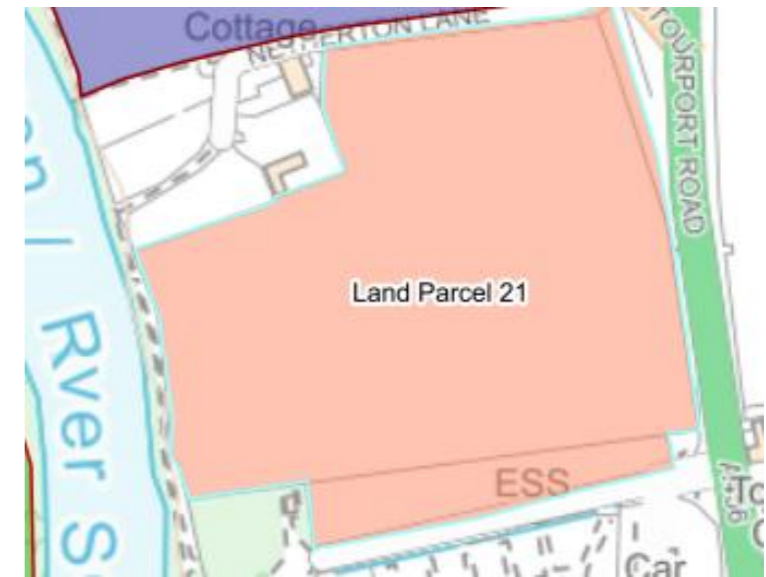
Protecting this land as Local Green Space ensures the retention of important ecological features and supports wider environmental objectives, including habitat connectivity and resilience within the local landscape.

Demonstrably Special

Parcel 21 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its role in supporting biodiversity and providing natural habitat within the local area, contributing to the ecological network and environmental quality of the settlement.

The parcel has a clear relationship with the local community through its contribution to the natural environment and its role in enhancing the character and biodiversity of the surrounding area.

The parcel is not considered an extensive tract of land, as it comprises a defined and contained area of habitat which functions as part of a wider but clearly identifiable ecological corridor.



Parcel 21 continued



PARCEL 22 – Bewdley Leisure Centre Playing Fields and Riverside Link

Parcel 22 comprises an area of open space located adjacent to the Bewdley Community Leisure Centre, forming an important recreational and community asset within the town. The site includes marked sports pitches used by The Bewdley School and community sports groups, supporting organised and formal sporting activities.

In addition to its formal use, the parcel accommodates a wide range of community events, including Bewdley Carnival and outdoor festival events, reinforcing its role as a key venue for community engagement and town-wide activities.

The northern extent of the parcel includes a wooded public access route running between the leisure centre building and the adjacent school, following the course of Riddings Brook. This route provides a valuable green link connecting the site to the River Severn corridor and onward to the town centre, enhancing accessibility and integration within the wider green infrastructure network.

The site supports both formal and informal recreation, including organised sport, walking, dog exercise, and riverside access, making it a versatile and well-used open space for a broad range of users.

Following discussions with Planning Officers at Wyre Forest District Council, the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group considered that this parcel be included within the Local Green Space designation due to its significant community use and resolved to designate the parcel accordingly.

Planning Justification (LGS Designation Approach)

The inclusion of Parcel 22 reflects a clear and evidence-based approach to Local Green Space designation, consistent with national policy set out in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework. The parcel meets the criteria for designation through its strong and demonstrable community value, particularly in terms of recreational use, accessibility, and its role as a venue for community events.

The defined boundaries of the site, alongside its established and varied uses, ensure that the designation is proportionate and focused on land that is demonstrably special to the local community.

Demonstrably Special

Parcel 22 is demonstrably special to the local community due to its extensive use for formal sport, community events, and informal recreation, together with its role as a key accessible green space linking the leisure centre, school, riverside, and town centre.

The parcel has a clear and direct relationship with the local community, being centrally located and regularly used by a wide range of groups, including schools, sports organisations, and residents.



Parcel 22 continued



PARCEL 23 – Gas Works Meadow

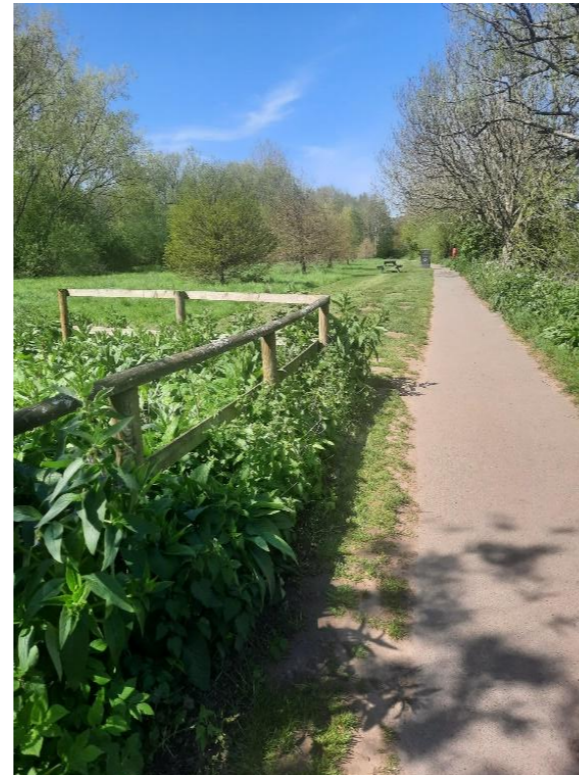
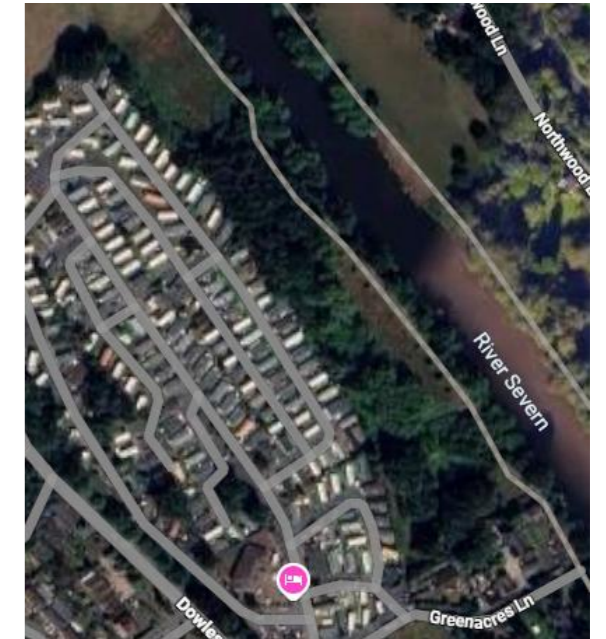
Parcel 23 comprises a linear strip of mixed grass meadow, characterised by areas of semi-natural grassland interspersed with sections of unkempt woodland located at both the northern and southern extents. The parcel is bounded to the west by the Riverside Caravan Park, and to the east by a public footpath running alongside the River Severn.

Amenity Value

The parcel provides a tranquil and visually attractive riverside setting, contributing positively to the character of the local landscape. Its position adjacent to the River Severn and the public footpath offers an accessible green corridor for walkers and informal recreation, allowing users to experience a sense of openness and connection to the natural environment. The contrast between open meadow and enclosed woodland enhances its scenic quality and provides seasonal variation, contributing to its value as a local amenity space. The parcel also acts as a buffer between the built environment of the caravan park and the riverside, preserving the semi-rural character of this part of Bewdley.

Biodiversity Value

The combination of semi-natural grassland and unmanaged woodland habitats supports a range of flora and fauna, contributing to local biodiversity. The meadow areas have the potential to support wildflowers and pollinator species, while the woodland edges provide shelter, nesting opportunities, and foraging habitat for birds, small mammals, and invertebrates. Its proximity to the River Severn further enhances ecological value, forming part of a wider wildlife corridor that facilitates movement of species along the riverbank. The relatively undisturbed nature of the parcel, particularly within the woodland sections, increases its importance as a habitat refuge within the local area.



PARCEL 24 - Land off Derwent Drive

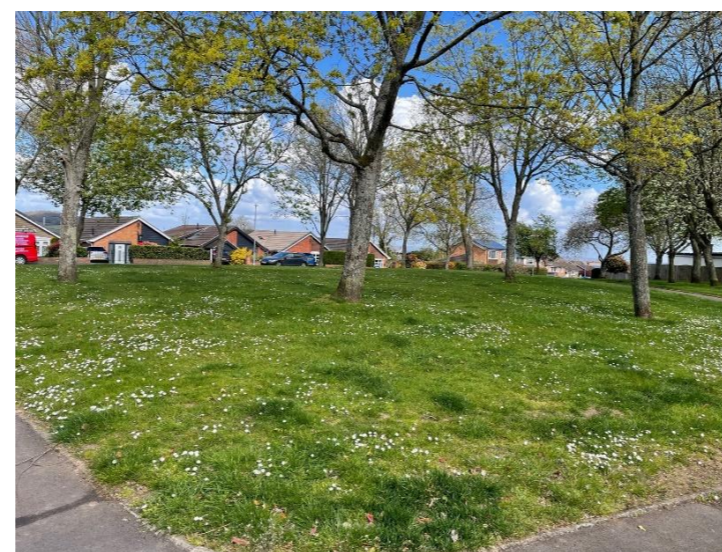
Parcel 24 comprises an established area of community green space located off Derwent Drive, set within the Blossom Hill Housing Estate to the north-west of the town. The site is owned and maintained by Wyre Forest District Council and is laid out with formal footpaths, providing clear pedestrian access throughout the space. The parcel is fully enclosed by residential properties, forming an integral part of the surrounding neighbourhood and representing the only communal green space within the estate.

Amenity Value

This parcel holds significant amenity value as a well-used and accessible local green space within a predominantly residential area. Its formal paths encourage regular use for walking, informal recreation, and social interaction, serving residents of all ages. As the sole communal open space within the Blossom Hill estate, it performs an essential role in supporting community wellbeing, providing opportunities for outdoor activity, relaxation, and informal gathering. The space contributes positively to the character and liveability of the estate, offering visual relief from surrounding built development and reinforcing a sense of place.

Biodiversity Value

Although formally maintained, the green space contributes to local biodiversity through its grassed areas, boundary planting, and potential for supporting urban wildlife. Trees, shrubs, and grassland provide habitat for birds, insects, and small mammals, while also offering foraging and nesting opportunities. As part of the wider green infrastructure network, the site contributes to ecological connectivity within the urban environment, albeit at a more localised scale than larger or less managed sites. With sensitive management, there is potential for further biodiversity enhancement, such as through pollinator-friendly planting or reduced mowing regimes in selected areas.



PARCEL 25 – QEII Jubilee Gardens (rear of Bewdley Museum)

QEII Jubilee Gardens, a centrally located town park situated to the rear of Bewdley Museum. The site benefits from multiple access points, including from the Museum Shambles, Load Street, High Street, Lax Lane, Severn Side South, and Redthorne Car Park, making it highly accessible and well integrated within the town centre. The space includes a designated outdoor performance area, known locally as the “green theatre,” a community orchard, and two ornamental ponds. The site is enclosed by a mix of residential properties and town centre uses, contributing to its sense of enclosure and character.

Amenity Value

Jubilee Gardens holds significant amenity value as a multifunctional and highly accessible green space within the heart of the town. It is regularly used for a wide range of community and cultural events, including those organised by local charitable organisations and the museum, contributing to the town’s social and cultural life. The presence of the “green theatre” provides a unique venue for outdoor performances and gatherings, enhancing its role as a focal point for community activity.

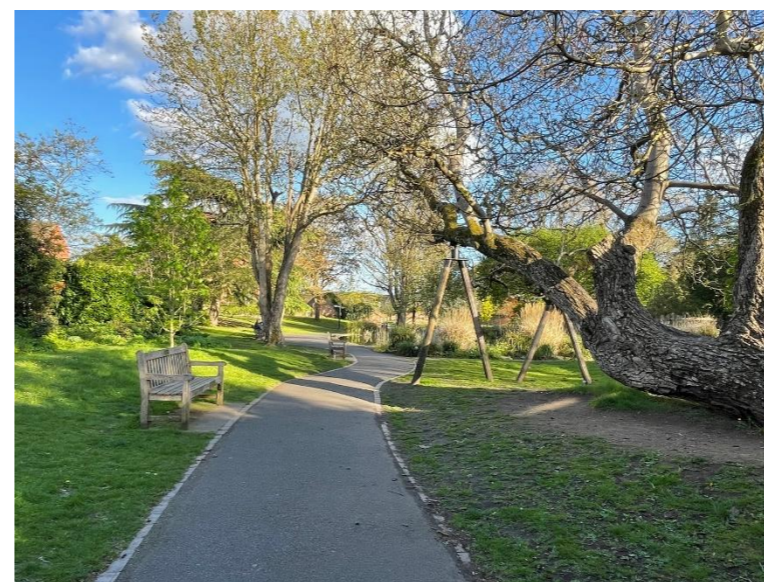
The inclusion of a pond adds to the visual attractiveness and tranquillity of the site, creating focal points within the landscape and enhancing opportunities for quiet enjoyment and reflection. Beyond organised events, the space supports a variety of informal recreational uses, including family picnics, dog walking, and peaceful contemplation. Its central location and connectivity to key town routes make it an important everyday resource for residents and visitors alike. The combination of active and passive uses, together with its landscaped setting and orchard, creates a welcoming and versatile environment that contributes positively to the character and vibrancy of Bewdley.

Biodiversity Value

The inclusion of a community orchard, alongside grassed areas, mature planting, and pond, provides a diverse range of habitats that support local biodiversity. The orchard contributes seasonal interest and supports pollinators such as bees and butterflies, while trees and shrubs offer nesting and foraging opportunities for birds and small mammals.

The ponds are of particular ecological importance, supporting aquatic and semi-aquatic species and contributing to habitat diversity within the town centre. They may provide breeding grounds for amphibians and attract a variety of invertebrates and birdlife. Together, these features enhance the site’s role as part of the wider green infrastructure network, providing ecological connectivity within an otherwise built-up environment.

Although managed as a formal park, the variety of habitats within Jubilee Gardens significantly enhances its ecological value, with potential for further biodiversity gains through sensitive and continued management.



Parcel 25 continued

