

# Burghclere Parish Neighbourhood Plan



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## Local Green Spaces Report

# **Local Green Spaces Report**

## **Contents**

1. Introduction
2. Policy and Precedence
  - 2.1. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
  - 2.2. Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011 – 2029
  - 2.3. ANGst
3. Features Specific to Burghclere
4. Methodology
5. Local Green Space Designation
6. Site Assessment Summary
7. Local Green Spaces Descriptions

# Local Green Spaces Report

## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared to support the submission of the Burghclere Neighbourhood Plan. The report sets out the conclusions of Burghclere Parish Council regarding sites to be designated as Local Green Spaces (LGS) and identifies local green infrastructure assets that are of importance to the character of the parish and meet a number of set criteria. A considerably larger amount of local green areas has initially been explored for consideration and the final selection has been reached after an in-depths assessment and public consultation.

## 2. Policy and Precedence

### 2.1. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.1.1. Designation of land as Local Green Space (LGS) allows communities to identify and protect areas of particular importance to them and should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other services (Ministry of Housing, 2018).

2.1.2. The NPPF requires the designated sites to meet several criteria (paragraph 100):

- reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
- 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

### 2.2. Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan 2011 - 2029

2.2.1. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (B&DBC) defines Green Infrastructure (GI) as an interconnected network of natural areas and green open spaces that directly contribute to the health and quality of life for the local communities. The Vision underpinning this strategy is to provide a planned and managed network of Green Infrastructure across Basingstoke and Deane which not only provides residents with local access to green spaces, but also positively contributes to biodiversity to thrive alongside the built environment. (Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, 2011).

2.2.2 Policy EM1 (Landscape) sets out principles that should apply to new development, allowing it only where it can be demonstrated that the proposals are sympathetic to the character and visual quality of the area concerned, taking into account scenic quality, important views within and out of settlements and the local character of buildings and settlement, open areas and landscape features such as ancient woodland and hedgerows (Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, 2011).

2.2.3. Policy EM4 (Biodiversity, Geodiversity and Nature Conservation) sets out that development proposals will only be permitted if significant harm to bio- and/or geodiversity can be avoided or at least adequately mitigated. To secure opportunities for biodiversity improvement, development proposals will be required to where possible contribute to a net gain in biodiversity which could be achieved through focus on identified Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and Biodiversity Priority Areas (Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, 2011).

2.2.4. Policy EM5 (Green Infrastructure) points out the importance of the green infrastructure network and requires important corridors or links not to be severed and highlights its mission to protect and enhance the quality of public open space and public rights of way (Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, 2011).

### **2.3. ANGst**

The Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGst) sets a range of accessibility standards for natural sites and areas within easy reach of peoples' homes. ANGst recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural green space of at least 2 hectares (5 acres) in size, no more than 300 yards or a 5 minutes' walk from their home.

This standard is being achieved in Burghclere Parish thanks to its rural character with all areas of settlement being surrounded by fields or woodlands and the extensive network of footpaths connecting these green infrastructure assets to the settlement areas.

## **3. Features Specific to Burghclere**

The amount and quality of easily accessible green infrastructure assets in form of commons and woodlands that can be accessed through the extensive right of way infrastructure in the Parish is of high importance to the villagers. According to feedback received from local residents, protection of the rural character of the Parish, its trees and its hedges is imperative.

## **4. Methodology**

4.1 To avoid cognitive biases, unequal weightings between the set criteria and insufficient datasets a scoring mechanism for each identified site was deemed unsuitable.

4.2 Instead, an extensive assessment of local green infrastructure was undertaken to identify assets that are already sufficiently protected, such as village greens, Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSIs), and those, especially within the village of Burghclere itself, that would benefit from designation as an LGS.

4.3 A number of criteria were developed in line with those required by the NPPF. Those include:

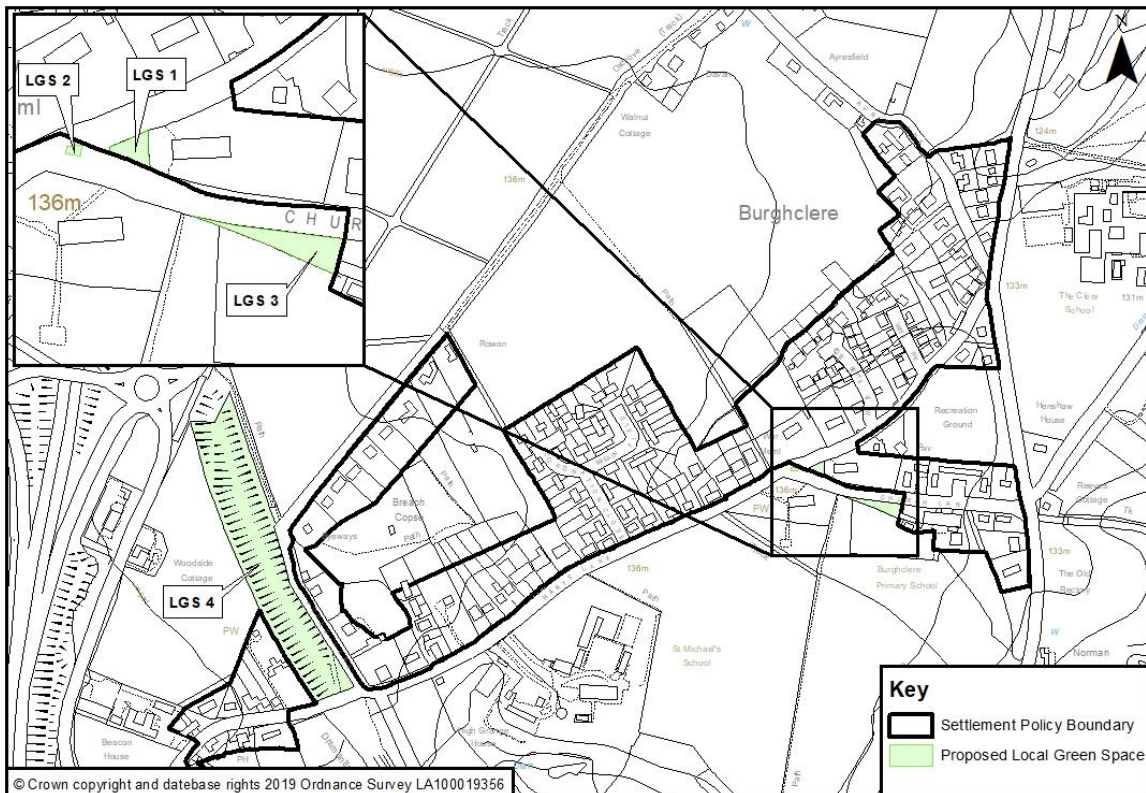
- Test 1: Existing planning permission or allocation in the BDLP
- Test 2: distance to edge of nearest settlement
- Test 3: approx. extent of area (Ha)
- Test 4: demonstrably special & holds a particular local significance (beauty, historic significance, recreation value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife, other)

4.4 A larger number of potential Local Green Spaces was taken to the community during two consultation sessions in December 2018. As a result of feedback received the number of identified sites was reduced to four.

## 5. Local Green Space Designation

The following Local Green Space designations are hereby proposed:

1. Memorial Garden (within Portal Hall Grounds)
2. War Memorial Green
3. Green strip between Church and the School House
4. The Old Railway Line (North of Harts Lane)



Map A Local Green Spaces





## 6. Site Assessment Summary


Map #	Name	Location	Designations	Current use	TEST 1: existing planning permission or BDLP allocation	TEST 2: distance to edge of nearest settlement	TEST 3: approx. extent of area (Ha)	TEST 4: demonstrably special & holds a particular local significance (beauty, historic significance, recreation value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife, other)
LGS 1	Memorial Garden (Portal Hall Grounds)	Centre of village at intersection of Harts Lane and Church Lane		Open space with bench for communal use	No	Adjacent	0.35	<p><b>Beauty / historic significance:</b> The grounds of the Postal Hall are a tract of land that was gifted to the parish by the Earl of Carnarvon in 1890 when it was agreed to build a parish room to honour the memory of the late Reverend Canon George Raymond Portal. The Memorial Garden is a grassed area with a bench and a flagpole. A sycamore tree forms a focal point in the centre. The garden is separated from the car park areas by a low wooden fence. A tall laurel hedge shelters it partially from Harts Lane. A small tarmacked area which is used as playground by the local pre-school that runs from the hall. The site is owned and maintained by the Pinder Trust.</p> <p><b>Recreation value / tranquillity:</b> The Memorial Garden segregates the Portal Memorial Hall from the main road Harts Lane at the intersection to Church Lane and provides an appropriate foreground for this important historical building. The bench invites parishioners to rest in the garden by the oak tree and is often used as an outside space for functions taking place in the Portal Hall, such as weddings, Christenings or other celebrations. 'Key View 5' of the Portal Hall and its grounds can be enjoyed from opposite the Hall on Harts Lane.</p> <p><b>Richness of Wildlife / Biodiversity value:</b> n/a</p>
LGS 2	War Memorial Green	Triangular green at the junction of Harts Lane and Church Lane, opposite the Portal Memorial Hall.		Open space surrounding war memorial	No	Adjacent	>0.1	<p><b>Beauty / historic significance:</b> Burghclere War Memorial was erected after the First World War to commemorate the local men who served and died in the conflict. Following the Second World War, a further inscription '1939 – 1945' was added to commemorate the residents who fell in that conflict. The memorial has a visual relationship with the Parish Room and House of 1890, and the Church of the Ascension of 1838 (both Grade II). The site is owned and maintained by the Parish Council.</p> <p><b>Recreation value / tranquillity:</b> The War Memorial has significant historical value to the community of Burghclere. The surrounding small triangular green space acts to segregate it from the main road Harts Lane at the intersection to Church Lane, providing an appropriate backdrop for this important monument. Outside of school drop off and pick up times it is a place of reflection and the village's annual commemorations on Armistice Day take place at the War Memorial. 'Key View 5' of the Portal Hall and its grounds can be enjoyed from opposite the Hall on Harts Lane.</p> <p><b>Richness of Wildlife / Biodiversity value:</b> n/a</p>

Map #	Name	Location	Designations	Current use	TEST 1: existing planning permission or BDLP allocation	TEST 2: distance to edge of nearest settlement	TEST 3: approx. extent of area (Ha)	TEST 4: demonstrably special & holds a particular local significance (beauty, historic significance, recreation value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife, other)
LGS 3	Green Strip between Church and School House	Church Lane opposite the Portal Hall Grounds, separates school grounds from Church Lane		Open space with bus shelter and bench for communal use	No	Adjacent	>0.1	<p><b>Beauty / historic significance:</b> The green strip that divides the school grounds from the road helps maintain the rural feel in the centre of the village. It is maintained by the parish council.</p> <p><b>Recreation value / tranquillity:</b> The strip of green provides a valuable safe space for children to play or mingle before or after school on an otherwise busy road during peak school drop-of and pick-up times. The bench invites villagers and ramblers alike to rest and the bus shelter is a valuable village amenity in its own right.</p> <p><b>Recreation value / tranquillity: Richness of Wildlife / Biodiversity value:</b> The trees that have grown out of the overgrown hedge of the school grounds are of some biodiversity interest and the green itself forms a link and buffer to Church Lane.</p>
LGS 4	Old Railway Line	N of Harts Lane adjacent to LGS 7 reaching N towards B4640	Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland	Woodland	No	Adjacent	2	<p><b>Beauty / historic significance:</b> The Old Railway Line was part of the Didcot, Newbury &amp; Southampton Railway which was closed to passengers in 1962 and to freight in 1964. The railway was subsequently dismantled. After a fatal road accident on the approach to the railway bridge in Burghclere the parapet was removed which required the bridge to be infilled.</p> <p><b>Recreation value / tranquillity:</b> As it is currently difficult to access, this part of the dismantled railway line has reverted to calm and tranquil woodland with some natural wet areas.</p> <p><b>Richness of Wildlife / Biodiversity value:</b> The Old Railway Line has been identified by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) as part of the East Woodhay to Headley Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA).</p>




## 7. Local Green Spaces Descriptions

### Memorial Garden (Portal Hall Grounds)

<b>Site:</b>	LG1		
<b>Location:</b>	Centre of village at intersection of Harts Lane and Church Lane		
<b>Designation:</b>	Not known	<b>Current Use:</b>	Segregate War Memorial from road junction
<b>TEST 1:</b> existing planning permission or BDLP allocation	<b>TEST 2:</b> distance to edge of nearest settlement	<b>TEST 3:</b> approx. extent of area (Ha)	
NO	adjacent	0.35	
<b>TEST 4:</b> demonstrably special & holds a particular local significance (beauty, historic significance, recreation value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife, other)	<p><b>Beauty / historic significance:</b> The grounds of the Postal Hall are a tract of land that was gifted to the parish by the Earl of Carnarvon in 1890 when it was agreed to build a parish room to honour the memory of the late Reverend Canon George Raymond Portal. The Memorial Garden is a grassed area with a bench and a flagpole. A sycamore tree forms a focal point in the centre. The garden is separated from the car park areas by a low wooden fence. A tall laurel hedge shelters it partially from Harts Lane. A small tarmacked area which is used as playground by the local pre-school that runs from the hall. The site is owned and maintained by the Pinder Trust.</p> <p><b>Recreation value / tranquillity:</b> The Memorial Garden segregates the Portal Memorial Hall from the main road Harts Lane at the intersection to Church Lane and provides an appropriate foreground for this important historical building. The bench invites parishioners to rest in the garden by the oak tree and is often used as an outside space for functions taking place in the Portal Hall, such as weddings, Christenings or other celebrations.</p> <p>'Key View 5' of the Portal Hall and its grounds can be enjoyed from opposite the Hall on Harts Lane.</p> <p><b>Richness of Wildlife / Biodiversity value:</b> n/a</p>		
			

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## War Memorial Green

<b>Site:</b>	LG2		
<b>Location:</b>	Triangular green at the junction of Harts Lane and Church Lane, opposite the Portal Memorial Hall		
<b>Designation:</b>	Not known	<b>Current Use:</b>	Segregate War Memorial from road junction
<b>TEST 1:</b> existing planning permission or BDLP allocation	<b>TEST 2:</b> distance to edge of nearest settlement	<b>TEST 3:</b> approx. extent of area (Ha)	
NO	adjacent	1.4	
<b>TEST 4:</b> demonstrably special & holds a particular local significance (beauty, historic significance, recreation value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife, other)	<p><b>Beauty / historic significance:</b> Burghclere War Memorial was erected after the First World War to commemorate the local men who served and died in the conflict. Following the Second World War, a further inscription '1939 – 1945' was added to commemorate the residents who fell in that conflict. The memorial has a visual relationship with the Parish Room and House of 1890, and the Church of the Ascension of 1838 (both Grade II). The site is owned and maintained by the Parish Council.</p> <p><b>Recreation value / tranquillity:</b> The War Memorial has significant historical value to the community of Burghclere. The surrounding small triangular green space acts to segregate it from the main road Harts Lane at the intersection to Church Lane, providing an appropriate backdrop for this important monument. Outside of school drop off and pick up times it is a place of reflection and the village's annual commemorations on Armistice Day take place at the War Memorial. 'Key View 5' of the Portal Hall and its grounds can be enjoyed from opposite the Hall on Harts Lane.</p> <p><b>Richness of Wildlife / Biodiversity value:</b> n/a</p>		
			
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## Green Strip between Church and School House

<b>Site:</b>	LG3		
<b>Location:</b>	Triangular green strip along Church Lane between Church and School House		
<b>Designation:</b>	none	<b>Current Use:</b>	Green area with bench and bus shelter
<b>TEST 1:</b> existing planning permission or BDLP allocation	<b>TEST 2:</b> distance to edge of nearest settlement	<b>TEST 3:</b> approx. extent of area (Ha)	
NO	adjacent	0.06	
<b>TEST 4:</b> demonstrably special & holds a particular local significance (beauty, historic significance, recreation value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife, other)	<p><b>Beauty / historic significance:</b> The green strip that divides the school grounds from the road helps maintain the rural feel in the centre of the village. It is maintained by the parish council.</p> <p><b>Recreation value / tranquillity:</b> The strip of green provides a valuable safe space for children to play or mingle before or after school on an otherwise busy road during peak school drop-of and pick-up times. The bench invites villagers and rambles alike to rest and the bus shelter is a valuable village amenity in its own right.</p> <p><b>Richness of Wildlife / Biodiversity value:</b> The trees that have grown out of the overgrown hedge of the school grounds are of some biodiversity interest and the green itself forms a link and buffer to Church Lane.</p>		



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## Old Railway Line (North of Harts Lane)

<b>Site:</b>	LG4		
<b>Location:</b>	N of Harts Lane adjacent to LGS 7 reaching N towards B4640		
<b>Designation:</b>	Not known	<b>Current Use:</b>	Woodland
<b>TEST 1:</b> existing planning permission or BDLP allocation	<b>TEST 2:</b> distance to edge of nearest settlement	<b>TEST 3:</b> approx. extent of area (Ha)	
NO	adjacent	2	
<b>TEST 4:</b> demonstrably special & holds a particular local significance (beauty, historic significance, recreation value, tranquillity, richness of wildlife, other)	<p><b>Beauty / historic significance:</b> The Old Railway Line was part of the Didcot, Newbury &amp; Southampton Railway which was closed to passengers in 1962 and to freight in 1964. The railway was subsequently dismantled. After a fatal road accident on the approach to the railway bridge in Burghclere the parapet was removed which required the bridge to be infilled.</p> <p><b>Recreation value / tranquillity:</b> As it is currently difficult to access, this part of the dismantled railway line has reverted to calm and tranquil woodland with some natural wet areas.</p> <p><b>Richness of Wildlife / Biodiversity value:</b> The Old Railway Line has been identified by Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) as part of the East Woodhay to Headley Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA).</p>		



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