

Local Green Spaces Assessment

**An evaluation of Local Green Spaces proposed for inclusion
within the Rudgwick Neighbourhood Plan**

Updated April 2020

1. Introduction

Background to the project

- 1.1 Rudgwick Parish Council is preparing a neighbourhood plan in which it is proposed to include a policy designating areas of Local Green Space (LGS) particularly valued by the community.
- 1.2 21 areas (including 9 Wide verges) of green spaces have been identified by the Steering Group and community as potentially meeting the criteria for designation as LGS.
- 1.3 Rudgwick Parish Council has commissioned the South Downs National Park Authority's Specialist Advisory Service (SAS) to undertake an independent review of the sites which have been put forward for LGS designation. This report sets out the policy and guidance relevant to the designation of LGS and evaluates the sites against these.
- 1.4 The SAS operates under the umbrella of the South Downs National Park. The aim is to provide professional support to neighbourhood planning in other National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), market towns and rural communities.
- 1.5 The Officers working within the SAS have the benefit of the experience of working within the South Downs National Park supporting over 50 communities producing neighbourhood plans, 30 of which have successfully passed Referendum. We have used the outcome of around 15 examinations of NDPs to inform our assessment of what is and is not considered to be a LGS.

Structure of this report

- 1.6 Section 2 of this report sets out key elements of national and local policy, and guidance, in relation to LGS designation. Section 3 summarises the methodology used and Section 4 sets out the key conclusions. The initial sieve of the sites and the detailed evaluation of those that remained are presented within Appendix 1 and 2 respectively. Appendix 3 includes a settlement scale map showing the distribution of the proposed LGS sites, followed by a site level map and photograph of each site.

2. Policy context

What are Local Green Spaces?

- 2.1 Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection for green areas of particular importance to local communities. It was introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2012¹ and remains in the recently published 2018 revision.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): February 2019

- 2.2 Paragraph 99 of the NPPF says that local communities should be able to identify green spaces of particular importance to them through local and neighbourhood plans. These designations would rule out development other than in very special circumstances and should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.
- 2.3 Paragraph 100 of the NPPF states that the LGS designation should only be used where the green space is:
 - in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;

¹ DCLG. 2012. National Planning Policy Framework. [ONLINE] Available at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

- 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
 - local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- 2.4 Paragraph 101 of the NPPF states that the policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

- 2.5 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) includes further guidance on the LGS designation². The guidance addresses many common questions about the LGS designation, particularly relating to what sort of sites would be suitable for designation and what the designation means in practice. The following paragraphs in the NPPG are of particular relevance and the key points are summarised below:
- Paragraph 008 – generally LGS designation is rarely appropriate for land which is subject to planning permission for development.
 - Paragraph 011 – if land is already protected by designation (such as Site of Special Scientific Interest or National Park), then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by LGS designation.
 - Paragraph 014 – the proximity of a LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special e.g. if public access is a factor, then the site should be in easy walking distance.
 - Paragraph 015 – there are no hard and fast rules about how big a LGS can be because places are different and a degree of judgement will inevitably be needed.
 - Paragraph 017 – some areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may already have largely unrestricted public access, however land could be considered for LGS designation if there is no public access (e.g. if valued for biodiversity, historic significance and/or beauty). LGS designation in itself does not confer any rights of public access over what exists at present.
 - Paragraph 018 – there is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation.
 - Paragraph 019 – A LGS does not need to be in public ownership but the Parish Council should contact landowners at an early stage about the proposals and give them opportunities to make representations.

Horsham District Council Development Plan

- 2.6 The Horsham District Council Planning Framework³ was adopted in November 2015 and includes strategic policies and allocates a number of sites for development (one of which is in Rudgwick Parish – Land at Windacres Farm). Horsham District Council are also in the process

² DCLG. 2014. *Planning Practice Guidance, Local Green Space designation*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>

³ Horsham District Council. 2015. *Horsham District Council Planning Framework*. [ONLINE] Available at: https://www.horsham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/60190/Horsham-District-Planning-Framework-2015.pdf

of reviewing their Local Plan (previously Planning Framework)⁴. A neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force. Therefore the Rudgwick NDP, including its LGS designations, should have due regard to relevant policies and evidence supporting the Horsham District Council Planning Framework (2015). Depending on the time scale it may also be relevant to keep in mind any changes to the forthcoming Local Plan review (adoption in Local Development Scheme December 2021).

- 2.7 The Horsham Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment⁵ forms part of the Local Plan evidence base and underpins Policy SD5: Open Space, Sport and recreation of the current Local HDC Planning Framework.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The criteria set out in paragraph 2.3 forms the basis for the evaluation of the 23 sites in Rudgwick Parish. A two stage process was undertaken in this evaluation: a desktop study 'first sieve', followed by a detailed evaluation. The methodology is explained further below.

Stage 1: Desktop review and first sieve

- 3.2 The first stage of this evaluation involved a desktop assessment of the 23 sites suggested against 4 initial criteria in order to identify and discard sites which were clearly not able to meet the NPPF criteria. The criteria are:

- The green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- The green space concerned is local in character and not an extensive tract of land;
- The green space is not allocated for another use; and
- The green space does not already have planning permission for development.

- 3.3 There are no clear specifications in the NPPF on precisely what constitutes 'close proximity to the community'. As noted above, the NPPG, in general terms advises that where public access is a key factor, then the site would normally be in easy walking distance of the community served. These were used in the desktop evaluation, along with additional practical considerations of access such as busy roads, footpaths etc.

- 3.4 Similarly there is no clear definition of what constitutes an extensive tract of land but it must be local in character and therefore large areas of green space which are of much more than local significance were considered and a judgment made as to whether they are fulfilling the spirit and purpose of this LGS designation.

- 3.5 Two additional criteria are included into the matrix for reasons as set out below:

- **Public access** – Although not a requirement for LGS designation, public access can be a key factor as to why the site may be considered demonstrably special, for example

⁴ Horsham District Council, 2019, *Local Plan Review Timetable* [ONLINE] Available at <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/planning/local-plan/local-plan-review-timetable>

⁵ Horsham District Council, 2014, *The Horsham District Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment: February 2014* https://www.horsham.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66504/Sport-Open-Space-Recreation-Assessment-February-2014.pdf

with regard to its recreational value. This criteria has been added to assist in identifying where public access is necessary in order to fulfil the criteria for recreational value.

- **Layers of designation** – The NPPG asks that, where there are already protective designations on site, consideration is given to the additional benefit LGS designation would offer. This criteria is added so that it is clear where there is potential for layering of designation, so consideration can be given as to the benefits of LGS designation.

- 3.6 Paragraph 100 of the NPPF sets out a further test; namely that the green area is demonstrably special to the local community. This criteria required a more detailed analysis which was undertaken through Stage 2.

Stage 2: Detailed analysis

- 3.6 The second stage of this evaluation involved a more detailed analysis of those sites that remain following the first sieve and focused on the following criteria set out in paragraph 100 of the NPPF which states that the LGS designation should only be used where, *‘the green area is 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 in wildlife’*.

- 3.7 In order to fulfil the requirements, at least one of the five criteria must be met to highlight what makes it demonstrably special. The assessment has considered each of these five terms using the key considerations and prompts as set out below:

- **Beauty** - Beauty is clearly a very subjective concept but we have used the normal meaning of the word i.e. a combination of qualities, such as shape, colour, or form that pleases the aesthetic senses, especially the sight, (Oxford Dictionaries) to assess the sites through site visits.
- **Historic significance** – Consideration is given to how the proposed LGS holds particular local significance with regard to the history of the community or settlement e.g. historic village events, historic buildings, structure or landscape features present on site with a particular connection to the local community.
- **Recreational value** – First hand observations from site visits of how the site is used for recreation e.g. playing sport, informal recreation, children’s play etc.
- **Tranquillity** - Tranquillity is considered to be a state of calm, quietude and is associated with a feeling of peace; a state of mind that promotes mental wellbeing. It is a perceptual quality of the landscape, and is influenced by things that people can both see and hear around them. Positive tranquillity factors include seeing a natural landscape, natural looking woodland, rivers and open vistas, and hearing natural sounds such as birdsong, an absence of human activity, or even silence. Evidence from site visits were used.
- **Wildlife** – consideration is given to how the proposed LGS holds particular local significance for example through its management for wildlife, or for its role for local wildlife within the settlement, as observed when on site.

- 3.8 To complete stage 2 of the assessment, site visits were undertaken in early December 2019 and were supported by further desk top analysis as necessary.

4. Assessment results

- 4.1 There are two stages to the assessment. The first stage is a pre-site visit, desktop review and study. All sites are tested and reviewed, if there are any sites that do not match the immediate criteria or are contrary to the NPPF, they are ruled out at this stage. All the sites left after this will proceed to stage two, and a site visit will be conducted.

Stage 1: Desktop review and first sieve

- 4.2 This first stage of assessment considered each of the 23 proposed LGS sites as set out in Section 3 above. The detail of this assessment is set out in Appendix 1. Through this process, the following four sites were discarded:

- **l) River Arun Flood Plain** – Extensive tract of land, in multiple ownership.
- **c) Downs Link, off Church Street, Station Road, Lynwick Street** – Already designated as a bridleway/path. The NPPF para 018 states that there is no need to designate linear corridors such as RoW.
- **d) Sussex Border Path, off Church Street** - Already designated as a bridleway/path. The NPPF para 018 states that there is no need to designate linear corridors such as RoW.
- **e) Other Footpaths and bridleways, as signed by WSCC** – Too little information and they will already designated as a bridleways/paths. The NPPF para 018 states that there is no need to designate linear corridors such as RoW.

- 4.3 The desktop analysis found that the remaining 19 sites appear to fulfil the initial criteria and are therefore considered in more detail in the next stage of the assessment.

Stage 2: Detailed analysis

- 4.4 This second stage of assessment involved a detailed analysis of the remaining 19 proposed LGS sites, including site visits. The detail of this assessment is set out in Appendix 2. Of these the following seven sites were identified as fulfilling the criteria at this time:

- **a) King George V Playing Fields**

The King George V Playing Fields could be the most important Local Green Space site within the Neighbourhood Area. The Large Playing Fields host a mix of facilities that are all open to the public; play area, village hall, skate ramps, youth centre, café, football pitches, tennis courts and a specialised community facility of 'Little Street'. It has two separate car parks either side of the field and is located off of the A281 south of the main settlement of Rudgwick. It is a good central location for the surrounding community and is flat and easily accessible. The Playing Fields are maintained by Rudgwick Parish Council and used prominently by clubs for sport and recreation purposes. There is also a biodiversity site adjacent to the site to the west, this was originally carried out by the Parish Council Biodiversity Project⁶. Links to this site from the Playing Fields are established.

- **b) Churchmans Meadow**

⁶ Horsham District Council, 2009, *Rudgwick Parish Design Statement* [ONLINE]
https://www.horsham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/66845/Rudgwick-Parish-Design-Statement.pdf

The Churchmans Meadow is a play area with open space managed by Rudgwick Parish Council. It is nearby to a collection of housing, and is close to the community. It is an established open space with good connectivity just to the east of the central road B2128/Church Street. The site is bordered by trees and an established boundary. This would be an important space to the community, with flat, accessible entrance and facilities.

- **f) Land at Foxholes Woods**

Foxholes Woods is a wooded area to the western side of the built up area of Rudgwick. It is adjacent to 'Foxholes' residential development. It can be accessed via the Downs Link pathway to the west. The site is quite steep in topography and drops away when accessed from Foxholes development. There are informal pathways through the trees going off to the Downs Link and to the north. There is potential here for wildlife (which could be better assessed in the Spring/summer months), with an element of tranquillity. The site is close-by to the built up area and would be accessible to the community. It may be less accessible to possibly people with younger children or disability issues due to uneven surfaces and steepness. It does provide a different kind of green space for the community.

- **j) Holy Trinity Church imminent extension**

The Holy Trinity church is a Grade I listed building that sits within the Rudgwick Conservation Area to the north of the parish. It is a pretty, calm, tranquil area with a potential for wildlife in the spring/summer months. The site itself As it is currently mapped it may be unreasonable to just designate the pathway and the adjacent land, it may be advisable just designating the site adjacent. This is because the Church yard and pathway is within the Conservation Area and therefore already afforded some protection, and layers of designations are often unsuitable.

The extension to the east of the Holy Trinity Church is accessible via the Holy Trinity Church graveyard pathway. It is a square piece of flat grassy land that feels like a natural extension to the graveyard, with a small boundary between the two.

- **k) Summerfold Open Space**

Summerfold Open Space is part of the 'Land south of Summerfold' private development to the east of Church Road. The space is assumed to be used predominantly by the residents, but is publically accessible to all members of the community. There is a balance pond to the south of the open space, which I presume would attract biodiversity value in the non-winter months. There is a pathway that runs through that is flat in topography, so accessible to people of all disabilities.

- **n) l. Church Street (east side) in Conservation Area Wide Verge**

The Church Street verges are located in the centre of the village and provide the function of linking the northern part of Rudgwick (by the Church), to the southern/central area. Parts of the footpath from the Church to the north are unfinished so this area provides an informal safe way for people to commute along Church Lane. The area is also wide enough that it

could form an informal recreational area for children from the adjacent houses or Windacres/Summerfold developments just to the south.

- **n) 6b. Haven Road and Naldretts Lane**

6b Haven Road and Naldretts Lane is an area that I could see having potential for recreational purposes for the Bucks Green area. There are residential properties adjacent to these areas, and with no formalised recreational area, these verges could provide this purpose for residents of this community. The hedges of the residential properties offer as a barrier, so the verges do not feel like a continuation of residential amenity, but more a shared community facility.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The assessment has identified the following seven sites which are considered to fulfil the criteria of being demonstrably special, these are set out in paragraph 3.7 above. The following sites have met at least one of those criteria:

- **a) King George V Playing Fields** – principally for its recreational value to the local community.
- **b) Churchmans Meadow** – principally for its recreational value to the local community.
- **f) Land at Foxholes Woods** – principally for its recreation, tranquillity and potential wildlife value.
- **j) Holy Trinity Church imminent extension** – principally for its history and tranquillity value.
- **k) Summerfold Open Space** – principally for its recreational and possible biodiversity/wildlife value.
- **n) I. Church Street (east side) in Conservation Area Wide Verge** – principally for its recreational and history value.
- **n) 6b. Haven Road and Naldretts Lane** – principally for its recreational value.

5.2 The analysis and conclusions set out in this report are the result of an independent review of the sites proposed for inclusion in the Rudgwick Neighbourhood Plan, and provide an indication of the suitability of these sites for LGS designation in relation to the criteria and guidance of the NPPF and NPPG. **The Neighbourhood Planning group may wish to supplement this assessment with further technical or contextual information demonstrating how the site is special to the local community which may ultimately lead them to come to a different conclusion than ourselves.**

Appendix I – Local Green Space Desk top review & first sieve

Note: The Horsham District Council Local Character Assessment (LCA)⁷ 2003 doesn't note anything distinctively about Rudgwick or the surrounding area. It mentions the central area of Horsham District, north of the upper chalk of the South Downs occupied by rolling hilly Lower Greensand, Gault Clay and Upper Greensand formations.

The West Sussex County Council Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape⁸ 2005 comments on the characteristics of the Low Weald, including Rudgwick and the surrounding area. It comprises the gentle clay vales, wooded streams feeding into the River Arun and Adur and a prominent clay ridge between Rudgwick, Charlwood and Crawley. This area can be characterised by patchwork of fields enclosed by small mix of woodlands, copses and hedgerows.

The Horsham District Council Landscape Capacity Assessment (2014)⁹ characterises Rudgwick and Bucks Green as being within the Low Weald landscape character area. With a strong network of woodland, hedgerows and enclose small pasture fields. The river valley to the south of Bucks Green characterised the narrow valley containing wet pastures and strips of woodland.

Appendix I table below shows all 23 sites that were examined in the desktop analysis.

Site Name	Publicly accessible?	Subject to other designation?	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment (stage 2)?
			Planning permission?	Allocated/ proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
a) King George V Playing Fields , RH12 3JJ	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Larger recreational open space in the southern part of Rudgwick. It is used by sports teams and groups, and is managed by the Parish Council. It is accessible via the A281 and close to Rudgwick and the surrounding schools. Easy to link to other areas of	Yes

⁷ Horsham District Council, 2003, *Horsham District Landscape Character Assessment* [ONLINE] https://www.horsham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/66546/Landscape-Character-Assessment-2003.pdf

⁸ West Sussex County Council, 2005, *A Strategy for the West Sussex Landscape* [ONLINE] https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/1771/landscape_strategy.pdf

⁹ Horsham District Council, 2014, *Horsham District Landscape Capacity Assessment* [ONLINE] https://www.horsham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/66768/Landscape-Capacity-Study-2014.pdf

Site Name	Publicly accessible?	Subject to other designation?	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment (stage 2)?
			Planning permission?	Allocated/proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
							the parish and the countryside and accessible to the public.	
b) Churchmans Meadow , off Church Street	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Small/medium triangle sized area of open space and play area provided by the Pondfield Road development. There is a small amount of car parking and is open to the public. It sits away from the main road of Church Street but is still central to Rudgwick. It is also adjacent to the new housing development Summerfold site to the north.	Yes
c) Downs Link , off Church Street, Station Road, Lynwick Street	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Downs Link is a long distance footpath of disused railway that runs from the Surrey Hills, Low Weald into the South Downs. The Downs Link runs through the centre of the village and is used by dog walkers and cyclists. The Downs Link is already designated as a bridleway/path, and the NPPF notes in paragraph 018 that there is no need to designate linear corridors simply to protect rights of way.	No
d) Sussex Border Path , off Church Street	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The Sussex Border Path is already designated as a bridleway/path, and the NPPF notes in paragraph 018 that there is no need to designate linear corridors simply to protect rights of way.	No
e) Other Footpaths and bridleways , as signed by WSCC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Footpaths and bridleways are already designated as a bridleway/path, and the NPPF notes in paragraph 018 that there is no need to designate linear corridors simply to protect rights of way.	No

Site Name	Publicly accessible?	Subject to other designation?	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment (stage 2)?
			Planning permission?	Allocated/ proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
f) Land at Foxholes Woods (up to Tip Pond), adjacent to Downs Link	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	This area is adjacent to the Foxholes residential development, to the west of Church Lane. It links to the Downs Link pathway to the North-West. It is accessible by the public from the Downs Link or the footpath southern edge of Foxholes. It is currently owned by Rudgwick Parish Council and is quite densely wooded.	Yes
g) Rudgwick Primary School Playing Field and Woodland , RH12 3HW	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Subject to accessibility and site visit. The site is a square piece of land within the amenity of Rudgwick Primary School boarded by trees with a small wooded area to the east. It is close to the centre of the community, and is owned by West Sussex County Council Education Department. The Conservation lies to the north-west.	Yes
h) Pennthorpe School playing field and Woodland , RH12 3HJ	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Subject to accessibility and site visit. The site is noted in the 2014 HDC Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment as to having Cricket Pitch provision (with limited public access) within Horsham District. The site is large and boarded by trees and is used and owned by Pennthorpe School. The site is set back from Church Street that runs through the centre of Rudgwick.	Yes
i) Rikkyo School Sports areas , RH12 3BE	No	No	No	No	Yes	?	Subject to accessibility and site visit. The location seems to be quite isolated in the countryside, surrounded by trees and wooded areas. Site is still	Yes

Site Name	Publicly accessible?	Subject to other designation?	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment (stage 2)?
			Planning permission?	Allocated/ proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
							being considered at this stage as am unaware of public accessibility.	
j) Holy Trinity Church, graveyard and imminent extension.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	The Holy Trinity Church is a Grade I listed building and is of local and national historical significance. The church and graveyard is within the Rudgwick Conservation Area, with the imminent extension being adjacent to the Conservation Area. The area itself is quite large for the location, however it has an aspect of historic importance and tranquillity.	Yes
k) Summerfold Open Space	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	The Summerfold development site is adjacent to the central avenue of Church Street. The open space was provided through the development and is open to the public. It is a small area, boarded by trees with a pond which could provide an aspect of biodiversity.	Yes
l) Windacres Farm Lane, open spaces and pond.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Development and subsequent Green Space is currently not finished, although the landscaping is nearly complete. This site could be reviewed at a later date depending on timescale of development or further iterations of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.	No
m) River Arun Flood Plain	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This area is not appropriate for LGS designation as the land is too extensive and there are multiple landowners. At a later stage with more information from the Parish Council or Steering Group due to	No

Site Name	Publicly accessible?	Subject to other designation?	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment (stage 2)?
			Planning permission?	Allocated/proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
							the biodiversity and beauty of the location may be something that could be revisited.	
n) Wide Verges (1-9) 1. Church Street (east side) in Conservation Area	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Linear route within the Conservation Area. Is in the centre of Rudgwick and is publically accessible. It is nearby to the Holy Trinity Church Grade I listed building to the north. The verge is grassy and about 6-7metres wide.	Yes
2. Cox Green	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Linear route including a small triangle of land north of the Conservation Area. The area of land goes right to the northern border of Horsham, adjacent to Mole Valley and Waverely. In some areas the verges are not continuous and become part of the built form.	Yes
3. Hale verges	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Linear route in the Hale area of Rudgwick Parish. Area seems quite isolated in the countryside and far from the community. The verge is roughly 300m long and is on both sides of the road.	Yes
4. Hornshill Lane	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Hornshill Lane is a linear area north of Tisman Common. They run adjacent to the road line. The route is assumed grassy with vegetation and hedgerow.	Yes
5. Watts Corner footpath and verges	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	This area is just south of the centre of Rudgwick. It is a linear route that follows the A281 and is part of Bucks Green. The verge links closely to the King	Yes

Site Name	Publicly accessible?	Subject to other designation?	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment (stage 2)?
			Planning permission?	Allocated/ proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
							George V Playing Field (LGS A in this assessment) and is the principle LGS in Rudgwick.	
6a. Haven Road	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Haven Road has been split into two separate identified areas. This is primarily down to this desktop assessment. 6a Haven Road is a linear route that runs to the south of Rudgwick close to Bucks Green.	Yes
6b. Haven Road and Naldretts Lane	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	6b Haven Road and Naldretts Lane is south of Rudgwick and within the settlement of Bucks Green. The green areas are generally linear, with a triangular verge in the centre.	Yes
7. Garlands Verges	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Garlands Verges are linear grassy routes to the south of Howick Farm. This seems to be the most rural of all the verges, and is far from any of the surrounding community of Rudgwick parish.	Yes
8. Okehurst Lane verges	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Southerly point of the parish, far from community but grassy verges may be used for long distance walkers.	Yes
9. Rowhook Farm	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	This route is to the north-east of the parish but nearby to the Rowhook settlement outside of the Parish. The grass verge runs on both side of Rowhook Road nearby to The Chequers Inn.	Yes

Appendix 2 - Local Green Space Detailed Analysis Matrix

*An important comment at this stage is to note the timing of the Local Green Spaces site visits. All of the sites received a 'no' for Wildlife, but this could be due to the site visits taking place in early December and not in the Spring/Summer. If there is any reasonable potential for wildlife then it will be mentioned below in the comments.

Appendix 2 table shows all the sites (19) that were applicable for the second stage of assessment. These were the sites that were visited on 6th December 2019.

Site name	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
	Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife*		
a) King George V Playing Fields	No	No	Yes	No	No	The King George V Playing Fields could be the most important Local Green Space site within the Neighbourhood Area. The Large Playing Fields host a mix of facilities that are all open to the public; play area, village hall, skate ramps, youth centre, café, football pitches, tennis courts and a specialised community facility of 'Little Street'. It has two separate car parks either side of the field and is located off of the A281 south of the main settlement of Rudgwick. It is a good central location for the surrounding community and is flat and easily accessible. The Playing Fields are maintained by Rudgwick Parish Council and used prominently by clubs for sport and recreation purposes. There is also a biodiversity site adjacent to the site to the west, this was originally carried out by the Parish Council Biodiversity Project ¹⁰ . Links to this site from the Playing Fields are established.	Yes
b) Churchmans Meadow	No	No	Yes	No	No	The Churchmans Meadow is a play area with open space managed by Rudgwick Parish Council. It is nearby to a collection of housing, and is close to the community. It is an established open space with good connectivity just to the east of the central road	Yes

¹⁰ Horsham District Council, 2009, *Rudgwick Parish Design Statement* [ONLINE] https://www.horsham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/66845/Rudgwick-Parish-Design-Statement.pdf

Site name	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
	Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife*		
						B2128/Church Street. The site is bordered by trees and an established boundary. This would be an important space to the community, with flat, accessible entrance and facilities.	
c) Downs Link Pathway						Site removed at Stage one	
d) Sussex Border Path						Site removed at Stage one	
e) Other Footpaths and bridleways						Site removed at Stage one	
f) Land at Foxholes Woods	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Foxholes Woods is a wooded area to the western side of the built up area of Rudgwick. It is adjacent to 'Foxholes' residential development. It can be accessed via the Downs Link pathway to the west. The site is quite steep in topography and drops away when accessed from Foxholes development. There is informal pathways through the trees going off to the Downs Link and to the north. There is potential here for wildlife (which could be better assessed in the Spring/summer months), with an element of tranquillity. The site is close-by to the built up area and would be accessible to the community. It may be less accessible to possibly people with younger children or disability issues due to uneven surfaces and steepness. It does provide a different kind of green space for the community.	Yes
g) Rudgwick Primary School Playing Field and Woodland	No	No	Yes	No	No	Located in the south east side of Rudgwick built up area, Rudgwick Primary School has a medium sized square piece of land. It is used by the Primary School for recreational purposes during break/lunch time, and possibly after school. The land is in the ownership of West Sussex County Council and it may be inappropriate to choose to designate it as a LGS. There may be instances, for example, where it is appropriate for this land to be used to extend the school and designating it could	No

Site name	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
	Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife*		
						create issues for doing this. It may be worthwhile for the Parish Council/Steering Group to consider allocating these types of spaces for community-use spaces instead of LGS. This will still offer a level of importance and designation, but also gives the school freedom for future expansion. (Note: There are no photos below as it would not be appropriate to photograph either LGS g, h or i).	
h) Pennthorpe School playing field and Woodland	No	No	Yes	No	No	This area forms part of the grounds for the Pennthorpe Private School. Although the Steering Group note the significance of open spaces as part of a child's welfare upon my site visit, I was not able to access or view the area. In that instance I therefore cannot be considered demonstrably special to meet the Local Green Space criteria due to a lack of information.	No
i) Rikkyo School Sports areas	No	No	Yes	No	No	This area forms part of the grounds for the Rikkyo Private School. Although the Steering Group note the significance of open spaces as part of a child's welfare upon my site visit, I was not able to access or view the area. In that instance I therefore cannot be considered demonstrably special to meet the Local Green Space criteria due to a lack of information.	No
j) Holy Trinity Church immediate extension	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	The Holy Trinity church is a Grade I listed building that sits within the Rudgwick Conservation Area to the north of the parish. It is a pretty, calm, tranquil area with a potential for wildlife in the spring/summer months. The site itself As it is currently mapped it may be unreasonable to just designate the pathway and the adjacent land, it may be advisable just designating the site adjacent. This is because the Church yard and pathway is within the Conservation Area and therefore already afforded some protection, and layers of designations are often unsuitable. The extension to the east of the Holy Trinity Church is accessible via the Holy Trinity Church graveyard pathway. It is a square piece of flat grassy land that feels like a natural extension to the graveyard, with a small boundary between the two.	Yes

Site name	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
	Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife*		
k) Summerfold Open Space	No	No	Yes	No	No	Summerfold Open Space is part of the 'Land south of Summerfold' private development to the east of Church Road. The space is assumed to be used predominantly by the residents, but is publically accessible to all members of the community. There is a balance pond to the south of the open space, which I presume would attract biodiversity value in the non-winter months. There is a pathway that runs through that is flat in typography, so accessible to people of all disabilities.	Yes
l) Windacres Farm Lane						Site removed at Stage one	
m) River Arun Flood Plain						Site removed at Stage one	
n) Wide Verges (1-9) 1. Church Street (east side) in Conservation Area						The Church Street verges are located in the centre of the village and provide the function of linking the northern part of Rudgwick (by the Church), to the southern/central area. Parts of the footpath from the Church to the north are unfinished so this area provides an informal safe way for people to commute along Church Lane. The area is also wide enough that it could form an informal recreational area for children from the adjacent houses or Windacres/Summerfold developments just to the south.	Yes
2. Cox Green leading to Hazledene Farm	No	No	No	No	No	After concluding the site visit, the triangle area of this area is currently being built on (single detached dwelling) so wouldn't justify a LGS designation. The verge is wider (2-3m) in some areas to the south, however these feel more like extensions to the properties and not areas for recreation etc. It is more detached from the main built up area, feels rural and is for residential purposes.	No
3. Hale verges	No	No	No	No	No	This site are grass verges that are south of Tisman Common, west of Hale and close to the parish boundary to the west. They are adjacent to Loxwood Road which is a national speed limit. They are wide verges, 7-8 metres approximately but do not offer	No

Site name	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
	Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife*		
						any use except possibly for stopping vehicles, and would not be suitable of demonstrably special for a LGS designation.	
4. Hornshill Lane	No	Part	No	No	No	Hornshill Lane are verges north of Tisman Common and the Mucky Duck Inn. They are adjacent to a handful of homes that are linear to Hornshill Lane. The verges are a small strip of grass, possible a metre or so wide and do not serve a purpose for a Local Green Space designation.	No
5. Watts Corner footpath and verges	No	No	No	No	No	The footpath would not be suitable for a Local Green Space designation as footpaths and bridleways are already designated as a bridleway/path. The NPPF notes in paragraph 018 that there is no need to designate linear corridors simply to protect rights of way. The verges in this area are useful for adding greenery into the central part of the village that is predominantly dominated by infrastructure. However the verges are very small in places and would not be applicable for Local Green Space designation.	No
6a. Haven Road	No	No	No	No	No	Haven Road is a small road that connect southward of Rudgwick and the A281. The road also crosses the River Arun. 6a is a large grassy verge on the eastern side with two residential properties that are set back from the road. The grassy verge is wide, approx. 10 metres. Although it is close by to the southern part of Rudgwick centre, I do not see this area being demonstrably special, with community members favouring more formal areas for recreation.	No
6b. Haven Road and Naldretts Lane	No	No	Yes	No	No	6b Haven Road and Naldretts Lane is an area that I could see having potential for recreational purposes for the Bucks Green area. There are residential properties adjacent to these areas, and with no formalised recreational area, these verges could provide this purpose for residents of this community. The hedges of the residential properties offer as a barrier, so the verges do not feel like a continuation of residential amenity, but more a shared community facility.	Yes

Site name	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
	Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife*		
7. Garlands Verges	No	No	No	No	No	The Garlands Verges and triangle are to the west of The Haven and to the south of Bucks Green. The verges are notably wider than any of the other aforementioned areas, however I am not sure their purpose would meet the criteria of a Local Green Space. There are no pathways here, so they may act as areas for ramblers/walkers to pass through the country lanes safely. The area itself is fairly tranquil and beautiful, but the verges themselves would not be suitable for designation.	No
8. Okehurst Lane verges	No	No	No	No	No	These verges are in a rural part of the parish, with no immediate settlement nearby. The grass verges are on both sides of a rural single lane track that goes through adjacent woodland, it was not obvious if this is publically accessible or not. The area itself was very tranquil but looking at the verges in isolation, they did not meet the criteria for being demonstrably special for LGS purposes.	No
9. Rowhook Farm	No	No	No	No	No	This is a narrow roadside verge that continues onto the neighbouring parish to the east/southeast. Although this is a pretty part of the settlement, with a different character to Rudgwick/Bucks Green, it does not provide a demonstrably special community use. The verges are not very wide, possibly just over one metre. I would consider that as there are no footpaths in this location that walkers may use them for safe passage, but this does not warrant a Local Green Spaces designation.	No

Appendix 3: Site Maps and Images

The following sites could were not photographed. This was due to lack of spatial/location information, or any of the LGS within a school amenity:

- e) **Other Footpaths and bridleways**
- g) **Rudgwick Primary School Playing Field and Woodland**
- h) **Pennthorpe School playing field and Woodland**
- i) **Rikkyo School Sports areas**

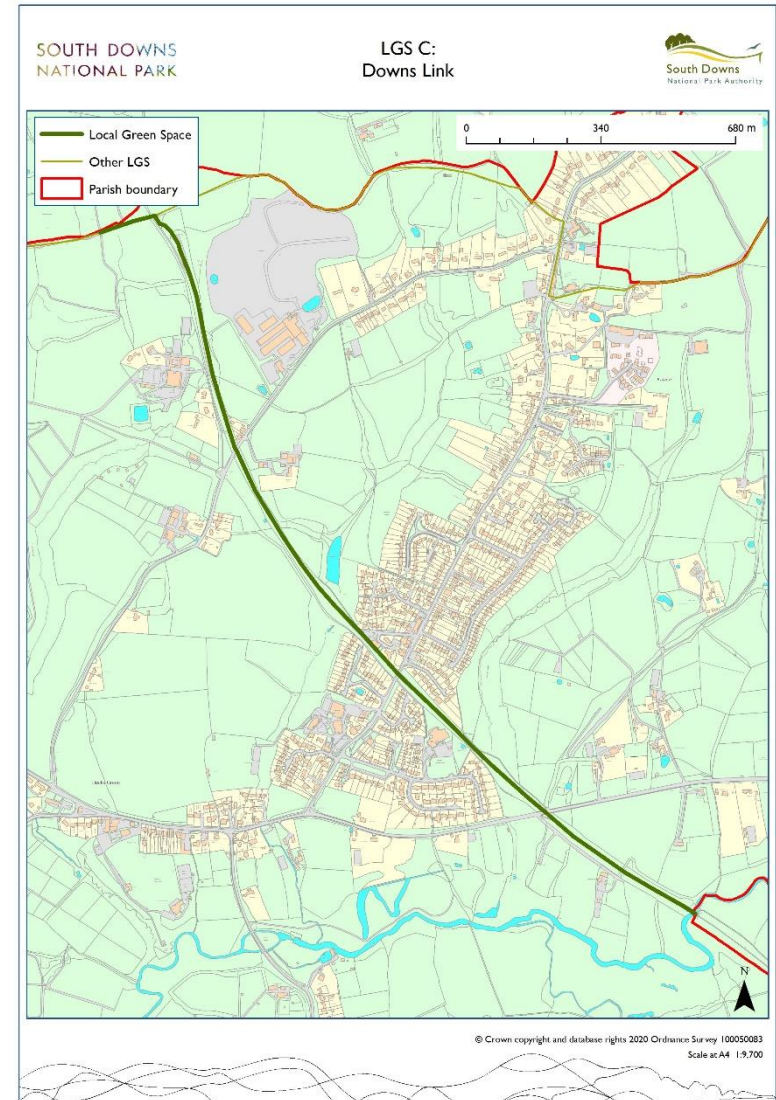
a) King George V Playing Fields



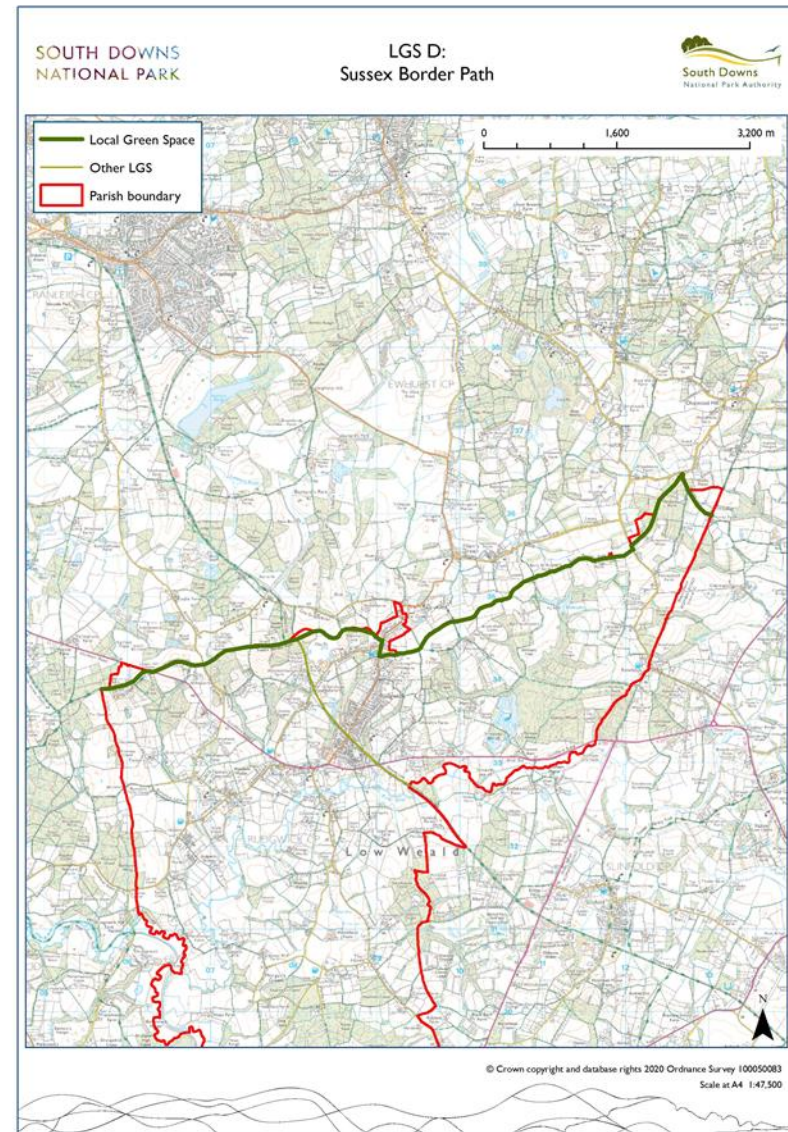
b) Churchmans Meadow



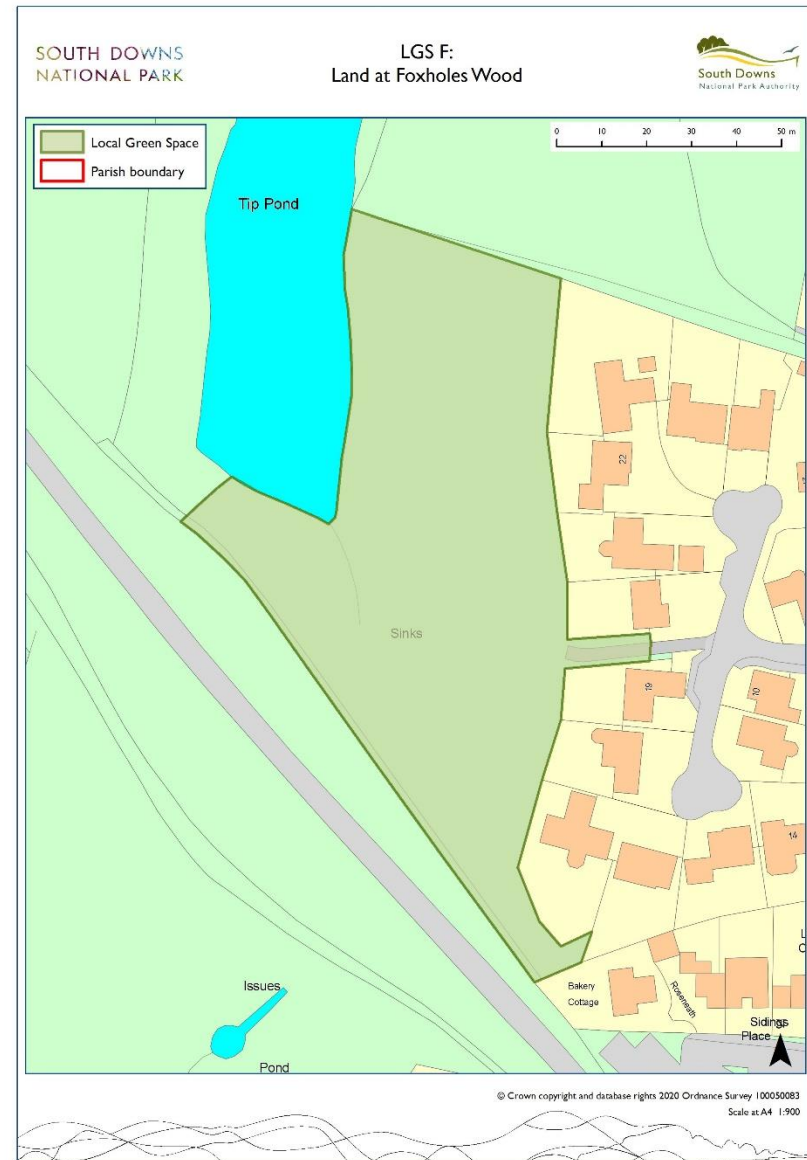
c) Downs Link Pathway



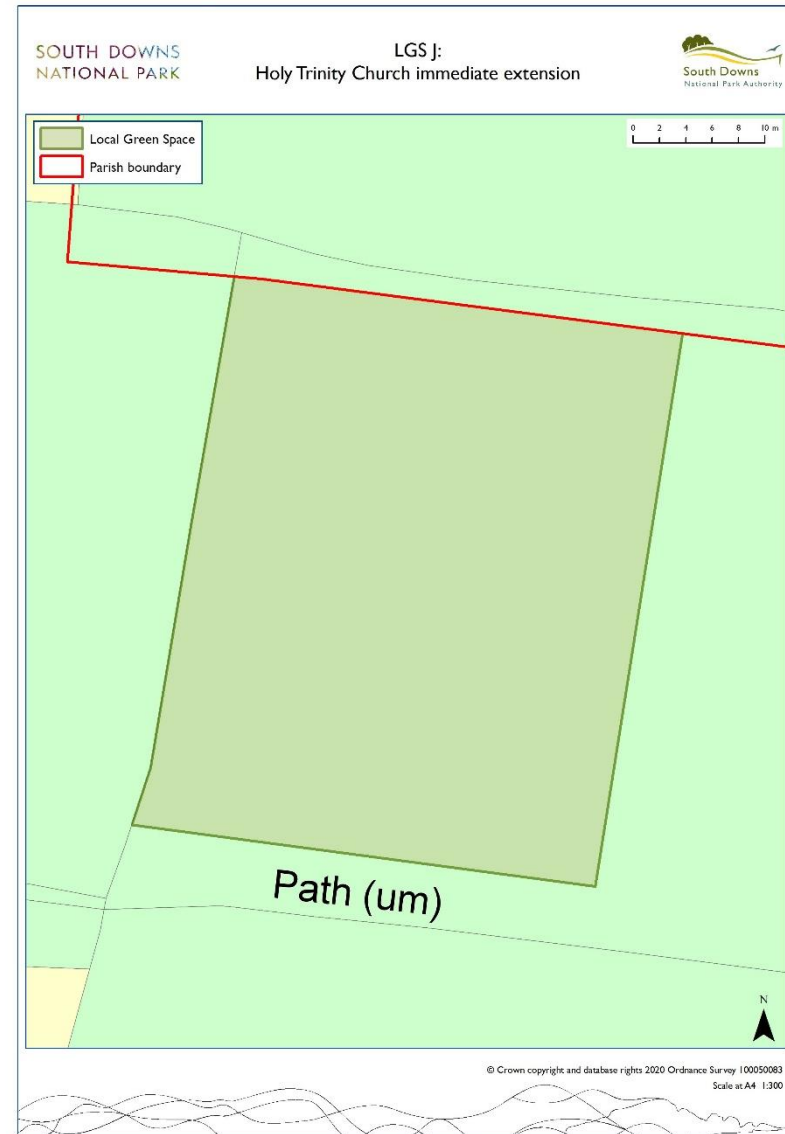
d) **Sussex Border Path**



f) Land at Foxholes Woods



j) Holy Trinity Church immediate extension

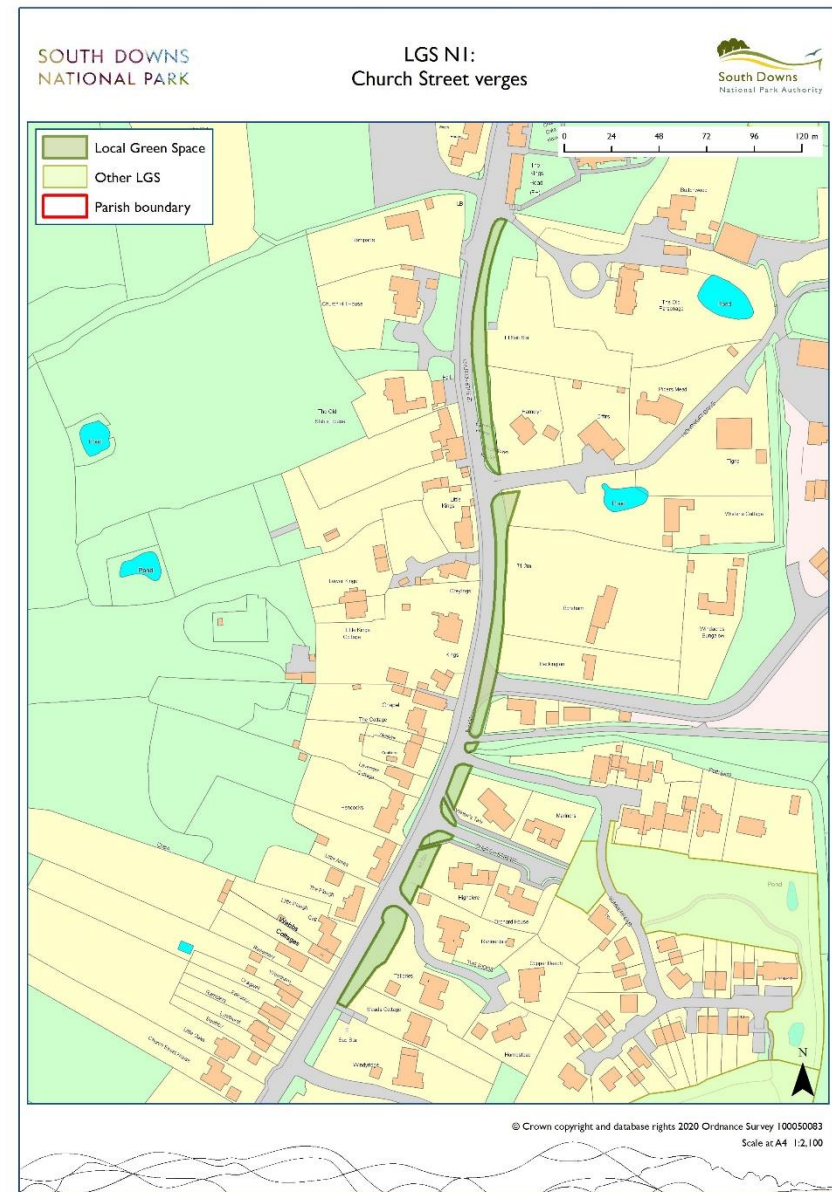


k) Summerfold Open Space

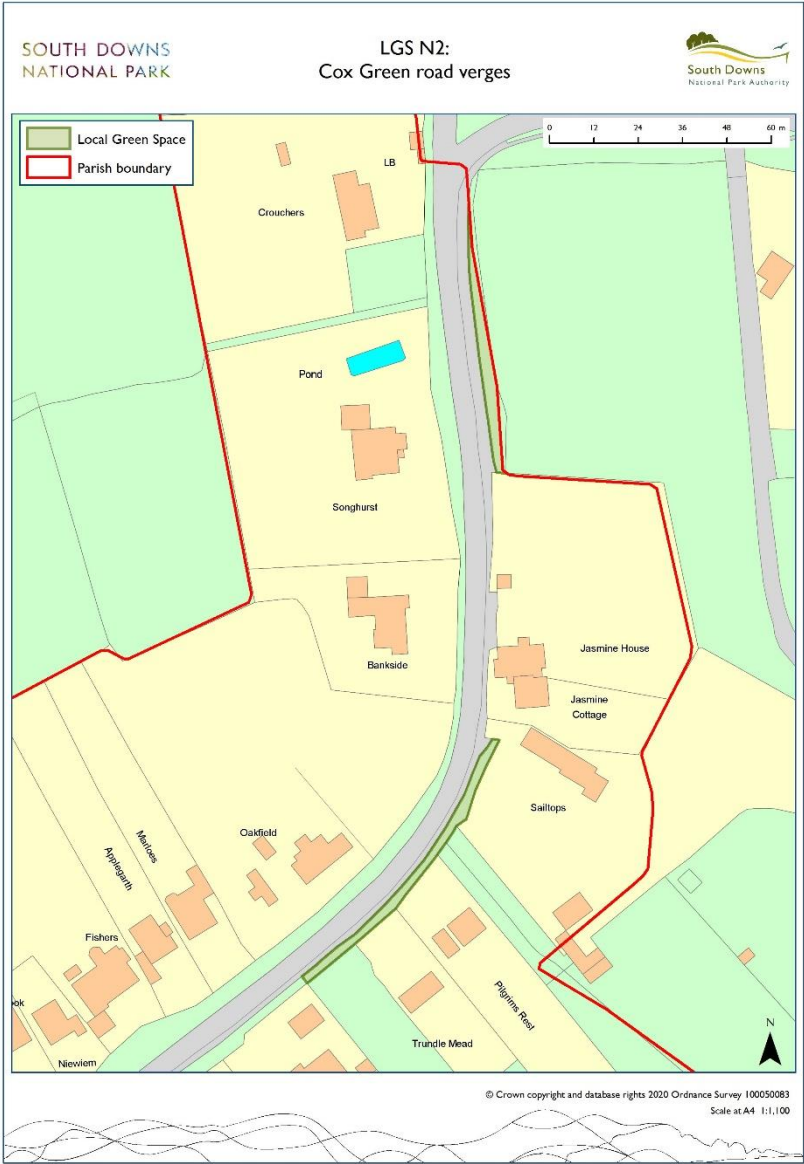


n) Wide Verges

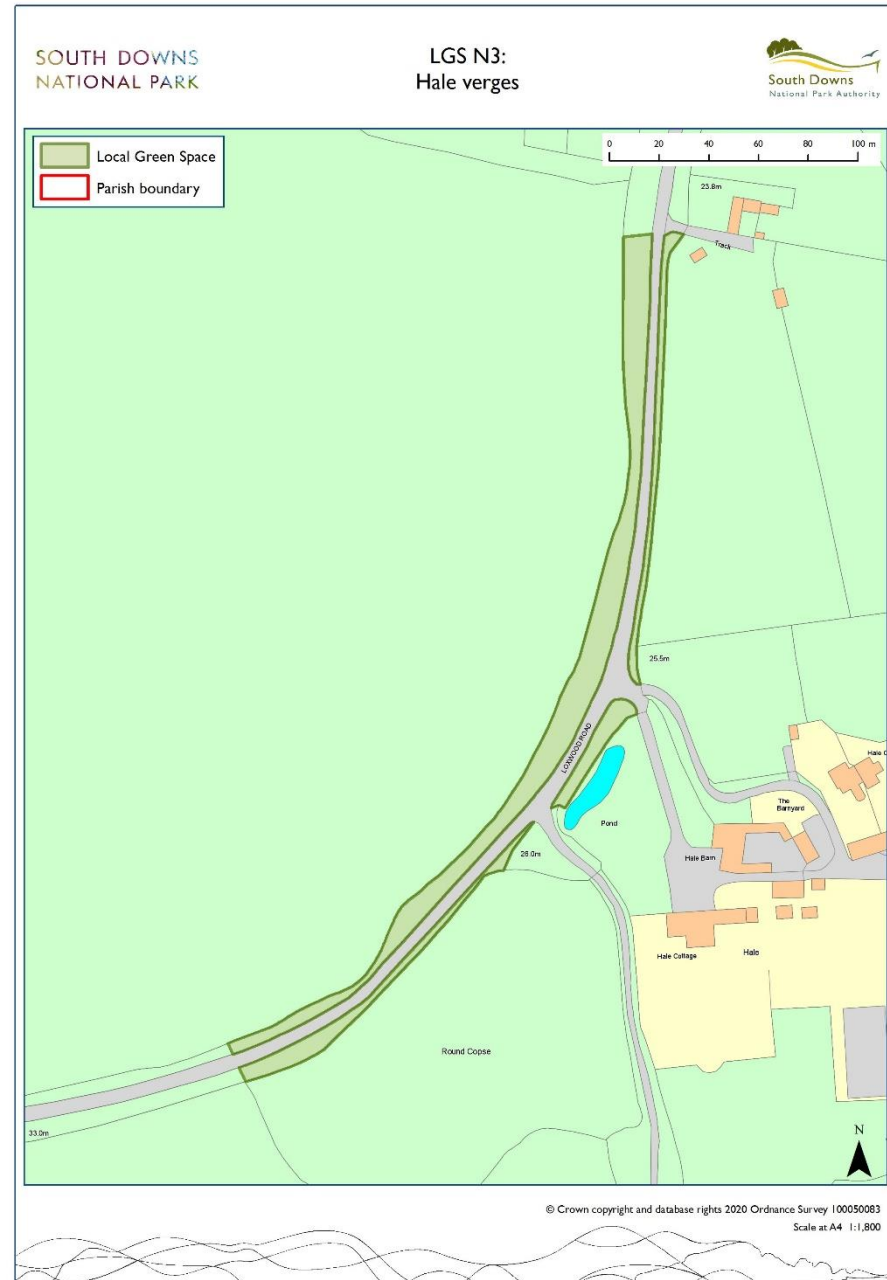
1. Church Street (east side) in Conservation Area



2. Cox Green leading to Hazledene Farm



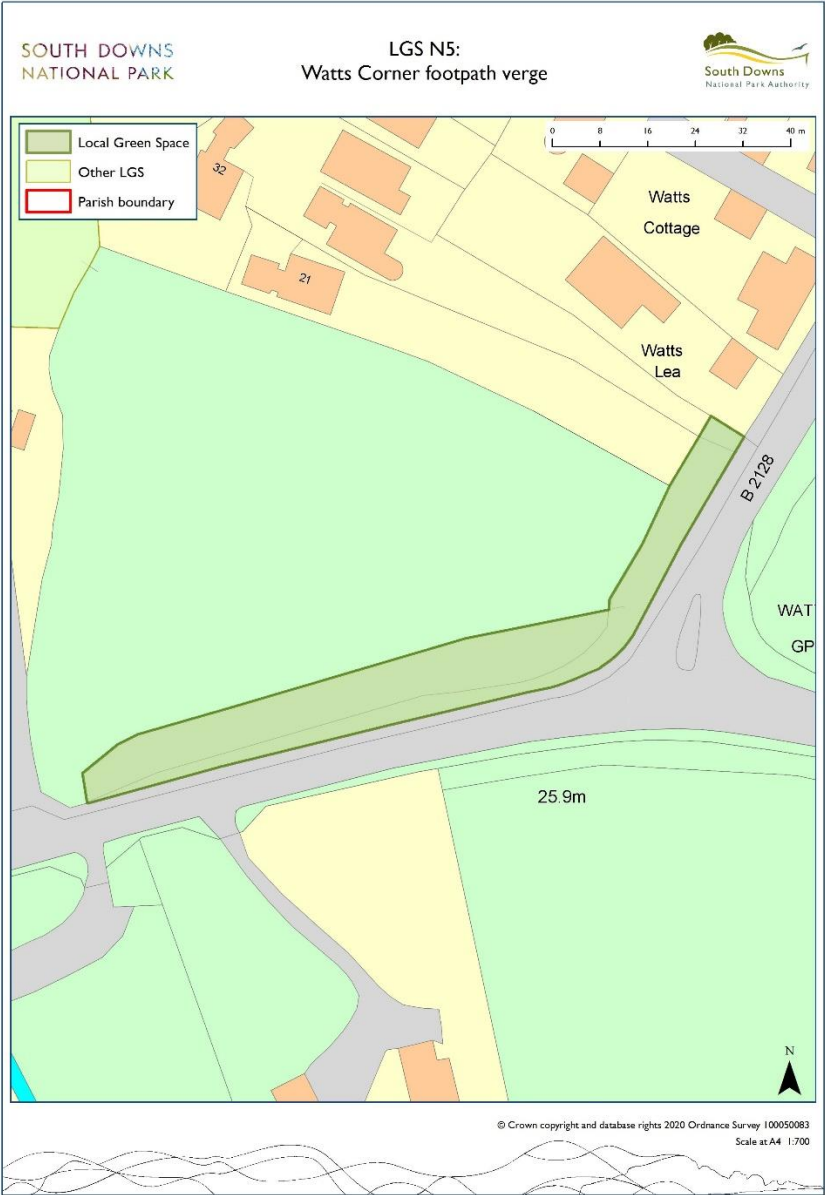
3. Hale verges



4. Hornshill Lane



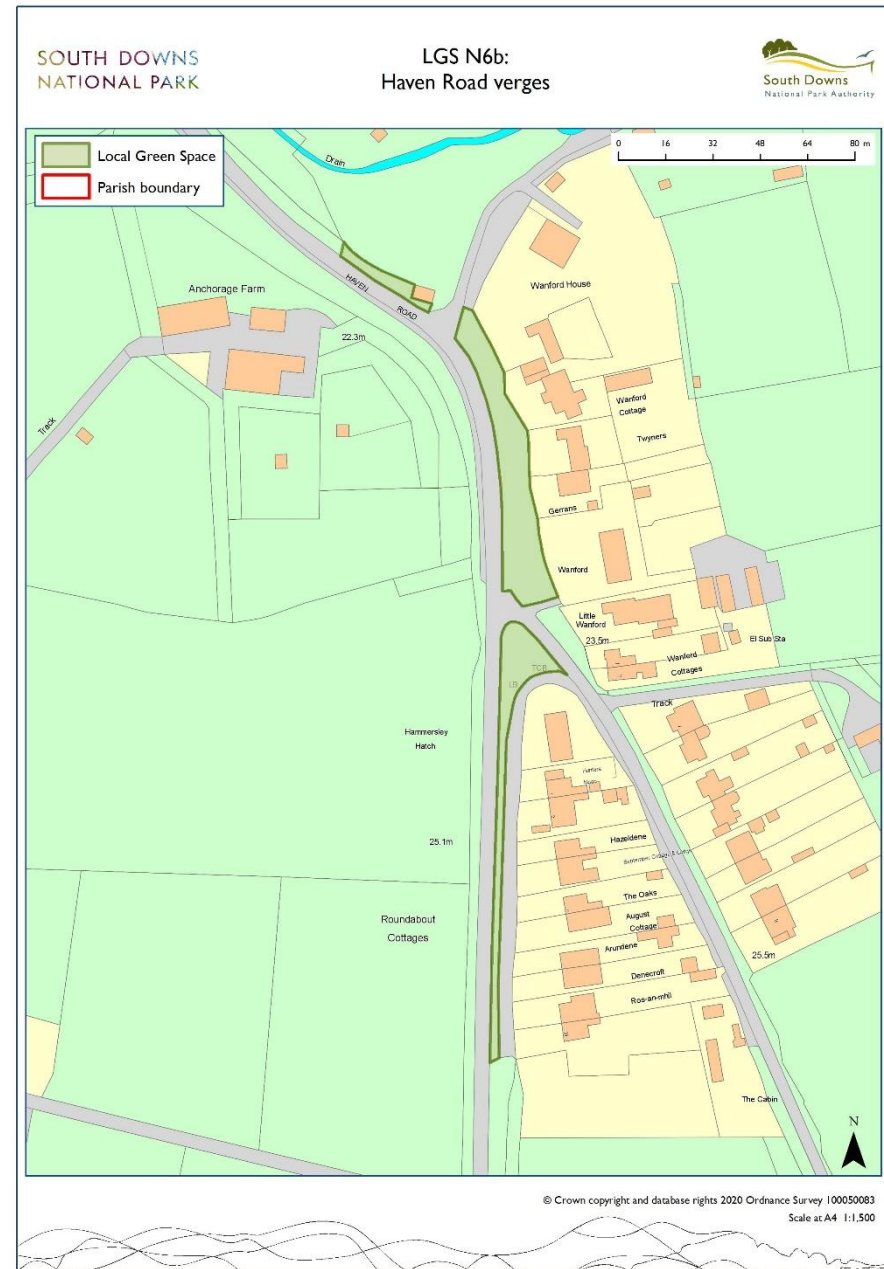
5. Watts Corner footpath



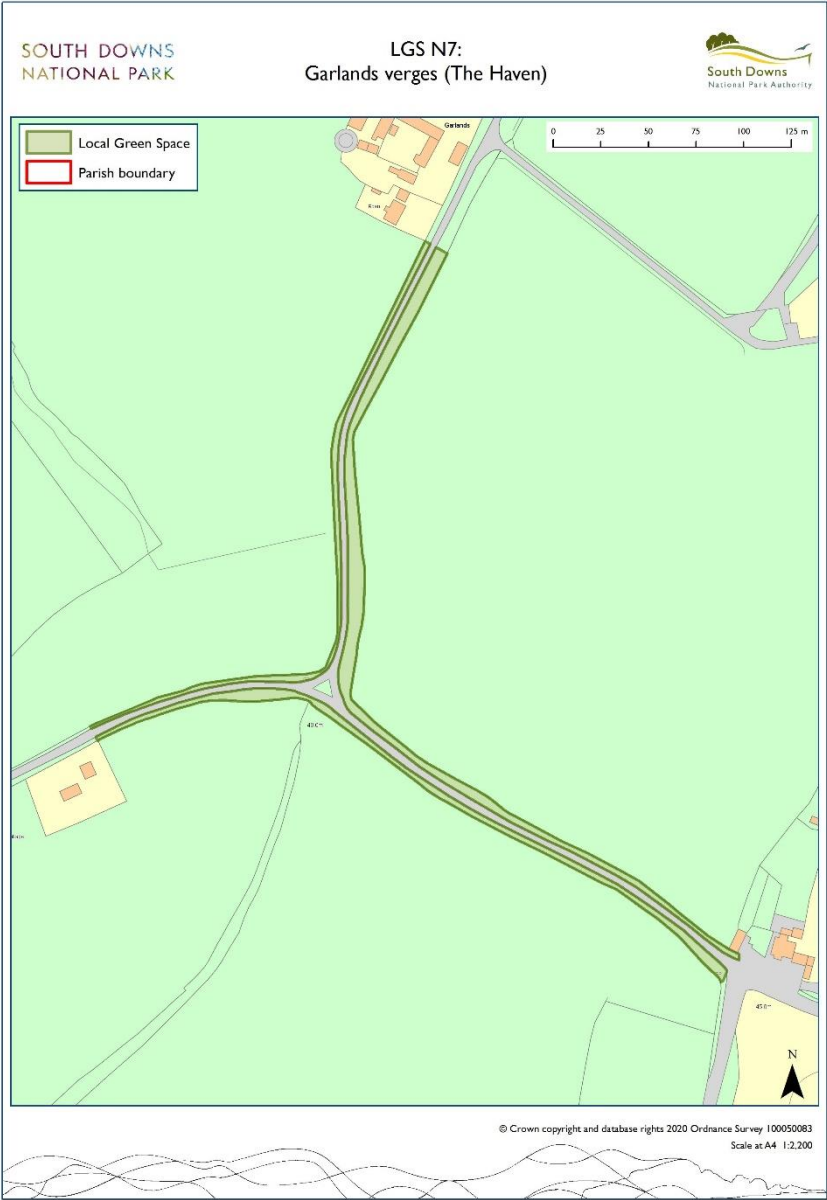
6a. Haven Road



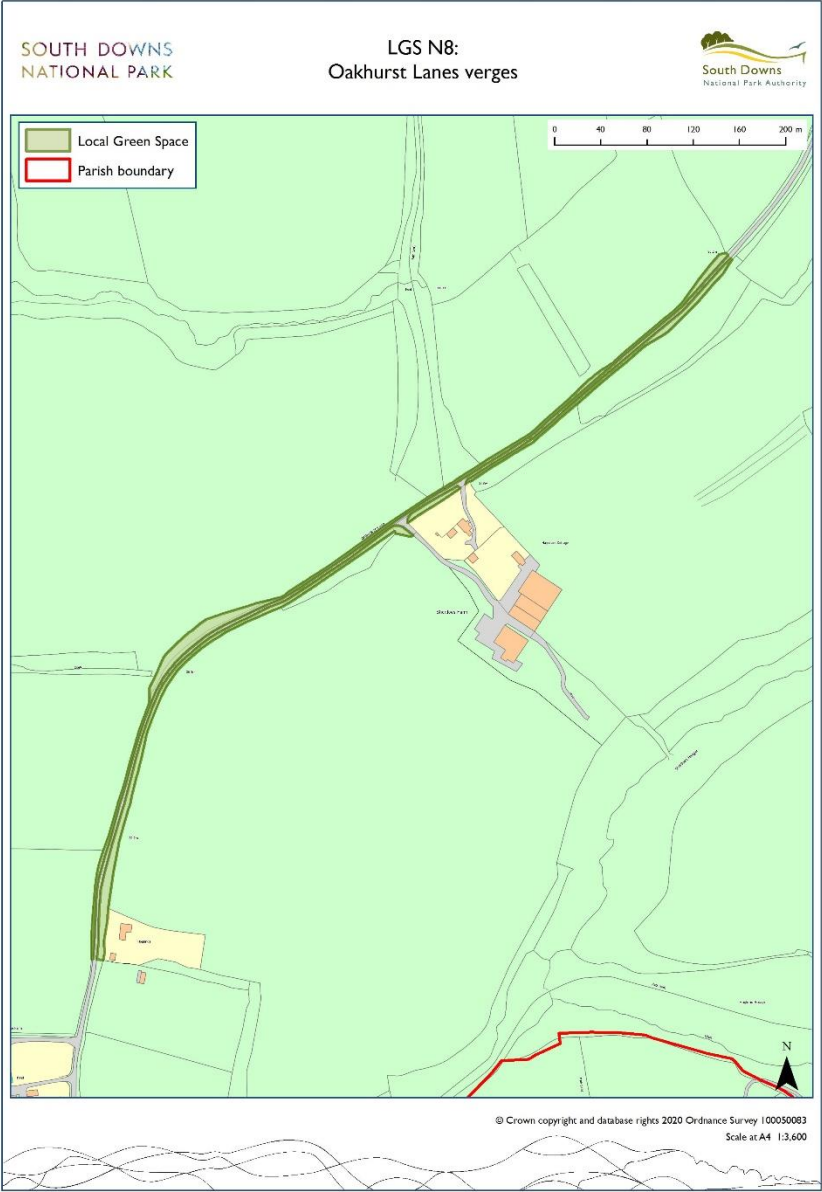
6b. Haven Road and Naldretts Lane



7. Garlands Verges



8. Okehurst Lane verges



9. Rowhook Farm

