



Ref: Agenda/Council-27/04/2021

22nd April 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

All Members of the Town Council are hereby summoned to the **Council Meeting of Biggleswade Town Council** that will take place on **Tuesday 27th April 2021 via Virtual access** commencing at **7.00 p.m.** in order to transact the under mentioned items of business.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Tarrant", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Tarrant
Town Clerk & Chief Executive

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AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- a. Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item.
- b. Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item.

3. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, pertaining to matters listed on the Agenda.

Please register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3Pcoljm-RkS2w4Gopsimlg

Each Speaker will give their name to the Chairman, prior to speaking, which will be recorded in the minutes, unless that person requests otherwise. Each Speaker will be allowed **(one) three-minute slot**.

5. **MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

a. **Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan**

For Members to receive a written report from Cllr Russell, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group and an oral update from Dave Chetwyn of Urban Vision Enterprise CIC and Jon Baldwin of Parrot Planning and Regeneration Ltd .

b. **Green Infrastructure Plan**

For Members to receive a written report from Cliff Andrews, Deputy Chief Executive, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity on the refreshing of the Green Infrastructure Plan and the recommendations for the designation of Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan.

c. **Drove Road Chapel**

For Members to receive a presentation from Brian Hawkins of Hawkins Historic connected to the specification and condition of Drove Road Chapel site.

7. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

To adjourn for a period of up to 15 minutes to allow members of the public to put questions or to address the Council, through the Chairman, in respect of any other business of the Town Council.

Please register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3Pcoljm-RkS2w4Gopsimlg

Each Speaker will give their name to the Chairman prior to speaking, which will be recorded in the minutes, unless that person requests otherwise. Each Speaker will be allowed **(one) three-minute slot**.

8. **EXEMPT ITEMS**

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

(9a. Neighbourhood Plan Budget)

(9b. Drove Road Chapel Financial Investment)

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL
Report to Full Council Meeting 27th April 2021

Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan

Our vision for Biggleswade is that it should be a thriving, large market town with individual shops, services and leisure offer in the town centre, retail and business parks to the south of the town and plenty of green spaces to enjoy the open air.

**Implications of
Recommendation**

Corporate Strategy	None
Finance	Financial implications in separate report
Equality	None directly
Environment	To protect the built environment and local green spaces
Community Safety	None directly

The Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan, which is in preparation, will shape the way that various aspects of the town develop. It will provide policies for development and the Planning Authority will need to consider planning applications against the Plan's policies.

The Central Bedfordshire Local Plan is in its final stages and is likely to be 'made' by September this year. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot override the Local Plan but must work within its policies and its allocations of land.

It is anticipated that the draft Neighbourhood Plan will begin its formal processes in the autumn, with examination by a planning inspector in the New Year and a referendum in May 2022. If 50% plus one of those voting approve the Plan, it will be 'made' shortly afterwards.

Background

Council resolved to produce a Neighbourhood Plan in June 2018 and to ask Central Bedfordshire Council to designate the plan area as that within the parish boundary. Formal approval was received from CBC on 4th July 2018. A steering group was formed and began work straightaway with delegated authority from Council to produce a draft plan. Since then, the group has been meeting regularly, gathering data about the town, looking at planning issues that arise, discussing ways in which the town might develop and how a Neighbourhood Plan might support that development to preserve the best aspects of Biggleswade whilst allowing sensible growth with the services which the town needs.

Neighbourhood plans can be far-reaching but the Town Council approved that the Plan should concentrate on four aspects of planning which are of most immediate concern and are brought up most often by local people.

Transport/Town Centre/Parking

The access problems at the station, the lack of parking, the minimal public transport and the need to encourage new businesses into the town centre are all issues which have been identified over many years. There are no easy solutions but other towns have dealt successfully with these problems and we will learn, develop and adopt the right policies through the formulation of this Plan.

Green Spaces

The vast majority of land in the parish is either already built on or will be under current plans. However, we are blessed with Biggleswade Common and the Green Wheel and want to protect the remaining green space that we have for the benefit of residents of the town.

Design Guide

The Town Centre is a Conservation Area but many plans get passed which are not in keeping with our market town and our vernacular architecture. A Design Guide will give clarity to developers and help planners ensure that we keep the good buildings we have and that new buildings are appropriate. The Design Guide will also enable us to set minimum standards for developers to comply with on all new builds, particularly new housing estates.

Leisure

The lack of leisure facilities in the town is often talked about. With a growing population and the market town catchment area, Biggleswade is becoming a better prospect for commercial investment in leisure and the Neighbourhood Plan will identify potential sites and, through consultation with residents of all ages, what would be the most welcome facilities/businesses.

Council also delegated a budget for the process. A separate report is being prepared on the current funding situation.

An initial public engagement was held in March 2019 and a large number of comments were made and issues raised. Some of those issues are outside the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan. Others have been taken forward by the Group. A further round of public engagement was planned for Spring 2020 but the pandemic intervened and also slowed the work of the Group.

Alongside the work of the Group, the CBC Local Plan has been in development and the Government has also introduced new planning law, particularly on permitted development. Both have precedence over a neighbourhood plan.

More recently, the Town Clerk & Chief Executive has set up a Project Group of officers to support the Steering Group, which is now the Strategy Group.

Current Situation

We are in the middle of a further round of public engagement so that residents can have their say on progress so far. The engagement is being conducted by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity via an online survey and is being promoted by BRCC and by the Town Council to encourage a good response. The next step will be to take note of the public's views and to produce a full draft of the Plan for Council to consider.

Urban Vision Enterprise CIC have been appointed to give the technical support needed to produce the Plan. Dave Chetwyn is Managing Director and Partner of UVE, with 30 years' experience in planning and regeneration. He has acted as a neighbourhood plan independent examiner and appeared as a public enquiry expert witness. He is the author of the *Locality Roadmap Guide to Neighbourhood Planning* and other guidance, including guides to regeneration, community-led housing and conservation professional practice.

Jon Baldwin is a Director of Parrott Planning and Regeneration Ltd. He is working with UVE but is based locally and has become the Project Manager and part of the Project Group. Jon also has many years' experience as a planner and has worked with both Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils.

Dave Chetwyn and Jon Baldwin will attend the meeting to speak about the Neighbourhood Plan: its scope, purpose and benefits; its relationship to the Local Plan; progress so far and the process and timescales from now on, including key decisions for the Council.

Recommendation

'To support the strategy for the Neighbourhood Plan and to endorse the way forward.'

Cllr. Madeline Russell
Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group

8th April 2021

Biggleswade Town Council Neighbourhood Plan – Project Plan Key Milestones

Project Milestone	Project Plan	Start date	Finish date	Outcome	Comments
2 nd Stage Public Engagement	Task 7	26.03.2021	03.05.2021	Report 17.05.21	BRCC preparing report
NP Progress Report to Full Council	N/A		27.04.2021	Strategy support & project endorsement	Occurs in last week of public engagement
BTC to Approve Reg.14 Draft Plan	Task 27		24.08.2021	Draft Plan sign-off enables public consultation to commence	Provisional date tbc
Regulation 14 Consultation by BTC	Task 28	27.08.2021	08.10.2021	Draft plan to be assessed against community feedback	6 weeks minimum, dates tbc
BTC approve Neighbourhood Plan	Task 33		16.11.2021	Final sign-off enables Plan to be submitted to LPA	Progress becomes CBC responsibility (date tbc)
Reg.16 Publicity by LPA	Task 35	Early Dec. 2021	Mid Jan. 2022	Pre-examination legal process	6 weeks minimum
Independent Examination of Plan	Task 37		Feb. 2022	CBC arrange examiner and agree date	Written process or possibly public hearing
LPA / BTC consider Inspector's recommendations	Task 39	March 2022	April 2022	Some modifications likely to be proposed	BTC may decide not to agree but to either challenge or withdraw
Pre-referendum publicity & Referendum	Task 40	April 2022	May 2022	CBC Arranged Process	28 working days notice. Simple majority "Yes" vote
Plan "made" by LPA	Task 41		June 2022	Plan adopted	CBC delegated procedure

Proposed Local Green Space Designations for Biggleswade



**This report is an assessment of sites identified, by the local community, in the
Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan to be considered for
Local Green Space Designation within the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan**



April 2021



Living Networks

Biggleswade

Green Infrastructure Plan

April 2021



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BIGGLESWADE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Introduction

The Biggleswade Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan is one of over 40 parish and town GI plans to have been produced across Bedfordshire.

The production of the Biggleswade GI Plan has been funded by Biggleswade Town Council (BTC) as part of their funding of the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan. It has been produced by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

The production of the GI Plan was requested by the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) on behalf of BTC; to be a valuable tool in its own right as a planning document, and to inform policies and objectives in the emerging Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan. This Plan is a revision of the original Biggleswade GI Plan (2010), see Appendix 1. This revised plan will be reviewed annually by BTC to determine progress made, and the NPSG will review the GI Plan every five years and update where required, on behalf of BTC.

BRCC was appointed to facilitate the production of this Plan as it is a charity that works with local communities and landowners to conserve and enhance the landscape, wildlife and history in this area. At the heart of BRCC's work is the belief that empowering local communities, giving them a say in issues that affect them, achieves the best results. BRCC has over 60 years' experience of community development support and facilitating community consultation; and has 25 years experience of planning and delivering green infrastructure projects in Bedfordshire.

The need for GI Planning has been identified at all levels, from central government, through regional bodies (the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy), to County and District levels. The Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic GI Plan was produced in 2007 by the Bedfordshire & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium. Parish and Town GI Plans are valuable tools for planners, committees, developers and communities themselves. They can help inform important decisions and help local people identify what is important to them, and what they would like to happen in the future. Parish and Town GI Plans have been used to support funding bids, helping people make important improvements to their local environment, and they also provide a snapshot of the local environment.

It should be acknowledged that not all of the aspirations identified will be delivered, because there are many other influencing factors, such as the views of landowners, existing planning permissions and allocations, potential future land use allocations and the cost of implementation. The value of this GI plan lies in the fact that it has been produced by local residents for their own community. It can help inform planning decisions and be used as a mechanism to identify where financial benefits from development should be directed. It cannot be used as a tool to prevent development but may influence considerations in the planning process. All aspirations that gained community support have been included; however, it remains a community owned document that, while supported by CBC, has not been formally adopted. The plan as a whole is based on a robust approach to mapping and implementing a high quality GI network for the existing, and future, residents of Biggleswade.

Context

Biggleswade lies on the River Ivel, 11 miles (18 km) south-east of Bedford and 20 miles (30 km) to the west-south-west of Cambridge.

Early historical writings suggested that the Gifle tribe settled in the area around the turn of the century, and by the Norman invasion of 1066 there were three manors; Biggleswade - Anglo Saxon from a personal name 'Biceil' & 'Waed', meaning ford. Stratton - Roman from 'Straet Tun' meaning 'road by the settlement of farmstead'. Holme - taken from the Old Norse name, 'Holm' meaning Island.

In 1227, King Henry III granted Biggleswade full market town status after an original confirmation from King John. The main Charter Market continues to the present day, and is held every Tuesday and Saturday in the Market Square.

Its geographical and territorial position has proved pivotal to Biggleswade's development as a town and its sense of identity. From the early Roman road, linking Baldock with Godmanchester, transport has been key and in the 1700's the Great North Road from Edinburgh to London came through the town. Biggleswade owed much of its early prosperity to highway coach trade and the town became a staging post of inns, which allowed travellers to rest while coach horses were changed on long journeys.

The creation of a navigable route on the river through Biggleswade in 1758 offered greater trade and transport links and three wharfs were built to allow the carrying of local agricultural produce, coal and timber. River trade continued to flourish until the 1876 when the Ivel Navigation Trust, who opened that stretch of the river, went into liquidation.

The opening of the Great Northern Railway in 1850 gave the growing local market gardening industry access to the bustling London markets, such as Covent Garden, with fresh vegetables flowing from the town, while Biggleswade received horse manure, sent by rail from London stables to enrich the sandy soil.

Biggleswade's agricultural links are still strong to this day, with many arable farmers working the local land, while the Jordan family have been producing their world famous cereal products in the town for well over 150 years.

After the end of the Second World War a major house building programme increased the size of the town and since then there has been a steady growth in population, accelerated in the 1990's with the building of the Saxon Gate development and more recently King's Reach, both on the eastern side of the town. As a result the town's population has positioned itself as a blend of commuter and locally employed, with the estimated population standing at 21,000 in 2018.

The area's soil is mostly freely draining and slightly acid, but with a base-rich, loamy texture of sand, silt and clay particles.

The underlying geology of the Ivel Valley is alluvial. The town centre stands largely on river gravel but with smaller areas of green and brown sands and sandstones, and glacial gravel. Boulder clay dominates the outlying southern and eastern parts.

The town centre is about 28m (92ft) above sea level. The land rises to 78m (256ft) at the parish's southern boundary near the water tower on Topler's Hill.

Biggleswade Common, at 300 acres (120ha) is the largest area of Common Land in Bedfordshire. The Common extends northwards along the eastern bank of the River Ivel from the Shortmead Street bridge and continues clockwise, crossing Potton Road to a section known locally as the Pastures.

A large retail park, opposite Stratton Business Park, is home to a number of national stores and the Market Square has a range of shops, cafes and pubs.

Biggleswade's Green Wheel, launched in 2015, is a popular route surrounding the town with a number of 'spokes' leading from the 'hub' of the town.

There is a wind farm of ten turbines to the south of the town.

Endorsements and Support

Endorsement by Biggleswade Town Council:

Biggleswade Town Council endorses this Green Infrastructure Plan, which has been produced by current residents of the parish, for this and future generations. In endorsing this Plan, the Town Council confirms its support for the concept of GI planning and the methodology used to produce the Plan. In addition, the Town Council will seek to be an active partner in the delivery of this Plan, leading and assisting the implementation of those actions which fall into the remit and plans of the Council. The Town Council will annually review the Plan, reporting to the community activity undertaken and planned, both by the Council and others, towards implementing the Plan.

Endorsement by Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group:

Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan Strategy Group endorses this Green Infrastructure Plan. It has been produced using an agreed and well developed process involving current residents in a series of focussed working groups. As such it represents their more detailed views on how the issues previously identified can be addressed in the future. It sets a clear plan for the future that will be supported by local planning policies in the forthcoming Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan.

Support from Central Bedfordshire Council:

Central Bedfordshire Council recognises the need to provide a framework for green infrastructure provision in the District to meet the needs of existing and new residents and help create sustainable communities. In 2008, Mid Beds District Council produced a district-wide GI plan which has informed the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and other Local Development Documents. The production of this parish-level GI Plan for Biggleswade gives added detail and together with the views of local people adds value to, and compliments, the Mid Beds District GI Plan and the Strategic GI Plan for Bedfordshire and Luton which was produced in 2007. All levels of GI Plan, including this Biggleswade GI Plan, will be used by the Authority in considering development proposals and assisting with the creation of green infrastructure assets.

Support from BRCC:

BRCC will support the community of Biggleswade in implementing this Plan where appropriate and feasible, providing advice, support in securing funding and in implementing practical works.

What is Green Infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure covers the themes of landscape, history, biodiversity, access and open space; and is formed by the network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features. Combined, these features provide:

- a healthy and diverse environment
- attractive places to live and visit
- a good quality of life
- a sustainable future

Green Infrastructure assets include:

- Accessible green space
- Country parks
- Green corridors
- Urban parks and gardens
- Habitats for wildlife including nature reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife Sites.
- Historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Waterways and water bodies, including flooded quarries
- Public rights of way and cycleways
- Allotments
- Children's play spaces
- Formal sports facilities
- Cemeteries

It is important to plan the GI network in the same way that we plan other networks and facilities, so that we can safeguard and enhance the environment and meet the needs of a wide range of people, both now and in the future. Green infrastructure also provides social and economic benefits, including:

- Places that can be used as a focus for community activity and events
- Opportunities to keep fit and healthy
- Helps support the local economy, including village shops, pubs and B&Bs
- Links between town and country helping people in rural areas to access facilities
- Helps reduce the use of cars

Aims of this Plan

To identify the key existing natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, accessible greenspace and rights of way and to plan new features that will provide a connected network of green infrastructure for the benefit of present and future generations.

To inform the emerging Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan, including through the identification of important green spaces and the proposal to designate eligible sites as Local Green Spaces.

Objectives

The objective of this Plan is to create a comprehensive document that will assist the local community to:

- Protect and where possible enhance the landscape, biodiversity and the historic environment
- Improve access and links for people and wildlife
- Provide a multi functional green infrastructure network
- Provide a source of information and guidance for planners, landowners and developers in formulating land use plans
- Promote community involvement
- Identify projects and produce an action plan to implement projects.

Links to other GI related plans

The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan

The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (2007) identifies a broad, spatial vision for green infrastructure across the area and highlights 11 strategic GI corridors across the county. Biggleswade lies within the Ivel River Valley Corridor.

The Mid Bedfordshire GI Plan

The Mid Bedfordshire GI Plan (2008) identifies a network for protecting and enhancing GI across the whole of the former Mid Beds District. This Network is broken down into a series of six 'areas', with Biggleswade lying in the Ivel Valley.

CBC Leisure Strategy

In March 2014 Central Bedfordshire Council adopted its Leisure Strategy, which comprises three facility-based chapters and replaces the 2008 PPG17 Study. Chapter 2: the Recreation and Open Space Strategy, focuses on the provision of nine types of open space, which are:

- Countryside Recreation
- Urban Parks
- Informal Recreation
- Large Formal Recreation Areas
- Small Amenity Spaces
- Facilities for Children
- Facilities for Young People
- Allotments
- Cemeteries & Burial Grounds

Chapter 2 assessed the current provision of each of the nine open space types and, utilising national guidance and local requirements, it established a set of local standards to guide future provision of open space on both a strategic and local level in Central Bedfordshire.

To define open space provision on a parish level, a Parish Schedule has been created for each parish in Central Bedfordshire. It identifies current provision, shortfalls or surpluses against the local standards and priorities.

Based on national standards for levels of provision; the CBC figures for 2019 indicate that across the town, Biggleswade has a shortfall (deficiency) in countryside recreation sites, urban parks and large formal recreation areas, as well as in small amenity spaces, play areas for children and allotments

The Leisure Strategy for Biggleswade includes in its key priorities:

- Improvement to quality / range of children's play provision
- Upgrading and creating new recreation space / amenity spaces
- Provision of facilities for young people

There are also site-specific priorities regarding:

- The development of the Biggleswade Green Wheel
- Major improvements to Franklin's Recreation Ground
- Additional provision of facilities for young people at Chambers Way

Methodology & Community Involvement

A methodology for the production of Parish Green Infrastructure Plans was developed in 2007 and 2008 by the PGIP Working Group and endorsed by the Beds & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium (now the Beds & Luton Local Nature Partnership). This standard methodology has been used to produce 40+ parish-level GI Plans across Bedfordshire, as it was for the Biggleswade GI Plan of August 2010 (see Appendix 2).

The 2020/21 revision of the Biggleswade's GI Plan has included three 'drop in' consultation events that were held as part of the Plan's community engagement activity:

- 1st February 2020, 11am – 1pm – Market Stall at Biggleswade Market Square
- 5th February 2020, 4pm – 8pm – Training Room at the Orchard Community Centre
- 6th February 2020, 4pm- 8pm – Council Chamber at the Town Council Offices

At each of these events people were asked to peruse the Aspirations map and table that had been produced as part of the 2010 GI Plan - as well as a draft 2020 map - and answer the following four questions:

1. *From the aspirations identified by the public in 2010, are there any which you feel are no longer needed / relevant?*
2. *From the aspirations identified by the public in 2010, which ones do you most strongly agree should be carried forward in the 2020 version of the GI Plan?*
3. *Are there any new ideas that you would like to suggest for inclusion in the 2020 version of the GI Plan?*
4. *Which of the town's green spaces do you feel are most important to the community?*

Across the three events approximately 60 local people engaged with the Plan.

Note: the 2010 GI Plan Aspirations Map and associated table are shown at Appendix 2, as an extract of the 2010 GI Plan.

The responses to the above engagement activities led to the drafting of a revised GI Plan.

Due to restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, follow-up workshops and face:face events were not possible. Consequently, online engagement was undertaken in autumn 2020 through a Survey Monkey questionnaire which was promoted by various local means, including the We Love

Biggleswade Facebook page. The article, which encouraged residents to look and at comment on the draft GI Plan, reached* over 8,000 people and engaged* with over 800. (*Facebook metrics).

The survey, which was accompanied by a draft GI map with table of aspirations and a draft green spaces map asked the following:

Aspirations map:

The Aspirations map shows aspirations for improving Biggleswade's Green Infrastructure Network. These have all been identified by local residents through previous consultation activities. Of these 38 aspirations, can you please rank your personal top 5 – those that you would most like to see implemented.

Are there any other green infrastructure aspirations that you would like to see added to the Green Infrastructure Plan? If yes, please give details below.

Are there any existing aspirations which you strongly disagree with? If yes, please give the Aspiration number below; and say why you disagree with it.

Green Spaces map:

The Green Spaces map shows Biggleswade's main publicly accessible green spaces. Through the emerging Neighbourhood Plan we hope to protect as many of these sites as possible from future development by designating them as Local Green Spaces (LGS). Sites identified as important to the community will be assessed against set LGS criteria and those that meet the criteria will be put forward for protection.

Which of the green spaces labelled in black (LGS Areas for Consideration) do you consider to be the most important sites to protect? Please rank your top 5 sites – those that you are most keen to see protected. (Please note that those sites labelled in red (LGS Priority Areas) have previously been identified as priorities and will therefore be assessed, so please choose your 5 sites in addition to these.)

In relation to the Green Infrastructure Plan as a whole:

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the local area that you think will be important in planning the future of Biggleswade's Green Infrastructure Network?

The collation and analysis of the survey responses led to the production of the final GI map and prioritised table of aspirations; and the identification of important green spaces, as detailed in the following pages.

GI Aspirations Map (2021)

The numbered locations on the map below are the aspiration numbers shown in the following tables.

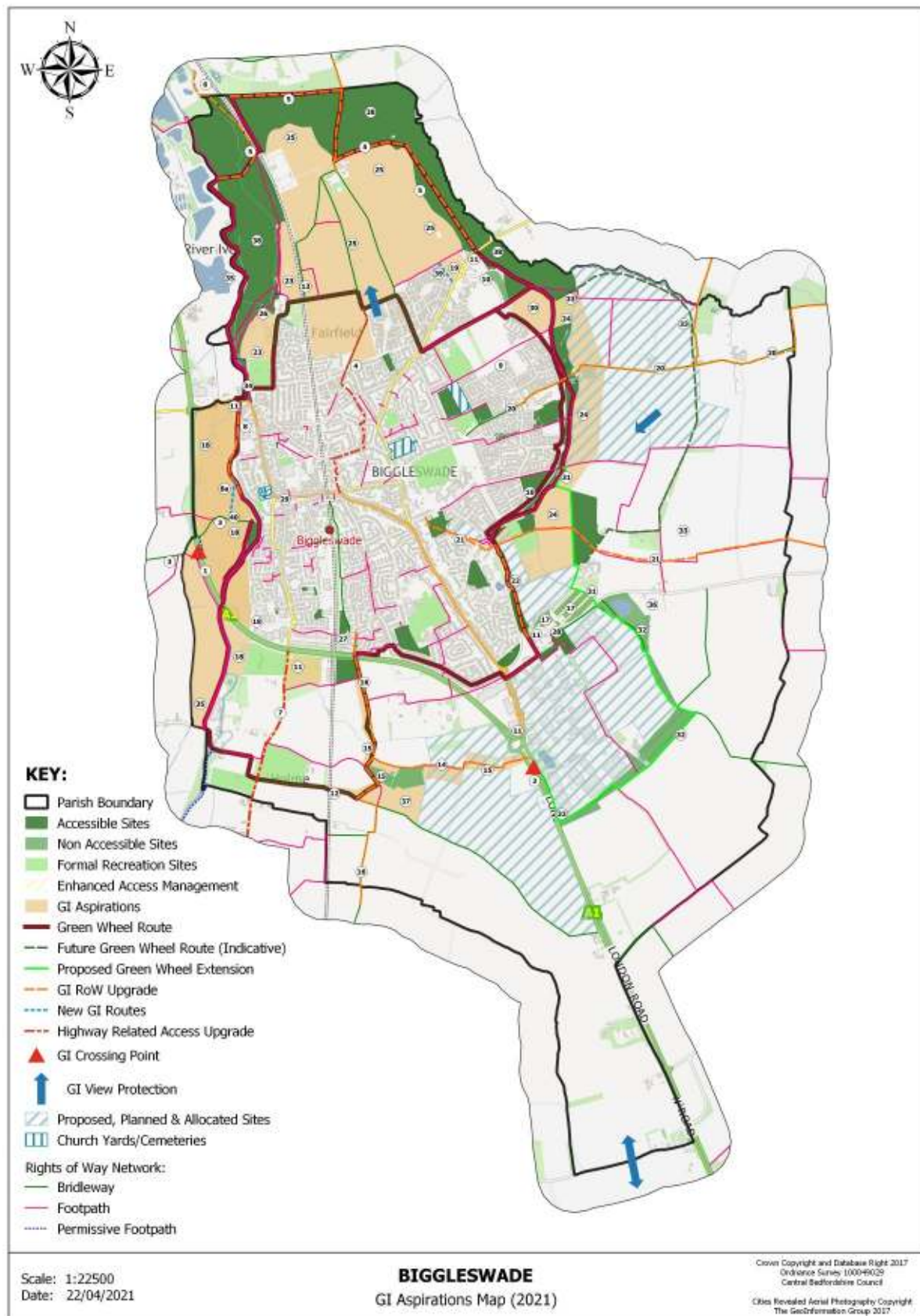


Table of GI Aspirations

The Aspiration numbers in the table below relate to locations on the GI Map on the previous page.

Asp No.	Aspirations
1	Create single improved access under A1 for FP23 and BW22 for pedestrians and cyclists
2	Create pedestrian/ cycleway access over A1 to provide 'Green Wheel' link, west of the town
3	Upgrade surface of BW22/ BW3 to improve access westwards
4	Create and promote Great North Cycleway through town, including the installation of a safe traffic-lit crossing near Stratton House
5	Secure permissive paths on Biggleswade Common as Public Rights of Way
6	Secure permissive path linking Biggleswade Common to New Road Sandy as a Public Right of Way
7	Create a cycleway alongside Langford Road to link Biggleswade and Langford – possibly by widening and managing vegetation along existing pavement
8	Secure missing link for 'Green Wheel' by upgrading status of the northern part of FP21 to permit cycling
8a	Create new 'Green Wheel' route north from Mill Lane
9	Ensure all Planning Conditions relating to Green Corridors, access routes and open space in the King's Reach development are enforced
10	Ensure linear park habitats and access routes are created in accordance with Planning Conditions, near northern end of Baden Powell Way
11	Enhance gateways (x5) into town through planting and landscaping as appropriate
12	Create/ upgrade safe crossing of railway at Holme Green Crossing
13	Create/ upgrade safe crossing of railway near Shortmead House
14	Upgrade FP49, south of the town, to Public Bridleway/ Cycleway
15	Create woodland belts and meadow areas as habitat links and green corridors to create new southern section of 'Green Wheel', thus linking Aspiration 2 (bridge over A1) to the wider Green Wheel network
16	Create Great North Cycleway south from Biggleswade

17	Create public access to Stratton Moat and adjoining meadow
18	Create 'Town and Country Park', west of the town, including woodland walk, nature reserve, picnic area, café / drinks stall, boating lake, etc. Consider restoration of river to create a more natural setting
19	Create allotments, by Potton Road
20	Improve surface of BW28 and BW31/BW3 to enable family cycling east of the town
21	Upgrade FP's24 and Dunton FP8 to Public Bridleway/ Cycleway to enable family cycling east of the town
22	Formalise Public Right of Way through linear woodlands by Saxon Drive
23	Secure land to west of railway to buffer Biggleswade Common
24	Extend proposed linear park to east of watercourse, extending Biggleswade Common southwards to enhance eastern section of Biggleswade 'Green Wheel'
25	Extend Biggleswade Common (Furzenhall Common) southwards; and include a community orchard
26	Plant small woodland to north of Fairfield House, extending the woodland fringe of Biggleswade Common
27	Enhance Grasmere green space, close to railway line
28	Restore walled garden adjacent to Stratton Moat
29	Increase area of greenspace in town centre
30	Build Outdoor Activity Centre / campsite if sports ground north-east of the town is no longer needed (if not able to be provided in this location, to be provided in either area 24 or one of areas 25)
31	Create new outer rim of 'Green Wheel' to the east of the Saxon Drive development, linking Dunton Lane to Baden Powell Way, including provision of safe crossing point on Dunton Lane
32	Upgrade paths to east and south of Stratton Business Park as an additional outer route of the 'Green Wheel'
33	Create additional outer route of 'Green Wheel', east of Baden Powell Way, to encompass new settlement (indicative route only)
34	Extend Dan Albane Picnic Area northwards
35	Maximise the amenity and wildlife value of the River Ivel
36	Create public access to field east of Dunton Lane Balancing Pond

37	Extend Holme Green Wood southwards
38	Protect and enhance Biggleswade Common, making it more welcoming to people
39	Provide new outer route for the 'Green Wheel' north of Potton Road by upgrading FP12 and creating a new link to the Baden Powell Way roundabout / cycleway
40	Undertake landscaping / habitat creation through appropriate planting in field corner, north of Mill Lane
General GI aspirations – not site specific and so not shown on the map	
Asp No.	Aspirations
41	Build play parks with facilities for disabled and older people
42	Provide toilet facilities or signage to nearby toilet facilities along route of 'Green Wheel'
43	Install benches and picnic tables around route of 'Green Wheel'
44	Consider appropriate lighting for most popular green spaces
45	Ensure that all GI assets are managed and maintained appropriately
46	Plant more trees around streets / roads within the town
47	Protect all areas of woodland, enhancing and extending them where possible
48	Provide 4G sports pitch for community use
49	Provide and promote additional parking areas for users of the 'Green Wheel'

Future Development

Where future built developments are proposed on land where GI aspirations have been identified, consideration should be given as to whether the aspiration(s) can be delivered either as part of a potential built development, or whether an alternative location for the aspiration(s) can be found. Such developments may contribute, either financially or through direct works, to the implementation of GI aspirations.

Table of Prioritised GI Aspirations

The following aspirations were identified as priorities by survey respondents who each ranked their top 5.

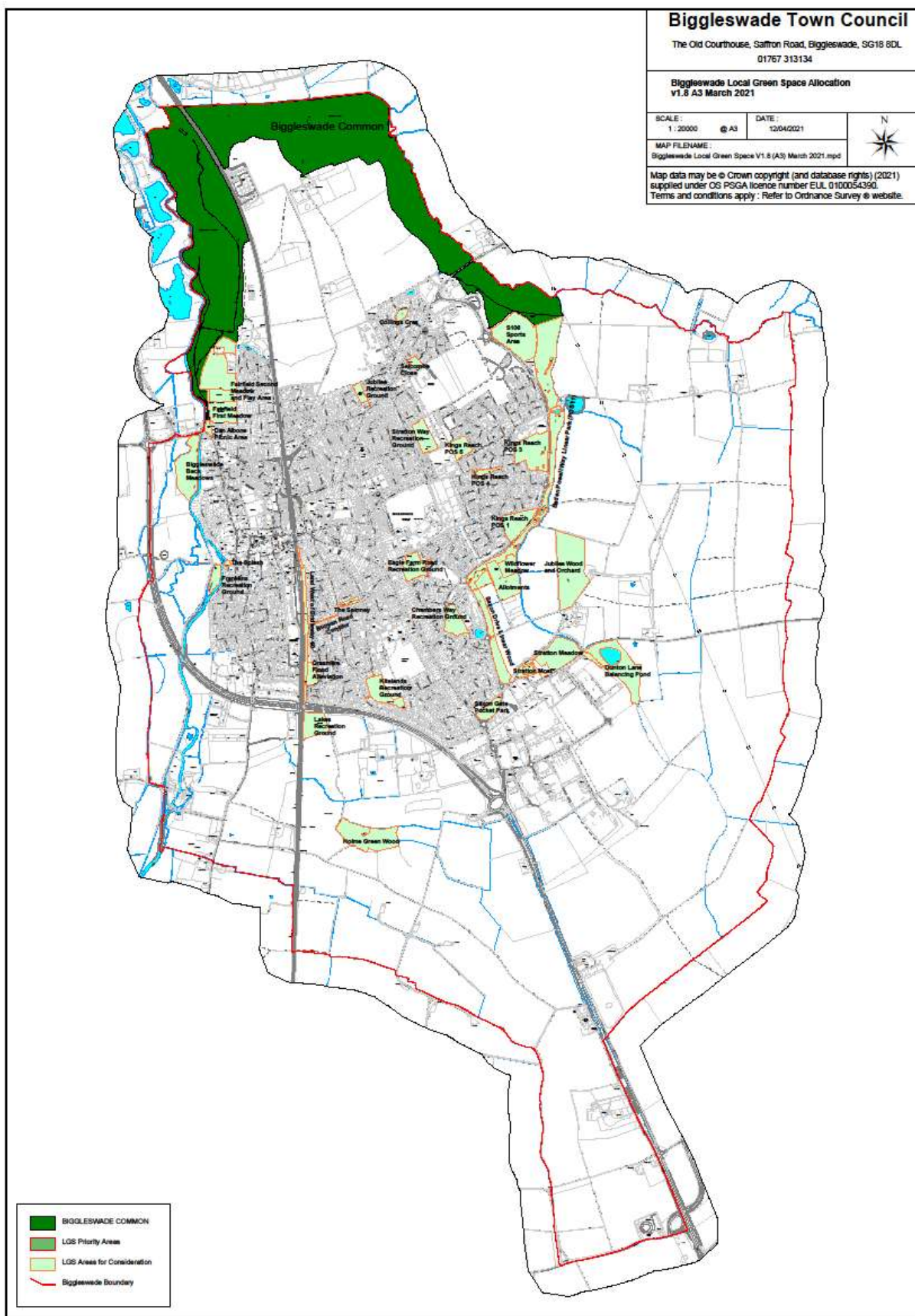
Priority order	Aspiration number	Aspiration
1	18	Create 'Town and Country Park' including woodland walk, nature reserve, picnic area, boating lake, etc. Consider restoration of river to create a more natural setting.
2	25	Extend Biggleswade Common (Furzenhall Common) southwards; and include a community orchard
3	24	Extend proposed linear park to east of watercourse, extending Biggleswade Common southwards to enhance eastern section of Biggleswade Green Wheel.
4	26	Plant small woodland to north of Fairfield House, extending the woodland fringe of Biggleswade Common
5	2	Create pedestrian/ cycleway access over A1 to provide 'Green Wheel' link
6	22	Formalise Public Right of Way through linear woodlands by Saxon Drive
7	1	Create single improved access under A1 for FP23 and BW22 for pedestrians and cyclists
8	5	Secure permissive paths on Biggleswade Common as Public Rights of Way
9	7	Create a cycleway alongside Langford Road to link Biggleswade and Langford – possibly by widening and managing vegetation along existing pavement
10	9	Ensure all Planning Conditions relating to Green Corridors, access routes and open space in the King's Reach development are enforced
11	23	Secure land to west of railway to buffer Biggleswade Common
12	15	Create woodland belts and meadow areas as habitat links and green corridors to create new southern section of 'Green Wheel', thus linking Aspiration 2 (bridge over A1) to the wider Green Wheel network

Green Spaces

In addition to proposing aspirations for the future enhancement of Biggleswade's GI, residents were asked to identify, from the following table and accompanying map, important green spaces.

Green Spaces (* indicates the space is openly accessible to the public)	
Allotments	Kings Reach Public Open Space 1*
Baden Powell Way Linear Park Public Open Space 11*	Kings Reach Public Open Space 3*
Biggleswade Back Meadows (although does have a Public Footpath through it)	Kings Reach Public Open Space 4*
Biggleswade Common*	Kings Reach Public Open Space 5*
Chambers Way Recreation Ground*	Kitelands Recreation Ground*
Collings Crescent	Lakes Recreation Ground*
Dan Albone Picnic Area*	Land west of Bridleway 40
Dunton Lane Balancing Pond	Moat and Meadow
Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground*	Play Area (by football ground)*
Fairfield First Meadow*	S106 Sports Area*
Fairfield Second Meadow	Salcombe Close
Franklin's Recreation Ground*	Saxon Drive Linear Wood*
Grasmere Flood Alleviation*	Saxon Gate Pocket Park*
Green area - west of Dells Lane to railway path (south of Bunyan Road)*	Stratton Way Recreation Ground*
Holme Green Wood	The Spinney
Jubilee Recreation Ground*	The Splash
Jubilee Wood and Orchard*	Wildflower Meadow (by allotments)*

The following map identifies Biggleswade's main green spaces, as listed above.



At the GI Plan community engagement drop-in events in spring 2020 residents were asked to identify from the above list, the green spaces that they felt were the most important. This exercise was extended in the online survey undertaken in the autumn of 2020, where residents were asked to rank their top 5 most important green spaces.

Through the above exercises, the green spaces within Biggleswade that were identified as the most important by the local community are:

Priority Ranking	Green Space
1	Biggleswade Common
2	Back Meadows
3	Allotments
4	Baden Powell Way Linear Park
5	Wildflower Meadow (by allotments)
6	Stratton Moat and association meadow (Dunton Lane)
=7	Franklins Recreation Ground
=7	Jubilee Wood and Orchard
=9	Dan Albone Picnic Area
=9	Fairfield First Meadow
11	Chambers Way Recreation Ground
=12	Fairfield Second Meadow
=12	Holme Green Wood
=12	Green corridor south of Bunyan Road
=15	Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground
16	Stratton Way Recreation Ground
17	The Lakes Recreation Ground
18	Saxon Drive Linear Wood
19	Saxon Gate Pocket Park
20	Kitelands Recreation Ground

The remaining sites, not listed above, received no or very few votes; and are consequently not considered to be among the prioritised sites.

Local Green Space Designation

A stated aim of this GI Plan is to propose the designation of important green sites as Local Green Spaces through the emerging Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. A designation to protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities has been introduced. The Local Green Space designation will allow communities to identify and protect areas that are of value to the community through local and neighbourhood plans.

The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- 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 of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

A full LGS assessment has been undertaken on 20 most important sites, as identified by the local community and shown in the table on page 19 above.

The full LGS Report is shown in Appendix 1 of this GI Plan.

A summary of the LGS Report is given on the following pages:

Local Green Space Assessment

Stage 1 Assessment

The stage 1 assessment is designed to filter out which sites - proposed for LGS Designation by the 2020 Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan - do not meet the basic LGS eligibility criteria. Sites which have current planning permission, or have been allocated for development, or have an existing designation giving the same level of protection as a LGS designation, do not meet the criteria and are not carried forward to the stage 2 assessment.

Site name and reference number	Current Planning Permission?	Allocated for Development?	Already Designated?	Pass to Stage 2?
1 Allotments & Wildflower Meadow	N	N	Part CWS	Y
2 Back Meadows	N	N	N	Y
3 Baden Powell Way Linear Park	N	N	N	Y
4 Biggleswade Common	N	N	Registered Common Land & CWS	N [1]
5 Bunyan Road/ Lincoln Crescent green corridor	N	N	N	Y
6 Chambers Way Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
7 Dan Albone Picnic Area	N	N	Registered Common Land	Y [1]
8 Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
9 Fairfield First Meadow	N	N	N	Y
10 Fairfield Second Meadow (including the play area)	N	N	N	Y
11 Franklins Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
12 Holme Green Wood	N	N	N	Y
13 Jubilee Wood & Orchard	N	N	N	Y

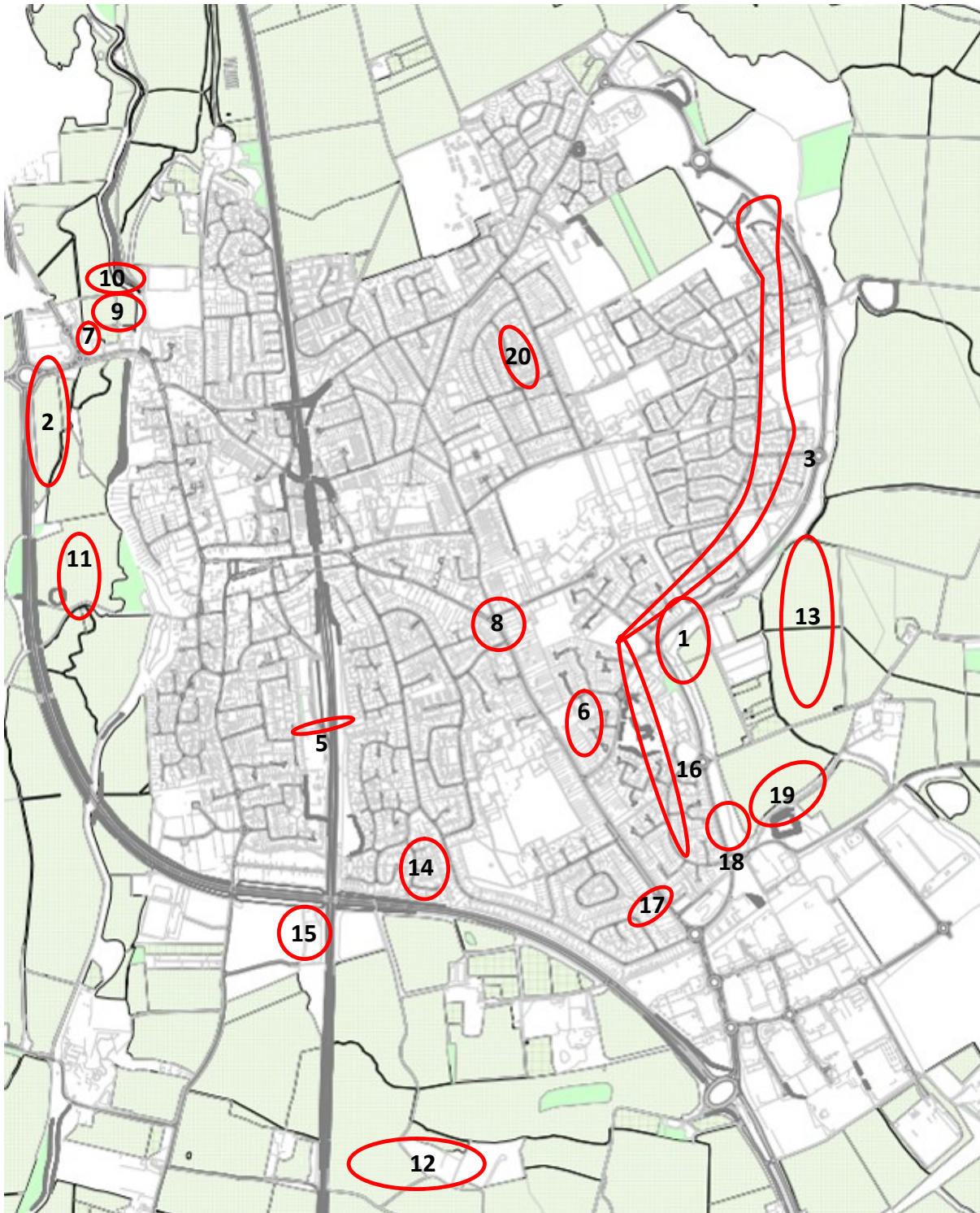
14 Kitelands Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
15 Lakes Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
16 Saxon Drive Linear Wood	N	N	N	Y
17 Saxon Gate Pocket Park	N	N	N	Y
18 Stratton Moat	N	N	Scheduled Monument	Y
19 Stratton Moat Meadow (Dunton Lane)	N	N	Scheduled Monument	Y
20 Stratton Way Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y

The site numbers above are identified on the location map on the next page.

N[1] – As Registered Common Land, Biggleswade Common is already protected to the same level as LGS designation would achieve. It is also known that the Common greatly exceeds the Stage 2 criteria of size; and would therefore not be eligible for designation as a LGS even if it was not registered Common Land.

Y[1] – The Dan Albone Memorial Picnic Area is strictly speaking part of Biggleswade Common, and as such could be considered as per N[1] above for the wider Common. However, the picnic area has is entirely different parcel of land managed as a much more formal green space. The public perception of it is a separate site to the Common, but of equal importance and so it is considered that there is significant additional local benefit to designate this site as LGS.

Potential Local Green Spaces - to progress to Stage 2 assessment



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Not to Scale

The numbered locations above relate to the sites identified in the table on the previous pages.

See individual site assessments on the following pages for detailed locations/ boundaries.

Stage 2 Assessment – Overall Summary

The table below summarises the detailed assessments in the following pages.

Site	Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
1 Allotments & Wildflower Meadow	Y	Y	Y	Y
2 Back Meadows	Y	Y	Y	Y
3 Baden Powell Way Linear Park	Y	Y	Y	Y
5 Bunyan Road/ Lincoln Crescent green corridor	Y	Y	N	N
6 Chambers Way Recreation Ground	Y	Y	Y	Y
7 Dan Albone Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y [1]
8 Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground	Y	Y	N	N
9 Fairfield First Meadow	Y	Y	Y	Y
10 Fairfield Second Meadow (including the play area)	Y	Y	Y	Y
11 Franklins Recreation Ground	Y	Y	Y	Y
12 Holme Green Wood	Y	Y	Y	Y
13 Jubilee Wood & Orchard	Y	Y	Y	Y
14 Kitelands Recreation Ground	Y	Y	Y	Y
15 Lakes Recreation Ground	Y	Y	N	N

16 Saxon Drive Linear Wood	Y	Y	Y	Y
17 Saxon Gate Pocket Park	Y	Y	Y	Y
18 Stratton Moat	Y	Y	Y	Y [2]
19 Stratton Moat Meadow (Dunton Lane)	Y	Y	N	Y [2]
20 Stratton Way Recreation Ground	Y	Y	N	N

Y [1] – This site is part of the Registered Common Land of Biggleswade Common and as such LGS designation would not be necessary unless additional local benefit would be gained by designation. However, the site has an additional profile as a ‘green-gateway’ to the town and it has a discrete identity as a more formal space compared to the wider Common. It is therefore felt that the additional designation as a LGS, on top of that of Registered Common Land, adds additional local benefit.

Y [2] – As a Scheduled Monument, Stratton Moat and the meadow to the east is already protected; and as such LGS designation would not be necessary unless additional local benefit would be gained by designation. However, significant recent development to the north and south of this site has encroached upon and detracted from the setting of these features. It is therefore felt that additional local benefit will be gained by maximising the levels of protection of the site against further development.

Stage 2 Assessment – Individual Site Assessments

The Stage 2 assessment assesses whether the proposed LGS meets the following criteria:

1. The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character
2. The space is within close proximity of the community it serves
3. The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.

The 3rd of these criteria is sub-divided into:

- a. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty
- b. The proposed space is of particular local historic significance
- c. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value
- d. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity
- e. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its wildlife
- f. The proposed space is of particular local significance for another reason

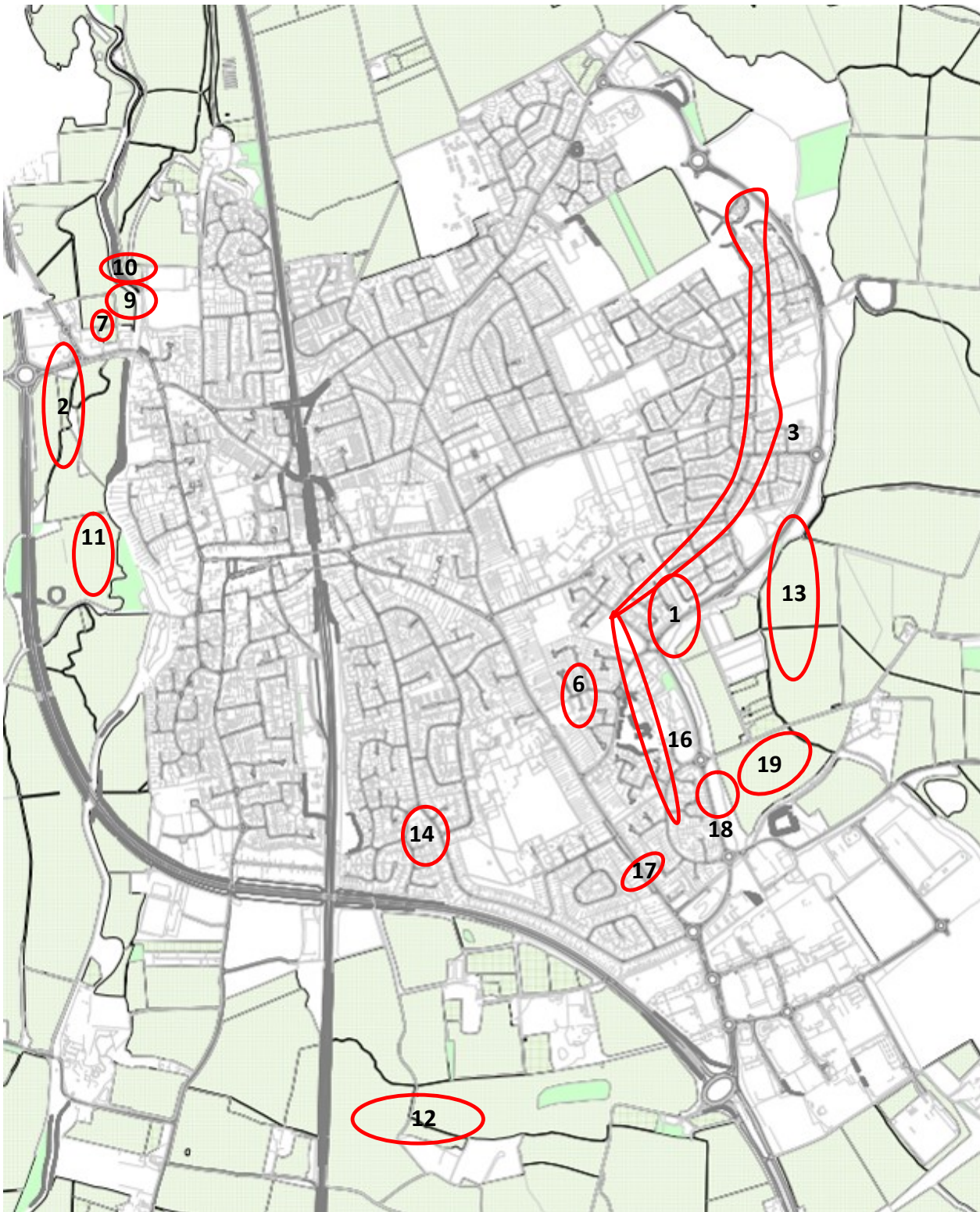
To meet the Stage 2 assessment criteria, a space has to fulfil criteria 1 and 2; and at least 1 a-f component of criteria 3.

The following sites have been assessed and considered to meet LGS criteria; and as such are proposed for designation as Local Green Spaces through the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan.

Sites assessed and proposed for LGS Designation within the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan	
1	Allotments & Wildflower Meadow
2	Back Meadows
3	Baden Powell Way Linear Park
6	Chambers Way Recreation Ground
7	Dan Albone Picnic Area
9	Fairfield First Meadow
10	Fairfield Second Meadow (including the play area)
11	Franklins Recreation Ground
12	Holme Green Wood
13	Jubilee Wood & Orchard
14	Kitelands Recreation Ground
16	Saxon Drive Linear Wood
17	Saxon Gate Pocket Park
18	Stratton Moat
19	Stratton Moat Meadow (Dunton Lane)
Sites assessed and considered to not meet LGS criteria	
5	Bunyan Road/ Lincoln Crescent green corridor
8	Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground
15	Lakes Recreation Ground
20	Stratton Way Recreation Ground

Note: A stage 1 assessment was undertaken to remove any sites which did not meet the top-level LGS assessment criteria; and therefore which did not require a full stage 2 assessment. While Biggleswade Common is clearly a highly important green space to the local community, it is already designated and protected as Registered Common Land and so was not assessed at Stage 2 for LGS designation.

The above proposed LGS sites are shown on the map on the following page.



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Not to Scale

Biggleswade Parish Green Infrastructure Plan Action Plan *(To be populated once plan has been endorsed)*

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| [1] Lead Partner | Organisation / individual taking the lead in the planning and implementation of the aspiration (See key below table) |
| [2] Other Partners | Other organisations to be involved in the planning and implementation of the aspiration |
| [3] Resourcing | Likely level of funding needed: Low (achievable with no or minimal funding), Medium (achievable with moderate new funding), High (achievable with significant new funding) |
| [4] Timescale | Likely date of implementation: Short 2021-23; Medium 2023-25; Long 2025+ |

BTC*	Biggleswade Town Council	LO	Landowner
CBC*	Central Bedfordshire Council	IDB	Internal Drainage Board
BRCC*	Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity		
PNPSG*	Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	BGWSG	Biggleswade Green Wheel Steering Group (comprising asterisked * partners)

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
1	Create single improved access under A1 for FP23 and BW22 for pedestrians and cyclists					
2	Create pedestrian/ cycleway access over A1 to provide 'Green Wheel' link, west of the town					
3	Upgrade surface of BW22/ BW3 to improve access westwards					
4	Create and promote Great North Cycleway through town, including the installation of a safe traffic-lit crossing near Stratton House					

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
5	Secure permissive paths on Biggleswade Common as Public Rights of Way					
6	Secure permissive path linking Biggleswade Common to New Road Sandy as a Public Right of Way					
7	Create a cycleway alongside Langford Road to link Biggleswade and Langford – possibly by widening and managing vegetation along existing pavement					
8	Secure missing link for ‘Green Wheel’ by upgrading status of the northern part of FP21 to permit cycling					
8a	Create new ‘Green Wheel’ route north from Mill Lane					
9	Ensure all Planning Conditions relating to Green Corridors, access routes and open space in the King’s Reach development are enforced					
10	Ensure linear park habitats and access routes are created in accordance with Planning Conditions, near northern end of Baden Powell Way					

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
11	Enhance gateways (x5) into town through planting and landscaping as appropriate					
12	Create/ upgrade safe crossing of railway at Holme Green Crossing					
13	Create/ upgrade safe crossing of railway near Shortmead House					
14	Upgrade FP49, south of the town, to Public Bridleway / Cycleway					
15	Create woodland belts and meadow areas as habitat links and green corridors to create new southern section of Green Wheel, thus linking Aspiration 2 (bridge over A1) to the wider Green Wheel network					
16	Create Great North Cycleway south from Biggleswade					
17	Create public access to Stratton Moat and adjoining meadow					
18	Create 'Town and Country Park', west of the town, including woodland walk, nature reserve, picnic area, café / drinks stall, boating lake, etc. Consider restoration of river to create a more					

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
	natural setting					
19	Create allotments, by Potton Road					
20	Improve surface of BW28 and BW31/BW3 to enable family cycling east of the town					
21	Upgrade FP's24 and Dunton FP8 to Public Bridleway / Cycleway to enable family cycling east of the town					
22	Formalise Public Right of Way through linear woodlands by Saxon Drive					
23	Secure land to west of railway to buffer Biggleswade Common					
24	Extend proposed linear park to east of watercourse, extending Biggleswade Common southwards to enhance eastern section of Biggleswade Green Wheel					
25	Extend Biggleswade Common (Furzenhall Common) southwards; and include a community orchard					
26	Plant small woodland to north of Fairfield House, extending the woodland fringe of Biggleswade					

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
	Common					
27	Enhance Grasmere green space, close to railway line					
28	Restore walled garden adjacent to Stratton Moat					
29	Increase area of greenspace in town centre					
30	Build Outdoor Activity Centre / campsite if sports ground north-east of the town is no longer needed (if not able to be provided in this location, to be provided in either area 24 or one of areas 25)					
31	Create new outer rim of 'Green Wheel' to the east of the Saxon Drive development, linking Dunton Lane to Baden Powell Way, including provision of safe crossing point on Dunton Lane					
32	Upgrade paths to east and south of Stratton Business park as an additional outer route of the Green Wheel					
33	Create additional outer route of Green Wheel, east of Baden Powell Way, to encompass new settlement (indicative route only)					

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
34	Extend Dan Albone Picnic Area northwards					
35	Maximise the amenity and wildlife value of the River Ivel					
36	Create public access to field east of Dunton Lane Balancing Pond					
37	Extend Holme Green Wood southwards					
38	Protect and enhance Biggleswade Common, making it more welcoming to people					
39	Provide new outer route for the Green Wheel north of Potton Road by upgrading FP12 and creating a new link to the Baden Powell Way roundabout / cycleway					
40	Undertake landscaping / habitat creation through appropriate planting					
General GI aspirations – not site specific and so not shown on the map						
41	Build play parks with facilities for disabled and older people					
42	Provide toilet facilities or signage to nearby toilet facilities along route of Green Wheel					

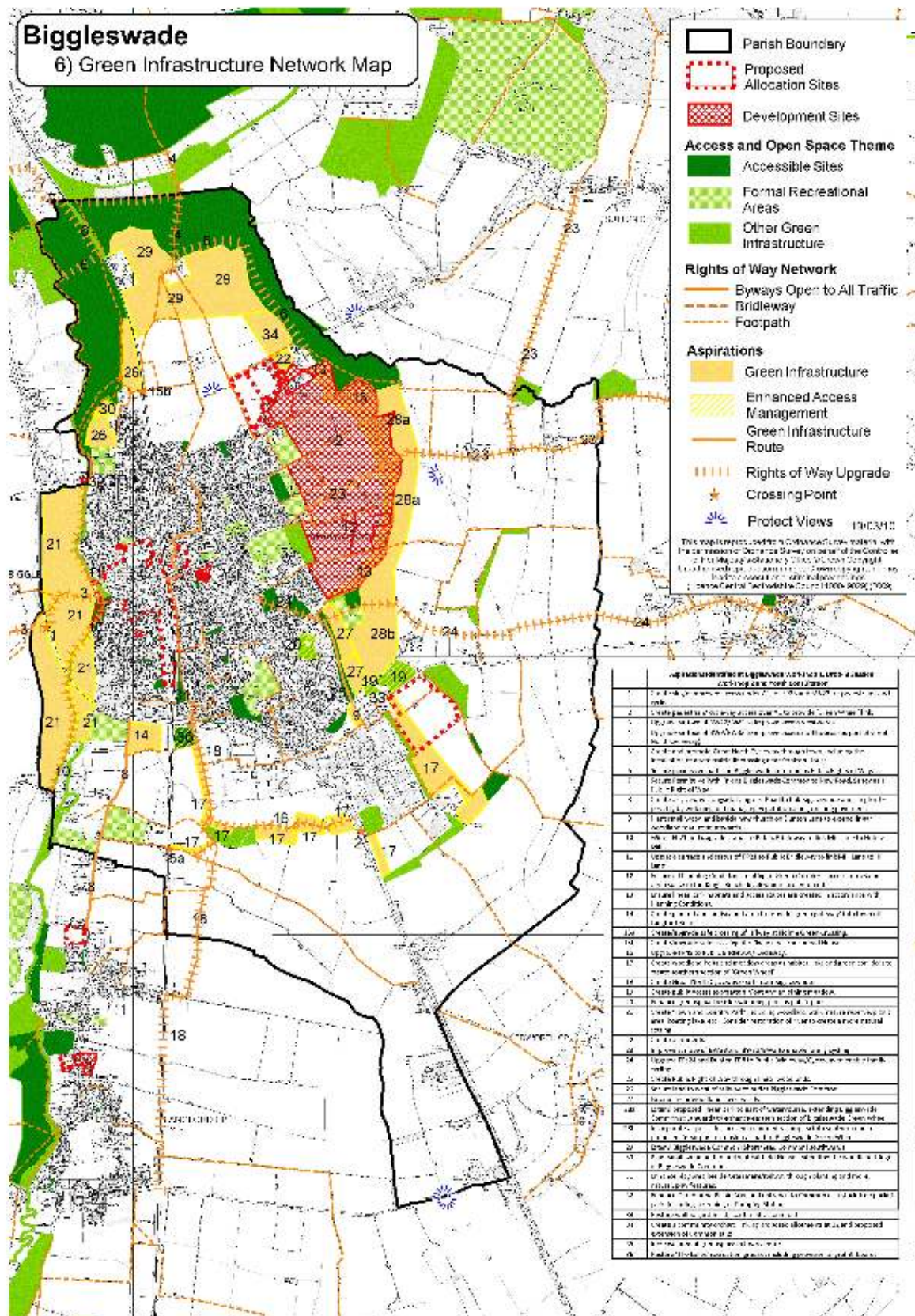
Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
43	Install benches and picnic tables around route of Green Wheel					
44	Consider appropriate lighting for most popular green spaces					
45	Ensure that all GI assets are managed and maintained appropriately					
46	Plant more trees around streets / roads within the town					
47	Protect all areas of woodland, enhancing and extending them where possible					
48	Provide 4G sports pitch for community use					
49	Provide and promote additional parking areas for users of the Green Wheel					

APPENDIX 1 – LGS Designations

Insert

APPENDIX 2– Biggleswade GI Plan 2010 Extract

GI Map



GI Aspirations

ref	Aspirational GI Enhancements
1	Create single improved access under A1 for FP23 and BW22 for pedestrians and cyclists.
2	Create pedestrian/ cycleway access over A1 to provide 'Green Wheel' link
3	Upgrade surface of BW22/ BW3 to improve access westwards.
4	Upgrade surface of BW9/ BW33 to improve access northwards (as part of Great North Cycleway)
5	Create and promote Great North Cycleway through town, including the installation of a safe traffic-lit crossing near Stratton House
6	Secure permissive paths on Biggleswade Common as Public Rights of Way
7	Secure Permissive Path linking Biggleswade Common to New Road, Sandy as a Public Right of Way
8	Create a cycleway alongside Langford Road to link Biggleswade and Langford – possibly by widening and managing vegetation along existing pavement.
9	Plant small woodland beside new church on Dunton Lane to extend linear woodland feature southwards
10	Widen FP21 and upgrade status to Public Bridleway to link Mill Lane to Holme Mills
11	Upgrade surface and status of FP21 to Public Bridleway to link Mill Lane to Hill Lane
12	Ensure all Planning Conditions relating to Green Corridors, access routes and open space in the King's Reach development are enforced.
13	Ensure linear park habitats and access routes are created in accordance with Planning Conditions
14	Create planted and landscaped area to provide 'green gateway' into town of Langford Road.
15a	Create/ upgrade safe crossing of railway at Holme Green Crossing
15b	Create/ upgrade safe crossing of railway near Shortmead house
16	Upgrade FP49 to Public Bridleway/ Cycleway
17	Create woodland belts and meadow areas as habitat links and green corridors to create southern section of 'Green Wheel'
18	Create Great North Cycleway south from Biggleswade
19	Create public access to Stratton Moat and adjoining meadow

20	Enhance greenspace beside swimming pool as public park
21	Create 'Town and Country Park' including woodland walk, nature reserve, picnic area, boating lake, etc. Consider restoration of river to create a more natural setting.
22	Create allotments
23	Improve surface of BW28 and BW31/BW3 to enable family cycling
24	Upgrade FPs24 and Dunton FP8 to Public Bridleway/ Cycleway to enable family cycling
25	Create Public Right of Way through linear woodlands
26	Secure land to west of railway to buffer Biggleswade Common
27	Extend linear woodlands westwards
28a	Extend proposed linear park to east of watercourse, extending Biggleswade Common southwards to enhance eastern section of Biggleswade Green Wheel.
28b	Incorporate a sports, leisure and community complex into southern end of proposed linear park extension as part of Biggleswade Green Wheel.
29	Extend Biggleswade Common (Shortmead Common) southwards
30	Plant small woodland to north of Fairfield House, extending the woodland fringe of Biggleswade Common
31	Enhance play area beside Grassmere/ railway through planting and more, natural, play features
32	Enhance Dan Albone Picnic Area and entrance to Common as a stock-free pocket park, including screening of Pumping Station
33	Restore walled garden adjacent to Stratton moat
34	Create a community orchard linking proposed allotments at 22 and proposed extension of Common at 29
35	Increase area of greenspace in town centre
36	Restore 'The Lakes' recreation ground, incl provision of graffiti boards
	General aspiration: To seek to protect all existing features of landscape and wildlife value

Priorities:

At each of the consultation events, participants were asked to indicate which of the aspirations put forward they considered to be priorities. A summary of the initial priorities was presented to the final workshop, whose attendees then participated in a more formal prioritising exercise. Activities at the youth consultation events also resulted priorities being identified.

The following aspirations were identified as the priorities at the community workshops, with the most popular aspirations listed first:

ref	Priority aspirations, listed in order of highest priority first
	Priority 1
21	Create 'Town and Country Park' including woodland walk, nature reserve, picnic area, boating lake, etc. Consider restoration of river to create a more natural setting.
	Priority 2
28a	Extend proposed linear park to east of watercourse, extending Biggleswade Common southwards to enhance eastern section of Biggleswade Green Wheel.
28b	Incorporate a sports, leisure and community complex into southern end of proposed linear park extension as part of Biggleswade Green Wheel.
	Priority 3
27	Extend linear woodlands eastwards
	Priority 4
29	Extend Biggleswade Common (Furzenhall Common) southwards
	Priority 5
17	Create woodland belts and meadow areas as habitat links and green corridors to create southern section of 'Green Wheel'

BIGGLESWADE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – LGS ASSESSMENT

Stage 1 Assessment

The stage 1 assessment is designed to filter out which sites - proposed for LGS Designation by the 2020 Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan - do not meet the basic LGS eligibility criteria. Sites which have current planning permission, or have been allocated for development, or have an existing designation giving the same level of protection as a LGS designation, do not meet the criteria and are not carried forward to the stage 2 assessment.

Site name and reference number	Current Planning Permission?	Allocated for Development?	Already Designated?	Pass to Stage 2?
1 Allotments & Wildflower Meadow	N	N	Part CWS	Y
2 Back Meadows	N	N	N	Y
3 Baden Powell Way Linear Park	N	N	N	Y
4 Biggleswade Common	N	N	Registered Common Land & CWS	N [1]
5 Bunyan Road/ Lincoln Crescent green corridor	N	N	N	Y
6 Chambers Way Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
7 Dan Albone Picnic Area	N	N	Registered Common Land	Y [1]
8 Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
9 Fairfield First Meadow	N	N	N	Y
10 Fairfield Second Meadow (including the play area)	N	N	N	Y
11 Franklins Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
12 Holme Green Wood	N	N	N	Y
13 Jubilee Wood & Orchard	N	N	N	Y

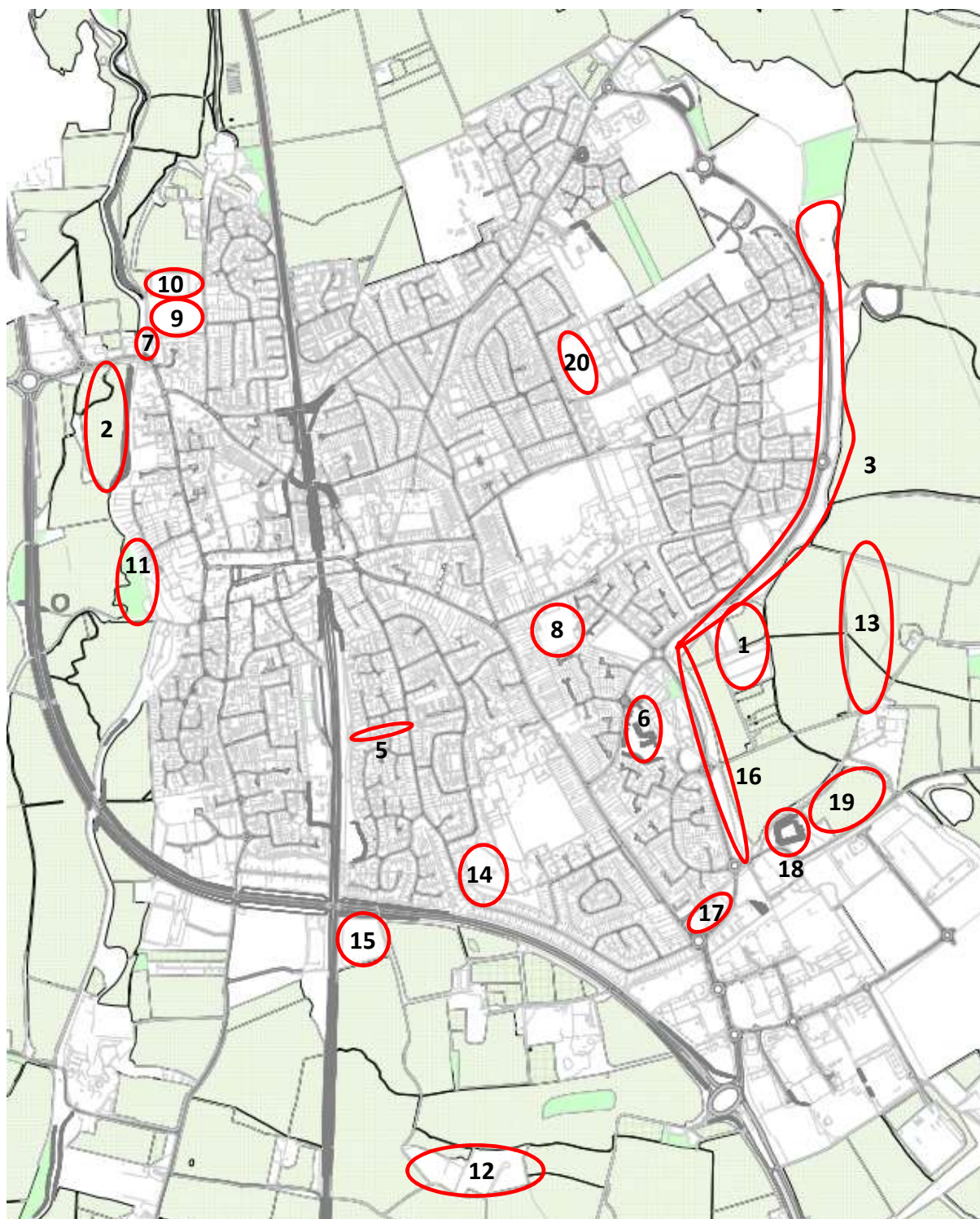
14 Kitelands Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
15 Lakes Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y
16 Saxon Drive Linear Wood	N	N	N	Y
17 Saxon Gate Pocket Park	N	N	N	Y
18 Stratton Moat	N	N	Scheduled Monument	Y
19 Stratton Moat Meadow (Dunton Lane)	N	N	Scheduled Monument	Y
20 Stratton Way Recreation Ground	N	N	N	Y

The site numbers above are identified on the location map on the next page.

N[1] – As Registered Common Land, Biggleswade Common is already protected to the same level as LGS designation would achieve. It is also known that the Common greatly exceeds the Stage 2 criteria of size; and would therefore not be eligible for designation as a LGS even if it was not registered Common Land.

Y[1] – The Dan Albone Memorial Picnic Area is strictly speaking part of Biggleswade Common, and as such could be considered as per N[1] above for the wider Common. However, the picnic area has is entirely different parcel of land managed as a much more formal green space. The public perception of it is a separate site to the Common, but of equal importance and so it is considered that there is significant additional local benefit to designate this site as LGS.

Potential Local Green Spaces - to progress to Stage 2 assessment



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Not to Scale

The numbered locations above relate to the sites identified in the table on the previous pages.

See individual site assessments on the following pages for detailed locations/ boundaries.

Stage 2 Assessment – Overall Summary

The table below summarises the detailed assessments in the following pages.

Site	Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
1 Allotments & Wildflower Meadow	Y	Y	Y	Y
2 Back Meadows	Y	Y	Y	Y
3 Baden Powell Way Linear Park	Y	Y	Y	Y
5 Bunyan Road/ Lincoln Crescent green corridor	Y	Y	N	N
6 Chambers Way Recreation Ground	Y	Y	Y	Y
7 Dan Albone Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y [1]
8 Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground	Y	Y	N	N
9 Fairfield First Meadow	Y	Y	Y	Y
10 Fairfield Second Meadow (including the play area)	Y	Y	Y	Y
11 Franklins Recreation Ground	Y	Y	Y	Y
12 Holme Green Wood	Y	Y	Y	Y
13 Jubilee Wood & Orchard	Y	Y	Y	Y
14 Kitelands Recreation Ground	Y	Y	Y	Y
15 Lakes Recreation Ground	Y	Y	N	N

16 Saxon Drive Linear Wood	Y	Y	Y	Y
17 Saxon Gate Pocket Park	Y	Y	Y	Y
18 Stratton Moat	Y	Y	Y	Y [2]
19 Stratton Moat Meadow (Dunton Lane)	Y	Y	N	Y [2]
20 Stratton Way Recreation Ground	Y	Y	N	N

Y [1] – This site is part of the Registered Common Land of Biggleswade Common and as such LGS designation would not be necessary unless additional local benefit would be gained by designation. However, the site has an additional profile as a ‘green-gateway’ to the town and it has a discrete identity as a more formal space compared to the wider Common. It is therefore felt that the additional designation as a LGS, on top of that of Registered Common Land, adds additional local benefit.

Y [2] – As a Scheduled Monument, Stratton Moat and the meadow to the east is already protected; and as such LGS designation would not be necessary unless additional local benefit would be gained by designation. However, significant recent development to the north and south of this site has encroached upon and detracted from the setting of these features. It is therefore felt that additional local benefit will be gained by maximising the levels of protection of the site against further development.

Stage 2 Assessment – Individual Site Assessments


The Stage 2 assessment assesses whether the proposed LGS meets the following criteria:


1. The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character
2. The space is within close proximity of the community it serves
3. The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.

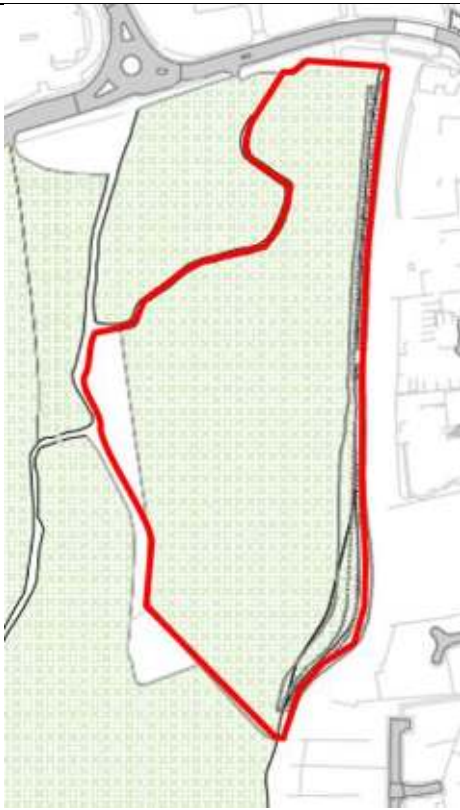
The 3rd of these criteria is sub-divided into:


- a. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty
- b. The proposed space is of particular local historic significance
- c. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value
- d. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity
- e. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its wildlife
- f. The proposed space is of particular local significance for another reason


To meet the Stage 2 assessment criteria, a space has to fulfil criteria 1 and 2; and at least 1 a-f component of criteria 3.


Site Name	1 Allotments & Wildflower Meadow
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	4.15 ha
Site Location	This site is located on the eastern site of Biggleswade, immediately south of the Kings Reach development. It is within 150m of the closest residential properties.
Site Description	<p>The site is approximately 75% allotments and 25% wildflower meadow. The site includes mature hedges and is bordered by a stream to the east and mature trees to the north.</p> <p>There are 212 allotments. The site is leased by Biggleswade Town Council from Central Bedfordshire Council.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>While the allotments do not have a 'natural' beauty, they have a positive aesthetic, providing changing interest through the seasons. The wildflower meadow, bordered on two sides by mature trees and hedges provides a beautiful scene, unique in Biggleswade.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The site has been used as allotments for over 25 years.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>On the edge of town and set back from local roads, this site is quieter than many of Biggleswade's green spaces. However, it is noted that development has been permitted immediately to the west of the allotments. This will no doubt decrease the sense of tranquillity but further highlights the importance of such sites to be protected from and serve the growing community.</p>


	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>200+ allotment holders use the site, approx. 70 of which are members of the Biggleswade Allotment Group.</p> <p>A Public Footpath passes between the allotments and along one side of the wildflower meadow.</p> <p>Informal paths around and across the wildflower meadow enable visitors to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the site.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The allotments have a wide range of managements, varying from virtually sterilised, high input monocultures to abandoned land left to its own devices. As such the wildlife value is hard to establish without long-term surveys being undertaken. Allotments in general have high potential for certain species groups, particularly invertebrates and plants if pesticides are not over-used. The site is contiguous with a wildflower meadow and links into the wider countryside via the Baden Powell Linear Park, adding to a larger green area.</p> <p>The wildflower meadow is well managed and has adjacent hedges, ditches and a small area of woodland. It provides connectivity between the allotments and Baden Powell Linear Park and the wider countryside beyond. It is a potentially important refuge for a wide range of species on the edge of town and has been recognised as a County Wildlife Site for its important plant communities.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>This is the only allotment site and the only wildflower meadow in Biggleswade; and both are integral to the life of the town.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation & Wildlife	Y


Site Name	2 Back Meadows
Site Map	 <p>Not to Scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	4.45 ha
Site Location	This site is located on the north west edge of Biggleswade. It is within 25m of the nearest residential properties.
Site Description	<p>This riverside pasture is bordered to the east by the River Ivel. The site is owned and managed by the Fen Reeves of Biggleswade Common and is grazed by cattle.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>This riverside grazing land provides a traditional pastoral scene immediately on the edge of town. The river, grassland, hedges and occasional bushes bring scenes of the open countryside right onto the town's doorstep.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>Dan Albion – the inventor of the Ivel Tractor, the fore-runner of all modern tractors, is believed to have trialled his tractors on these meadows; with his workshop located on the opposite bank of the River Ivel.</p>


	<p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The proximity of the site to the A1 means that the site is rarely tranquil.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>A Public Footpath follows the riverbank within the eastern edge of the site. This Public Right of Way forms a vital link in the Biggleswade Green Wheel – an off-road multi-use route around the town passing through and beside areas of landscape, wildlife, heritage and amenity value.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>As a traditionally grazed meadow bordered by hedgerows and the River Ivel (a County Wildlife Site), Back Meadows holds high wildlife potential. Situated on the edge of town it creates an important buffer to the wider countryside beyond.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>In a community survey undertaken for the Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan, this site ranked as the second most popular site in the town (behind Biggleswade Common, which is too extensive to be considered for LGS designation).</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Beauty, History, Wildlife	Y


Site Name	3 Baden Powell Way Linear Park
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	3.28ha
Site Location	This site is located around the eastern edge of the King's Reach development, on the eastern side of Biggleswade. It is located within 50m of the nearest residential properties.
Site Description	<p>The site is a long, linear site, between Baden Powell Way and a watercourse. The site was created as a landscaped accessible corridor to act as a buffer between the Kings Reach development and the open countryside to the east. The site features blocks of tree and shrub planting, a watercourse, ponds and wetland features.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>While the site as a whole – due to its setting alongside a major road - is not 'beautiful' there are attractive components within the site; namely its ponds, boundary watercourse and developing wetland features.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>This is a new site created alongside the Baden Powell Way 'eastern bypass' of Biggleswade, which was opened in 2015.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The proximity of the site to Baden Powell Way means that the site is rarely tranquil.</p>

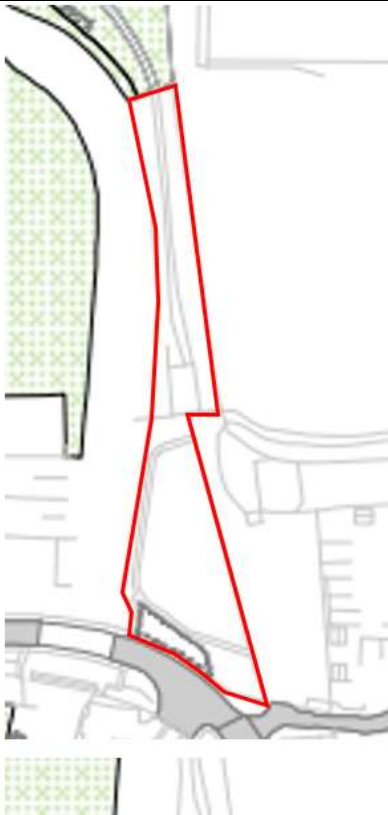
	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>A Public Footpath follows the watercourse within the eastern edge of the site. This Public Right of Way forms a vital link in the Biggleswade Green Wheel – an off-road multi-use route around the town passing through and beside areas of landscape, wildlife, heritage and amenity value.</p> <p>The occasional benches and the grassed areas near the ponds are used as resting and picnic points.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>As one of the few remaining Water Vole sites in Bedfordshire, Baden Powell Way Linear Park is an essential feature to their continued survival in the county. The small ditch adjacent to a hedgerow and network of ponds provides ideal habitat whilst the access by humans perhaps helps to keep Mink away from the site that would otherwise kill them. The site provides a link from the Saxon Gate Linear Wood to the allotments and wildflower meadow and beyond into the wider countryside forming part of a much larger complex of good habitat on the edge of town.</p> <p>The most recent positive Water Vole survey of the site was undertaken in Summer 2020.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>Further development of Biggleswade is planned to the east of this site; making it a vital green corridor for both people and wildlife in an increasingly urbanised area.</p> <p>In a community survey undertaken for the Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan, this site ranked as the fourth most popular site in the town.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation, Wildlife	Y

Site Name	5 Bunyan Road and Lincoln Crescent Green Corridor
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	0.25 ha
Site Location	This site is located between Dells Lane and a Public Bridleway alongside the East Coast Mainline railway. It is bordered to the north and south by residential properties.
Site Description	<p>The site is a grassed corridor with some trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>While not unattractive, the area is not notable for being beautiful.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>There is no notable history for this site.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Being surrounded by houses and with the East Coast Mainline railway and a busy residential road at either end, the area is not tranquil.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The area is heavily used as a local pedestrian route. The area is also used informally as a play area by local children.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The short-mown grass provides limited habitat value; although the surrounding trees and shrubs are used by various bird species for food and shelter.</p>


	Significant for another reason No.		
Site Photo			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	N	N


Site Name	6 Chambers Way Recreation Ground
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	1.67 ha
Site Location	This site is located within a residential area of Biggleswade. It is bordered to the east by the Saxon Pool & Leisure Centre.
Site Description	<p>The site is a well-equipped play area, incorporating a skate park and open areas of grassland.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site is more attractive than many recreation grounds due the designed undulating landforms and occasional trees.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The site has been a recreation area for the east of the town for approx. 20 years.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Located within a residential area, the site is not tranquil.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p>


	<p>The site is a very popular recreational area with a range of play equipment for children of different ages, and skate park and areas of picnics, informal ball games etc.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This site holds little wildlife value as it is a mown amenity grassland with just a few small standard trees.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>No.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation	Y

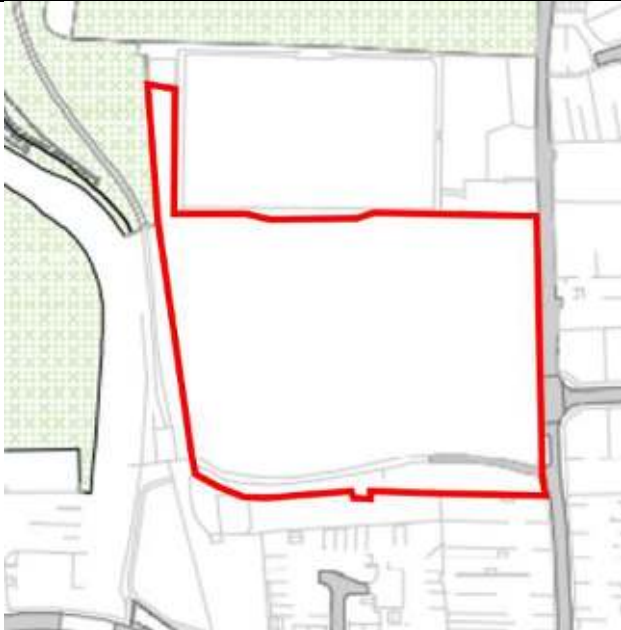
Site Name	7 Dan Albone Picnic Area
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	0.37 ha
Site Location	This site is located to the north west of the town and acts as a gateway to Biggleswade. It is within 50m of the nearest residential properties and borders the River Ivel.
Site Description	<p>The site is primarily amenity grassland with a few picnic benches and trees – both young and mature. The site is bordered to the west by the River Ivel and to the east by the Dan Albone Memorial Car Park and Fairfield First Meadow.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The riverside setting of this site and the few mature trees make this site reasonably attractive, given its urban fringe nature.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The picnic area was designated as a memorial to Dan Albone in 1980. Daniel Albone (12 September 1860 – 30 October 1906) was an</p>


	<p>English inventor, manufacturer and cyclist. He invented the first successful light farm tractor, and the Ivel safety bicycle.</p> <p>Dan's workshop was located just to the south of this site, between the River Ivel and the then Great North Road.</p> <p>A sculpture of Dan sat on his Ivel Tractor with associated tractor-set seating, was installed in the picnic area in 2016.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Acting as a gateway feature to the town immediately adjacent to the main north entrance to Biggleswade, the site is not especially tranquil. However, the northern-most section which leads onto Biggleswade Common and the open countryside to the north, is more tranquil.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is well used, as a picnic area and as a popular meeting point for friends and groups (including Biggleswade Health Walk Group, Scouts, etc.) for walks onto Biggleswade Common to the north; and around the Biggleswade Green Wheel.</p> <p>The site is the location of the annual Biggleswade Carnival Duck Race.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The main feature of wildlife value here is the River Ivel adjacent. The area mainly consists of mown grassland with standard trees, some of which are quite mature.</p> <p>The more wild section leading to Biggleswade Common has been wildflower seeded in the past but requires better management to meet its full potential. There is an overgrown hedge leading to Biggleswade Common that will provide roosting opportunities for birds.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>In a community survey undertaken for the Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan, this site ranked as the ninth equal most popular site in the town.</p>
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Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation, History	Y


Site Name	8 Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	1.78 ha
Site Location	This site is located within a residential area of Biggleswade and to the south of Stratton Upper School.
Site Description	<p>The site is an area of amenity grassland with informal sports pitches and a hard-surfaced Multi Use Games Area. It is almost entirely surrounded by residential properties.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site, while not unattractive, has no features that could be described as beautiful.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>None</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site does not border any major roads and so has relatively little traffic noise. However, as it is surrounded by residential properties, it is not tranquil.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is popular with the youth of the town who use the MUGA and goal posts for informal sports and socialising. There is no play equipment and no benches/ picnic tables.</p>


	<p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is a managed recreation ground with some hard standing (MUGA), a row of conifers and a single standard tree. It has very little wildlife and lacks connectivity with other green spaces other than a few gardens.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>No.</p>		
Site Photo			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	N	N


Site Name	9 Fairfield First Meadow
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	2.23 ha
Site Location	This site is located in the north west corner of the town, adjacent to the Dan Albone Car Park and Picnic Area and Fairfield Second Meadow. A residential road forms its eastern boundary.
Site Description	<p>The site is a formal recreation ground, managed for cricket. It is primarily mown grass, but with some mature trees along its western and eastern boundaries.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The mature trees along some of the sites' boundaries give an attractive backdrop to the cricket pitch, but the boundary fencing treatments detract from the aesthetic value of the site.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>Mr. H M Lindsell of Fairfield House bequeathed Fairfield to the organized adult recreation of the town to be used as in his lifetime and to be called the "Cricket Field" with the proviso that priority be given to the Cricket Club at all times and this is still applicable today.</p>

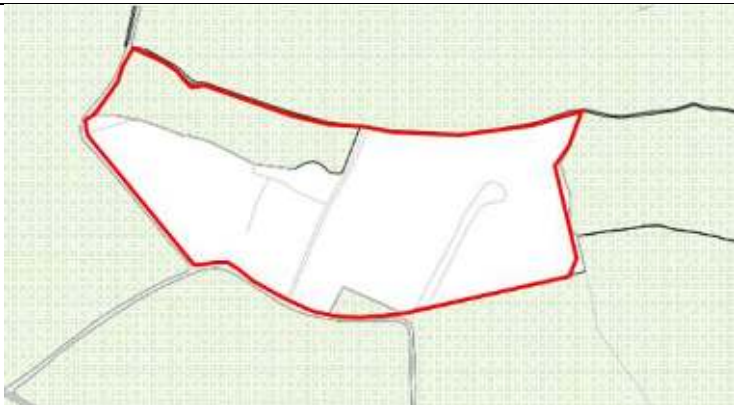
	<p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site is located on the edge of town, away from any major roads. While it is bordered by residential areas on two sides, its proximity to the River Ivel and Biggleswade Common give it a degree of peace.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is home to Biggleswade Town CC.</p> <p>The Biggleswade Green Wheel passes through the site.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is a managed sports field with very little wildlife value other than in the few mature trees found on site.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>In a community survey undertaken for the Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan, this site ranked as the ninth equal most popular site in the town.</p>		
Site Photo			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation, History	Y


Site Name	10 Fairfield Second Meadow and Play Area
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	1.24 ha
Site Location	This site is located in the north west corner of the town adjacent to Fairfield First Meadow and Biggleswade Common.
Site Description	<p>The site is a formal pitch, with an adjacent training area and play area.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site is enclosed by fencing and although has mature trees along its northern boundary, it could not be described as beautiful.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>Football was played on this site in the 1920's, though the current Biggleswade Athletic team only launched in 1959.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site is located on the edge of town, away from any major roads. While it is bordered by residential areas on its eastern side, its proximity to the River Ivel and Biggleswade Common give it a degree of peace.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is home to Biggleswade United Football Club.</p> <p>Local children use the play area.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is a managed sports field with very little wildlife value other than in the few mature trees along its northern boundary.</p>


	Significant for another reason No.		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation, History	Y


Site Name	11 Franklins Recreation Ground
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	0.78 ha
Site Location	This site is located to the west of the town centre, on the western bank of the River Ivel.
Site Description	<p>The site is a semi-formal park, with amenity grass, mature trees and a raised central planting area. A children's play area is located in the north west corner. Residential properties are located along the opposite bank of the River Ivel.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>While the site has lost some of its historic beauty (there is no longer a bandstand), the mature trees along its western and eastern boundaries make it an attractive site, particularly in summer and autumn.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>This site which was previously Ivel Meadow was given to the town as a recreation ground by Henry Franklin, who owned Ivel Mill. The Urban District Council created a riverside park with children's swings, a roundabout, paddling pool and a bandstand. This was a popular venue in the 1920's and 30's especially during the long school summer holidays, together with the riverside walk, Lido and boating nearby on the River Ivel.</p>


	<p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Given the site's proximity to the Town Centre, it is relatively peaceful. The nearby A1 does detract from this peace; but not to the extent that it isn't a popular area for quiet rest and recreation.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site has a high recreational value, being the closest green space / play area to the Town Centre.</p> <p>The site is used by people of all ages for informal recreation, meeting friends, picnics etc.</p> <p>The Biggleswade Green Wheel walking and cycling routes pass either side of the site, making it a popular location for meeting up / stopping off while using the Green Wheel.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This site features mown grass, flower beds and mature trees. It borders the River Ivel on one side and a ditch and agricultural fields along the other. In its own right it holds little wildlife potential but it provides an important green buffer to the edge of town.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>In a community survey undertaken for the Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan, this site ranked as the seventh equal most popular site in the town.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation, History	Y

Site Name	12 Holme Green Wood
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	5.00 ha
Site Location	This site is located to the south of the town, 750m from the closest residential properties.
Site Description	<p>The site is a semi-mature planted woodland, featuring a woodland pond and an area of rough grassland.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The woodland is an attractive focal point in an otherwise flat, arable landscape.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>Before being planted with trees, this site was an area used for landfill.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Although within sight of both the A1 and the East Coast mainline, the woodland provides some buffering against the mid-distant traffic noise.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>Approximately 50% of the site's boundary is bordered by Public Rights of Way. The Biggleswade Green Wheel passes along the site's west/southwest boundary.</p> <p>The site has no formal public access within it, although a path through the wood is well used and there is evidence of informal recreation such as den-building.</p>

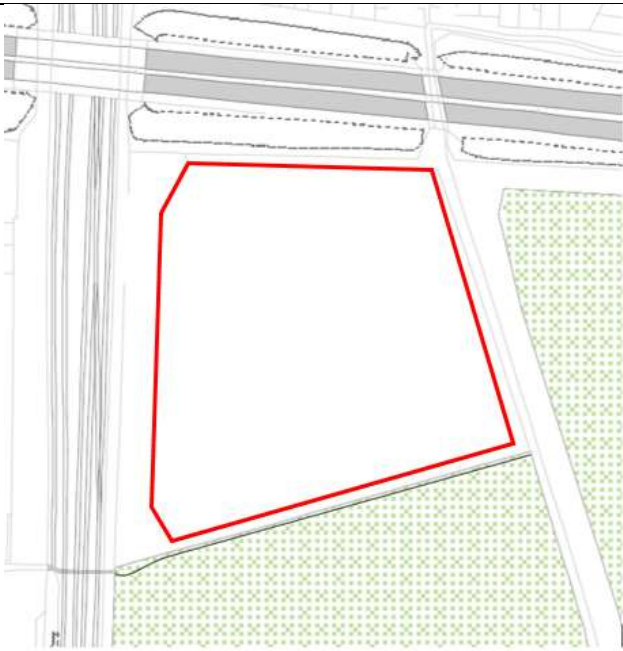
	<p>Wildlife</p> <p>A small planted woodland established on landfill, the site is a wildlife haven within the agricultural landscape. There is some connectivity with hedgerow complexes in the area. Native wild flower bulbs have been planted in recent years. A pond within the woodland provides habitat for many species. The north west portion of the site is currently rough grassland, providing habitat for many species.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>No.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Beauty, Wildlife	Y


Site Name	13 Jubilee Wood & Orchard
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	7.23 ha
Site Location	This site is located to the south-east of Biggleswade. It is within 400m of the closest residential area.
Site Description	<p>The site is primarily a young woodland with an adjacent grassed area and a heritage orchard.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>Although young, the woodland is gaining a beauty which will only increase over the coming decades. In an otherwise open landscape, the wood will mature into a key asset in the local landscape.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>In the centre of the wood is a heritage orchard comprising 100 trees of local varieties of heritage apples, pears and plums. The orchard was planted to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.</p>


	<p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site is one of the most tranquil sites in the parish, being a distance from both the A1 and East Coast Mainline. This sense of tranquillity will increase as the wood matures.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is very popular with walkers and dog walkers; including those who visit it as an additional loop from the Biggleswade Green Wheel. For a number of years the site has been used for an Easter Sunday sunrise service, organised by Biggleswade Churches Together.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>A recently planted woodland and orchard with associated grassland and hedgerows in the agricultural zone around the town. The site is developing well and is already providing a range of habitats for wildlife. Native wildflowers, bulbs and a fruit/ berry bearing hedge have been planted. The orchard will provide habitat and ground foraging as it matures. There is connectivity via hedgerows to the Baden Powell Linear Park and beyond forming part of the wider complex of biodiverse sites to the east of Biggleswade.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>In a community survey undertaken for the Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan, this site ranked as the seventh equal most popular site in the town.</p> <p>A significant portion of the woodland was planted by the local community, with over 200 people from local groups and schools, as well as individuals, taking part.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation, Wildlife, Beauty	Y


Site Name	14 Kitelands Recreation Ground
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	2.15 ha
Site Location	This site is located with a residential area towards the south of the town. The site borders the grounds of Biggleswade Academy.
Site Description	<p>The site is primarily mown grass with a few specimen trees. The site features informal sports pitches and play areas for both younger and older children.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site is not unattractive, but has no real focal point or features of beauty. The setting of the site is not enhanced by being bordered on three sides by gardens with a range of fencing treatments and on the fourth by a chain link fence along the school grounds.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>None</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Set within a residential area and with no road-frontage the site is relatively peaceful.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is very popular with children of all ages; who play both on the equipped play areas and the wider grass field.</p>


	<p>The site is also popular for dog walking and picnics.</p> <p>Well-used paths pass through the site providing access to the adjacent schools from the surrounding residential areas.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is a managed recreation ground with formal play equipment and hard play areas. There is apparently very little wildlife value other than in the corners and eastern edge which are left to grow long grass and have been planted with trees. However, the site is well connected to gardens and school playing fields giving a much wider functional green area than the site provides on its own.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>n/a</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation	Y


Site Name	15 The Lakes Recreation Ground
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	1.71 ha
Site Location	This site is located immediately south of the A1, to the south of Biggleswade and is within 100m of the closest residential properties.
Site Description	<p>The site is mown grass, managed for football pitches. Three of the site's corners have been planted with a few small trees and the grass in these areas is left to grow longer.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>Being enclosed by a chain-link fence and with the East Coast mainline and the A1 forming two of its boundaries, the site is not beautiful.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>None</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>With the East Coast mainline and the A1 forming two of its boundaries, the site is not tranquil.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>This site is used for both organised and informal football.</p> <p>The site is used by fitness groups such as Boot Camps.</p>


	<p>It is also used by local dog walkers.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is a managed sports field with very little wildlife value other than in the corners which are left to grow long grass and have been planted with trees. It is adjacent to the railway, ultimately linking into town and a narrow woodland belt that links to hedgerows beyond</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>No</p>		
Site Photo			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	N	N


Site Name	16 Saxon Drive Linear Wood
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	3.02 ha
Site Location	This site is located on the south-east fringe of Biggleswade, alongside the Saxon Gate residential area.
Site Description	<p>The site is a linear woodland which is divided into northern and southern halves by an access road to a new housing development.</p> <p>The southern part of the site was planted in the 1980's and is a mix of conifer and broadleaved tree species. The northern part of the site was planted in approximately 2000 with broadleaved tree species and also incorporates a pond.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>This site is attractive, both for passing motorists and for users of the path which runs through the site. Attractive all year round but especially in the autumn, the beauty of the site is enhanced by sculptured wooden seating.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>n/a</p>


	<p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Originally planted as a buffer on the edge of town, housing is now being built on its eastern edge, while the Saxon Drive road along its western boundary means the site is not as peaceful as it has been. However, the beauty of the site does give a sense of tranquillity.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The path through the site carries the Biggleswade Green Wheel and is heavily used by walkers, runners and cyclists.</p> <p>Informal 'natural play' features and the sculpted seating are popular with young families.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is a linear planted woodland with small areas of wildflower rich grassland, hedgerows and a pond. The pond is especially important for spawning amphibians. The site has developed a good mixed age structure of woody plants and provides good habitats for a wide range of wildlife. It is well connected to Baden Powell Linear Park and the allotments and beyond to form a wider greenspace network to the east of Biggleswade.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>The site is home to the Green Wheel's principal gateway feature (see below).</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation, Beauty, Wildlife	Y


Site Name	17 Saxon Gate Pocket Park
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	1.05 ha
Site Location	This site is located towards the south of the town, adjacent to residential areas and roads.
Site Description	<p>The site is a mix of managed grassland and woodland, with trees of varying ages. A small orchard is set within an area of wildflower grassland. The site is almost entirely surrounded by roads.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>Features within the site are attractive, but its setting detracts from any real sense of beauty.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The site features a sculpture erected in the late 1990's to celebrate this part of the town's Saxon history.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Being surrounded by roads, this site is not tranquil.</p>


	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>This site is visited by local dog walkers and young families.</p> <p>The site is occasionally used by local groups, such as the scouts, for nature trails.</p> <p>The site also attracts a degree of antisocial behaviour from youths who congregate at its entrance.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is a small oasis of green within the outskirts of town featuring planted woodland areas, a small orchard, hedgerows and wildflower rich grassland. The site is surprisingly good for wildlife providing a refuge within an urban setting. Although separated from the wider greenspace network to the east of Biggleswade it forms an important last step entering the town.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>The site has previously received funding through the BBC's 'Breathing Spaces' programme.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation, Wildlife	Y

Site Name	18 Stratton Moat
Site Map	 <p style="text-align: right;">Not to scale</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	0.65 ha
Site Location	This site is located to the south east of Biggleswade and is bordered by the mobile homes along Stratton Park Drive.
Site Description	<p>The site was originally a single site with the adjacent meadow, but was divided in two when part of the meadow land was sold as a garden extension to Stratton Park Farm.</p> <p>This western portion of the site is the mediaeval Stratton Moat, associated with the former Stratton Park.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>While the key features of the site have their own beauty, the setting detracts from this beauty. The moat is largely hidden from public view but is beautiful from within the site.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The moat dates from the 13th-14th Centuries and together with the earthworks in the adjacent meadow is a Scheduled Monument. The</p>

	<p>moat is a large banked and ditched enclosure and would have been the site of the main manor house of Stratton.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The island of the moat is secluded and despite its proximity to the mobile homes and Dunton Lane has a tranquil atmosphere.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site currently has no public access; although consideration has been given as to how public access could safely be provided while protecting the heritage features of the site.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is an important heritage site that has had to balance heritage value against wildlife value; nevertheless the mix of scrub, mature trees (particularly some veteran fruit and nut trees), open grassland and a partly water filled moat provides good habitat for a wide range of wildlife. The site provides a quiet area for wildlife on the edge of town. It joins to Saxon Gate Linear Wood and Stratton Moat Meadow (Dunton Lane) extending that site for wildlife and becoming part of the wider complex of greenspaces east of Biggleswade.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>In a community survey undertaken for the Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan, this site ranked as the sixth most popular site in the town.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y	Y

Site Name	19 Stratton Moat Meadow
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	3.31 ha
Site Location	This site is located to the south east of Biggleswade and is bordered by the mobile homes along Stratton Park Drive.
Site Description	<p>This meadowland is occasionally grazed or managed for hay. It has significant earthworks / archaeological features but these are not obviously apparent to the untrained eye. The site is bordered by a mix of fencing and gappy hedges.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The meadow runs alongside Dunton Lane and the recently expanded Stratton Business Park, both of which detract from a sense of beauty.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The meadow has a series of well-preserved enclosures and platforms, probably paddocks associated with the settlement of Stratton. With its association to Stratton Moat to the west, this site is a Scheduled Monument.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The meadow runs alongside Dunton Lane and the recently expanded Stratton Business Park, both of which detract from a sense of tranquillity.</p>

	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site currently has no public access; although consideration has been given as to how public access could be provided while protecting the heritage features of the site.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is an important heritage site which features mainly grassland with a short section of hedgerow along one edge and some perimeter mature trees. The type of grassland does not appear to have been recently assessed so its full wildlife value is not known. The site benefits from a lack of public access providing a quiet area for wildlife on the edge of town. It lies very close to Stratton Moat but is separated from the wider countryside by roads.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>In a community survey undertaken for the Biggleswade Green Infrastructure Plan, this site ranked as the sixth most popular site in the town (<i>although it should be noted that at this stage it was identified as part of a wider site with Stratton Moat</i>).</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y History	Y

Site Name	20 Stratton Way Recreation Ground
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p> <p>Crown Copyright and Database Right 2017, Ordnance Survey 100049029, Central Bedfordshire Council</p>
Site Area	3.31 ha
Site Location	This site is located between the former eastern edge of the town and the Kings Reach development to the east.
Site Description	<p>The site is mown amenity grassland with a football pitch and changing rooms. The southern end of the site has some play equipment. The site is bordered to the west and south by residential gardens and to the east by Biggleswade Cemetery.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site, while not unattractive, has no features that could be described as beautiful.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>Unknown.</p>

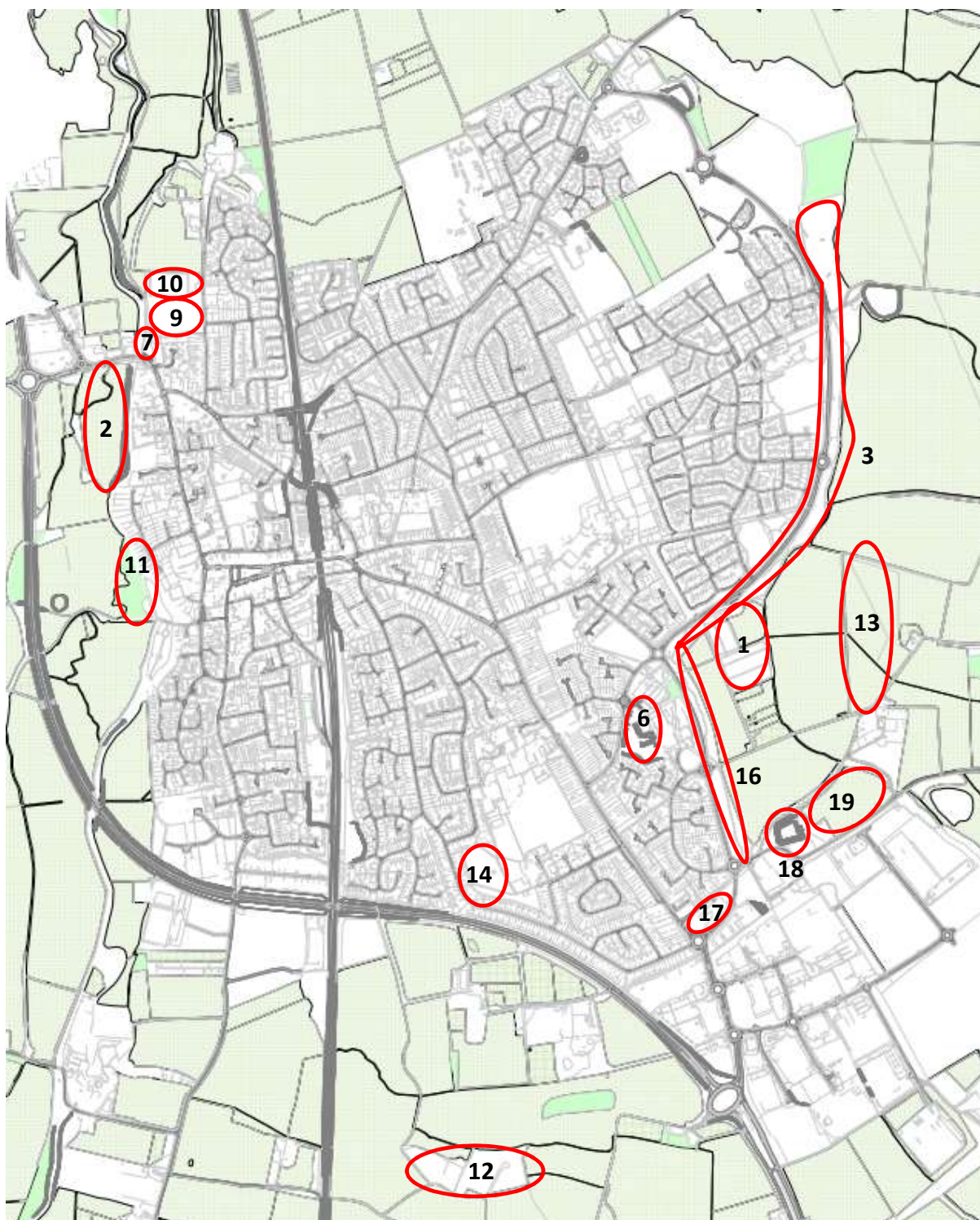
	<p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site gains some sense of tranquillity from the adjoining cemetery to the east, but is otherwise surrounded by residential areas.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is used for formal and informal football and has play equipment for various ages.</p> <p>The site is also used by dog walkers.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>This is a managed sports field with very little wildlife value other than in the corners and some edges which are left to grow long grass and have been planted with trees. It is adjacent to a cemetery forming a larger “green” space than it would have done on its own.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>None.</p>		
Site Photo			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	N	N

Final Proposed Local Green Space Designations

The following sites have been assessed and considered to meet LGS criteria; and as such are proposed to be designated as Local Green Spaces through the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan.

Sites assessed and proposed for LGS Designation within the Biggleswade Neighbourhood Plan
1 Allotments & Wildflower Meadow
2 Back Meadows
3 Baden Powell Way Linear Park
6 Chambers Way Recreation Ground
7 Dan Albone Picnic Area
9 Fairfield First Meadow
10 Fairfield Second Meadow (including the play area)
11 Franklins Recreation Ground
12 Holme Green Wood
13 Jubilee Wood & Orchard
14 Kitelands Recreation Ground
16 Saxon Drive Linear Wood
17 Saxon Gate Pocket Park
18 Stratton Moat
19 Stratton Moat Meadow (Dunton Lane)
Sites assessed and considered to not meet LGS criteria
5 Bunyan Road/ Lincoln Crescent green corridor
8 Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground
15 Lakes Recreation Ground
20 Stratton Way Recreation Ground

The above proposed LGS sites are shown on the map on the following page.



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Not to Scale

This assessment has been undertaken by Cliff Andrews, BRCC's Deputy Chief Executive and Mike Fayers, BRCC's Community & Environment Officer; with support from Richard Lawrence, BRCC Ecologist.

Site visits were undertaken during November 2020 – February 2021.

Cliff Andrews, BedsRCC Deputy Chief Executive.

March 2021.