

APPENDIX 12 – LOCAL GREEN SPACES



DESIGNATION STUDY

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – LOCAL GREEN SPACES/FORMAL OPEN SPACES STUDY

1. Introduction

1.1 The Local Green Space (LGS) designation is a way to protect green areas or open spaces against development where they are of particular importance to local communities. Local Green Space designations are made for use in Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans. These plans can identify on a map ('designate') green areas for special protection. Once designated, Local Green Spaces receive protection consistent with national Green Belt policy.

1.2 The purpose of this study is to explain the process which has led to the proposed designation of areas of LGS in the Catshill and North Marlbrook Neighbourhood Plan (NP). It sets out the national and local background to LGS and explains the methodology used in the assessment.

1.3 From the previous consultations undertaken by the NP Steering Group, protecting wild life, green spaces and village boundaries scored highly in residents' responses;

'To maintain the Green Belt between Catshill and Bromsgrove'

'Preserve green space and plant more trees, encouraging more wild flowers'

1.4 All of the sites that have been considered for designation as LGS are included in this report. Weight has been given to selecting green spaces that protect and enhance green corridors (see Green Infrastructure Report) and act as 'stepping-stones' for plants and wild life.

1.5 It is also the intention to identify open spaces which have been formalised with the community in their use over time such as the Meadow (football, dog walking), recreation spaces, play areas and sports pitches. The support for further protection has been sought from parish residents and the results of the survey will reflect the value placed on these open spaces by them.

2. Planning policy background

National

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF – revised February 2019) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

2.2 Section 8 of the NPPF highlights the important role the planning system can play in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities. Paragraphs 99 – 101 refer specifically to LGS. Paragraph 99 states:

‘

'The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.'

2.3 Paragraph 100 explains when the LGS designation should be used:

- a) *'The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is: in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- b) *demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c) *local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.'*

2.4 Paragraph 101 identifies that local policy for managing development within a LGS should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

2.5 The NPPF is supported by guidance set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). With regard to LGS NPPG identifies:

- Designating LGS needs to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. Plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the LGS designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306);
- LGS designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306);
- LGS may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or in a neighbourhood in a town or city (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306);
- If land is already protected by another designation, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as LGS (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 37-010-20140306);
- The LGS will need to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 100 of the NPPF (see paragraph 2.3 above). Whether to designate land is a matter for local discretion. For example, green areas could include land where sports pavilions, boating lakes or structures such as war memorials are located, allotments, or urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306);
- The proximity of a LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special, but it must be reasonably close. For example, if public access is a key factor, then the site would normally be within easy walking distance of the community served (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306);
- There are no hard and fast rules about how big a LGS can be because places are different and a degree of judgment will inevitably be needed. However, paragraph 100 of the NPPF is clear that LGS designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land. Consequently, blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. In particular, designation

should not be proposed as a 'back door' way to try to achieve what would amount to a new area of Green Belt by another name (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306);

□ Provided land can meet the criteria at paragraph 100 of the NPPF there is no lower size limit for a Local Green Space. (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306);

□ Land can be designated as LGS even if there is no public access e.g. green areas which are valued because of their wildlife, historic significance and/or beauty. Designation does not in itself confer any rights of public access over what exists at present. Any additional access would be a matter for separate negotiation with land owners, whose legal rights must be respected (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306);

□ Areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may be crossed by public rights of way. There is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306);

□ A LGS does not need to be in public ownership. However, the qualifying body should contact landowners at an early stage about proposals to designate any part of their land as LGS. Landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in a draft plan (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306);

□ Designating a green area as LGS would give it protection consistent with that in respect of Green Belt, but otherwise there are no new restrictions or obligations on landowners (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306);

□ Management of land designated as LGS will remain the responsibility of its owner. If the features that make a green area special and locally significant are to be conserved, how it will be managed in the future is likely to be an important consideration. Local communities can consider how, with the landowner's agreement, they might be able to get involved, perhaps in partnership with interested organisations that can provide advice or resources (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306); and

□ Land designated as LGS may potentially also be nominated for listing by the local authority as an Asset of Community Value. Listing gives community interest groups an opportunity to bid if the owner wants to dispose of the land. (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306).

Bromsgrove District Local Plan

2.7 Para 8.248 in the Local Plan (January 2017) outlines the importance of open spaces to the well-being of the community and the need to protect these spaces from development;

'One of the important components of health and wellbeing is the open space, sport and recreation facilities that are integral to both urban and rural communities. The provision of high quality, accessible open space, sport and recreation facilities in the right areas can have significant benefits in relation to health, community cohesion and general wellbeing. The Council will therefore protect all the existing facilities of this nature from development, except those in areas with an oversupply or where the need or benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss. Where proposed development would result in the loss of a facility or area of open space, the policy requires appropriate compensation for the loss. All housing developments are expected to contribute to the delivery of these amenities in accordance with the provision standards identified in the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Assessment (2010).'

2.8 Under the planning policy BDP25 covering Health and Well Being, the relevant policy to protecting open spaces is as follows;

BDP25.3 The Council will not permit the loss or displacement of existing indoor and outdoor open space, sport and recreation facilities (including both designated and undesignated

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areas on the Policies Map) to other uses unless it can be demonstrated through up-to-date and robust evidence that:

- There is a proven surplus of provision and the site is no longer needed, or is unlikely to be required in the future; or
- The benefit of the development to the community outweighs the harm caused by the loss of the facility; or
- An alternative facility of an equal quantity and quality or higher standard will be provided in at least an equally convenient and accessible location to serve the same local community.

3. Identification of Open Spaces

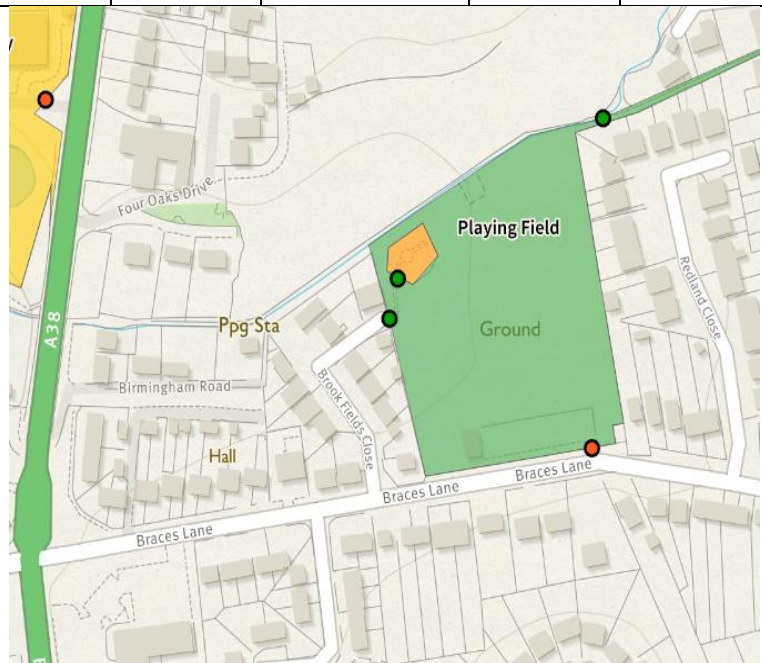

Formal Open Spaces

3.1 The Environment Working Group identified the well-used and historical formal open spaces in the Parish. Bromsgrove District Council identifies them as 'parks and playgrounds' on their webpage <https://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk/things-to-do/parks-and-outdoors/parks-and-play-areas/catshill,-marlbrook,-lickey-end-and-nearby.aspx>. The descriptions and utility of these open spaces can be summarised in the following table and detailed maps;

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK GREEN SPACES – FORMAL OPEN SPACES					
	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	QUALITY OF FACILITY	DESIGNATION	COMMUNITY VALUE
1	Lower Marlbrook Play Area and Recreation Ground, Braces Lane	Open, flat area of formal grasses area for football and similar use. There is a children's play area to the north of the ground which is bordered by the Lydiate Brook and Braces Lane to the south. This has on-site parking facilities.	Generally well maintained open managed grass area.	Recreation Ground Bromsgrove District Council	M
2	Lingfield Walk Recreation Ground	Recreation ground and play area. Used for a variety of community sports events, play and leisure activities.	Well managed general sports field and children's playground with relatively new equipment.	Recreation Ground Bromsgrove District Council	M
3	The Meadow recreation ground, Meadow Road [George Wagstaff Memorial Meadow].	Approximately 1.5 ha of recreational sports field, children's play area, changing facilities and pathways for recreational walking, etc. the Meadow was an area of recreation and leisure by providing a more diverse selection of activities for all residents of Catshill. Bounded by houses to all side and is delineated to the west by the Battlefield Brook	Well managed and maintained grassland with some planting areas. Has small area of surfaced parking to the front and sports changing facilities. Good security.	The Meadow is entrusted to the North West Ward Association (NWWA), a charity that brought the land in 1951 and who represent the residents of Catshill.	H
4	School Sports Fields to rear of Catshill First and Middle Schools	Private, managed open grassland areas to the rears of Catshill Middle School and Catshill First School and Nursey. Used for school sports and a local football team.	Well maintained school sports field and recreation area.	School sports fields – Worcestershire County Council	H
5	Play Area/Recreation Ground to rear of Shelly Close on Milton Road cycle path.	Recreation ground and children's play area. Open managed grass area. Leads on to open countryside and good surfaces cycle route to Stourbridge Road.	Generally well maintained play area and informal football/sports field.	Recreation Ground. Bromsgrove District Council	M

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1 – Braces Lane Playing Field

OPEN SPACES LOCATION		PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]					
Braces Lane Playing Field		Recreational ✓	Parkland	Agricultural	Garden/Managed	Unmanaged	Church yard
LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS							
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low				
Managed Grassland	✓						
Agricultural/cultivated			✓				
Pasture/grazing			✓				
Sports/social	✓						
Playground	✓						
Wooded			✓				
Hedgerows		✓					
Stream/brook	✓						
Open water/ponds/wetland		✓					
Primary Network – corridor [Indicate ]		✓					
Designation Status	Public Playing Field						
Other [describe]	Local sports and children's playground						
Community value/benefit	✓						
<p>Description: Braces Lane Playing Field is owned and managed by Bromsgrove District Council. Designated as public open space for use by the community as a sports field, play area, events and dog walking, etc. Held in high regards by the community in North Marlbrook and regularly used for various events such as football and sporting matches. It is equipped with a car parking and changing facilities.</p>							



Public Footpath



Braces Lane Playing Field

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2– Lingfield Walk Playing Field

OPEN SPACES LOCATION Lingfield Walk Playing Field		PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]				
		Recreational ✓	Parkland	Agricultural	Garden/Managed	Unmanaged
LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS						
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low			
Managed Grassland	✓					
Agricultural/cultivated			✓			
Pasture/grazing			✓			
Sports/social	✓					
Playground	✓					
Wooded			✓			
Hedgerows		✓				
Stream/brook	✓					
Open water/ponds/wetland		✓				
Primary Network – corridor [Indicate →]		✓				
Designation Status	Public Playing Field					
Other [describe]	Public Open Space					
Community value/benefit	✓					

Description: Horse Course/Lingfield Walk Playing Field is owned and is managed by Bromsgrove District Council. Designated as public open space for use by the community as a sports field, play area, events and dog walking, etc. Held in high regards by the community in Catshill and regularly used for various events such as football and sporting matches. Green open space with mini soccer goals, a spinning dish, cradle and flat swings, a cone climber, tower slide, seesaw, slide. Marl Brook stream to southern boundary and balancing pond to the north.



3 – The Meadow Playing Field


OPEN SPACES LOCATION The Meadow		PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]					
		Recreational ✓	Parkland	Agricultural	Garden/Managed	Unmanaged	Church yard
LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS							
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low				
Managed Grassland	✓						
Agricultural/cultivated			✓				
Pasture/grazing			✓				
Sports/social	✓						
Playground	✓						
Wooded			✓				
Hedgerows		✓					
Stream/brook	✓						
Open water/ponds/wetland		✓					
Primary Network – corridor [Indicate ]			✓				
Designation Status	Public Playing Field in Trust						
Other [describe]	Main Area for village events and sports						
Community value/benefit	✓						

Description: The Meadow is owned by the residents of Catshill. It is a piece of land that is in Trust and is looked after by an annually elected management committee called the North West Ward Association. Public open space held in trust for the community and serves as a sports field, play area, social events and dog walking, etc. Held in high regards by the community and regularly used by the community for various events such as fireworks displays and it hosts 2 local youth floorball teams.



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4 – Schools Sports Field

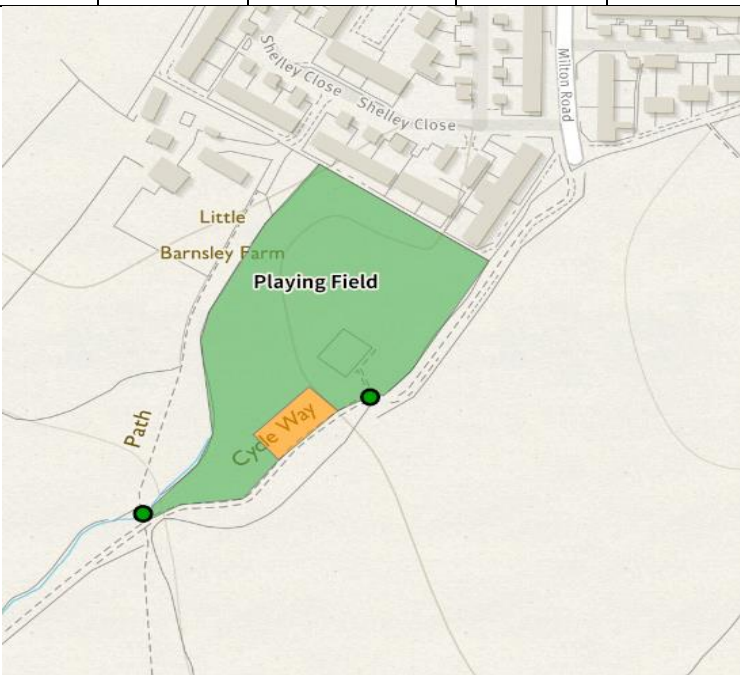
OPEN SPACES LOCATION		PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]					
Schools Sports Fields		Recreational ✓	Parkland	Agricultural	Garden/Managed	Unmanaged	Church yard
LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS							
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low				
Managed Grassland	✓						
Agricultural/cultivated			✓				
Pasture/grazing			✓				
Sports/social	✓						
Playground	✓						
Wooded			✓				
Hedgerows			✓				
Stream/brook			✓				
Open water/ponds/wetland			✓				
Primary Network – corridor [Indicate →]			✓				
Designation Status	Schools sports fields						
Other [describe]	Sports field and playground						
Community value/benefit	✓						
Description: Schools sports fields owned and managed by Worcestershire County Council LEA.							



School's Sports Field

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5 – Shelly Close Playing Field

OPEN SPACES LOCATION Shelley Close Playing Field		PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]				
		Recreational ✓	Parkland	Agricultural	Garden/Managed	Unmanaged
LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION UNITS						
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low			
Managed Grassland	✓					
Agricultural/cultivated			✓			
Pasture/grazing			✓			
Sports/social	✓					
Playground	✓					
Wooded			✓			
Hedgerows		✓				
Stream/brook		✓				
Open water/ponds/wetland			✓			
Primary Network – corridor [Indicate →]		✓				
Designation Status	Public Playing Field					
Other [describe]	Local sports and children's playground					
Community value/benefit	✓					

Description: Shelly Close/Milton Road Playing Field is owned and is managed by Bromsgrove District Council. Designated as public open space for use by the community as a sports field, play area, events and dog walking, etc. Held in high regards by the community in Catshill and regularly used for various events such as football and sporting matches. Has children's playground with slides and swings and a zip-wire ride.



Shelly Close Playground



Shelly Close Playground

Local Green Spaces

3.3 Following extensive consultation at workshops held in May and June 2017, the results of the consultative questionnaires, and the Landscape Character Assessment Study (January 2018) the Environment Working Group identified six green spaces which exemplified 'the distinctive character and environment' of the Parish - an important requirement of the NP Vision Statement. The assessments undertaken for each site was an initial analysis to judge their potential community value not to prove that the sites were 'demonstrably special' to the community. From this initial assessment, it showed that the chosen sites protected and enhanced the Green Corridors identified in the Green Infrastructure Network and provided 'stepping-stones' for wildlife and plants.

3.4 The identified green spaces all passed the initial assessment of whether they were 'Local in Character' i.e. a space that is a local facility and not part of open countryside and an extensive tract of land and in 'Close Proximity' i.e. reasonable walking distance from shopping centre of the village (on Golden Cross Lane)

3.5 The following table provides a summary description of each area with a picture of the area. More detailed information on each area is contained in the following pages;

Local Green Spaces

1



Natural area near Cottage Lane, North Marlbrook at the side of the Marl Brook.

2



Natural ground to the north of Braces Lane sports ground.

3



Open area to the north of Lingfield Walk sports ground and balancing pond.

4



Small area of woodland adjacent to the M5 near Woodrow Lane.

5



Wooded area to the rear of Cowslip Close off Church Road near M5.

6





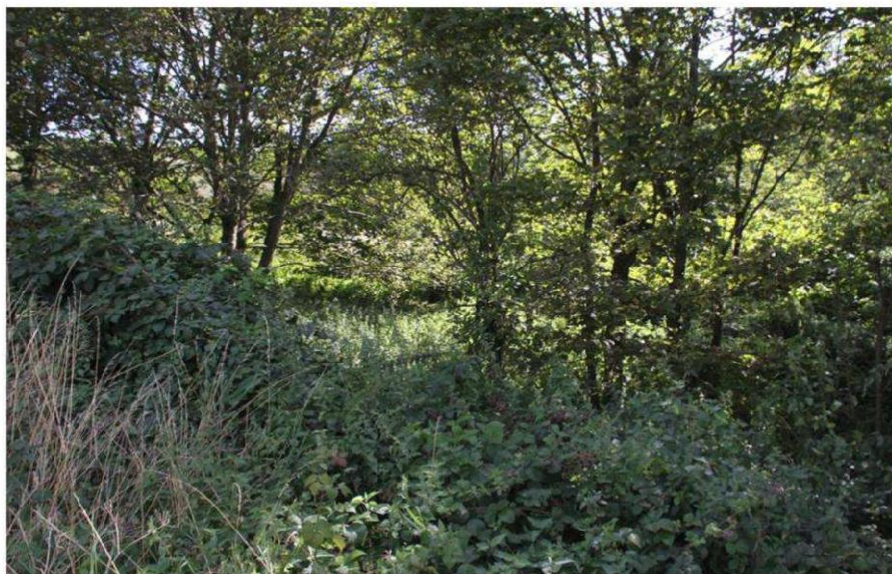
Wooded area to the south east of M5, near 'The Piggeries' to the rear of the cemetery.



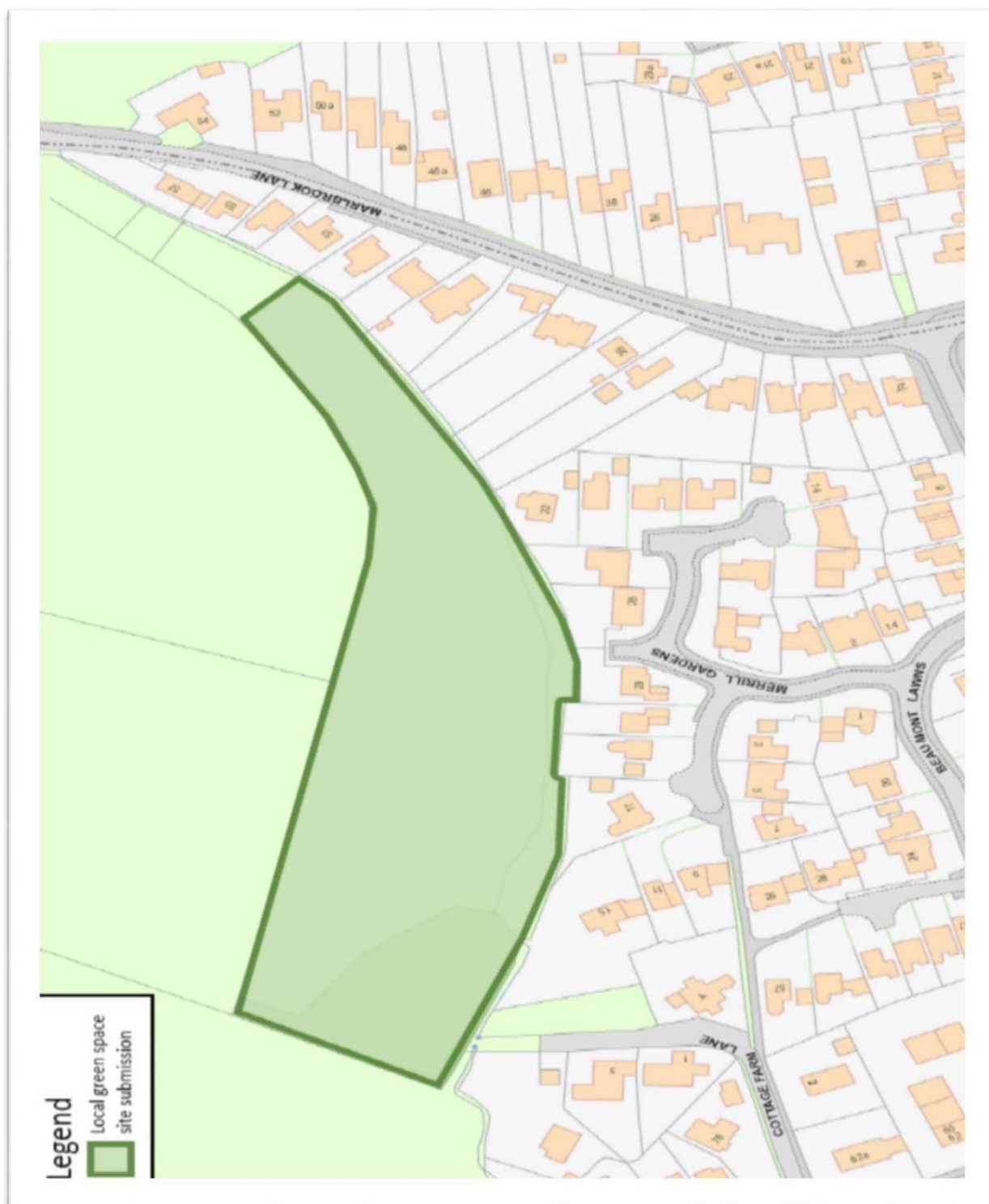
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Local Green Space Area 1

NATURAL SPACE LOCATION:		PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]									
Natural Green Space Cottage Farm Lane, North Marlbrook		Recreational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parkland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Garden/Managed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unmanaged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Church yard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIPTION [SO965741] 274397N – 395799E											
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low								
Unmanaged Greenspace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Agricultural/cultivated			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Sports/Social			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Playground			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Wooded - Hedgerows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Stream/brook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Open water/ponds/wetland		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
PRow – Green corridor [Indicate 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Designation Status	Public Playing Field										
Community Value/Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Unmanaged natural green space bounded by Marl Brook to the south and agricultural lands to the north											
Description Open natural wooded space along Battlefield Brook course used for walks and dog walking, etc. Forms important wildlife and green infrastructure corridor.											



Local Green Space Area 1 - Area Boundary



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Local Green Space Area 2

NATURAL SPACE LOCATION:				PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]									
Natural Green Space – Braces Lane north of Recreational Ground				Recreational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parkland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Garden/Managed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unmanaged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Church yard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIPTION [SO965741] 274377N – 397145E													
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low										
Unmanaged Greenspace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
Agricultural/cultivated			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Sports/Social			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Playground			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Wooded - Hedgerows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>											
Stream/brook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
Open water/ponds/wetland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
PRoW – Green corridor [Indicate]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
Designation Status	Public Playing Field												
Community Value/Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
Other: Wildlife corridor and natural habitat area													
Description Open natural, uncultivated area adjacent to Marl Brook course to the south with agricultural area to the north used for walking and dog walking, etc. forms important wildlife and green infrastructure corridor.													




Local Green Space Area 2 - Area Boundary



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Local Green Space Area 3

NATURAL SPACE LOCATION:		PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]									
Natural Green Space – Lingfield Walk – near Recreation Ground, Balancing pond and Foot Path [PROW]		Recreational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parkland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Garden/Managed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unmanaged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Church yard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIPTION [SO965741] 274202N – 396787E											
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low								
Unmanaged Greenspace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Agricultural/cultivated			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Sports/Social		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
Playground			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Wooded - Hedgerows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
Stream/brook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Open water/ponds/wetland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
PROW – Green corridor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Designation Status	Recreation Ground only Open natural area none known										
Community Value/Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Other [describe] Wildlife corridor											
Description Open natural grassland along PROW and Balancing pond with Marl Brook course to the south used for walks, cycling and dog walking, etc. forms important wildlife and green infrastructure corridor.											



View over the balancing pond along brook course

Local Green Space Area 3 - Area Boundary



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Local Green Space Area 4

NATURAL SPACE LOCATION:				PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]									
Natural Green Wooded Area – Woodrow Lane near M5.				Recreational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parkland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Garden/Managed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unmanaged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Church yard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIPTION [SO965741] 274377N – 397145E													
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low										
Unmanaged Greenspace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
Agricultural/cultivated			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Sports/Social			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Playground			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Wooded - Hedgerows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
Stream/brook			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Open water/ponds/wetland			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
PRoW – Green corridor [Indicate]			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Designation Status	None known												
Community Value/Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
Other: Wildlife corridor and natural habitat area													
Description Small area of semi-mature Woodland adjacent to M5 Motorway, off Woodrow Lane, etc. forms important sound attenuation screening and wildlife habitat.													



Local Green Space Area 4 - Area Boundary



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Local Green Space Area 5

NATURAL SPACE LOCATION:		PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]									
Natural Green Space Cowslip Close Off Church Road		Recreational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parkland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Garden/Managed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unmanaged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Church yard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIPTION [SO965741] 274385N – 395823E											
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low								
Unmanaged Greenspace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Agricultural/cultivated			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Sports/Social			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Playground			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Wooded - Hedgerows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Stream/brook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Open water/ponds/wetland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
PRoW – Green corridor [Indicate]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Designation Status	None known										
Community Value/Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Other [describe] open area of wet-woodland and scrub											
Description Open natural wooded space along Battlefield Brook course used for walks and dog walking, etc. Forms important wildlife and green infrastructure corridor. Acts as sound attenuation to M5 Motorway. Provides wildlife habitats.											





Local Green Space Area 5 - Area Boundary



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Local Green Space Area 6

NATURAL SPACE LOCATION:		PRIMARY LAND USE [tick below]									
Natural Green Space at the Piggeries, off Sturbridge Road		Recreational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parkland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Garden/Managed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unmanaged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Church yard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DESCRIPTION [SO965741] 270017N – 395570E											
Feature [tick]	High	Medium	Low								
Unmanaged Greenspace	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Agricultural/cultivated			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Sports/Social			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Playground			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Wooded - Hedgerows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Stream/brook			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
Open water/ponds/wetland			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
PRoW – Green corridor [Indicate 		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>									
Designation Status	None										
Community Value/Benefit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>										
Unmanaged natural wooded green space bounded by M5 and open fields to Stourbridge Road.											
Description Open natural, wooded space and noise attenuation area. Public Footpath to the southern boundary used for walks and dog walking, etc. Forms important wildlife and potential green infrastructure <u>area</u> .											



Local Green Space Area 6 - Area Boundary



Assessment Approach

4.1 A survey questionnaire was designed to gauge the support for both the formal open spaces and the proposed local green spaces and included as a supplementary in the parish magazine distributed in November 2019 and October 2020 to every household in the community (2800 households). The questionnaire is included as an Addendum to this Report. Gauging support for footpaths and cycle ways was also included in this questionnaire and the results and analysis are highlighted in Appendix 11 Green Infrastructure Network Report.

4.2 Support for the formal open spaces was judged on the strength of agreement to the statement, *'This formal open space is highly valued and very important to the community'* on a Likert type scale - 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree' and was applicable to each of the sites identified. (see para. 3.1)

4.3 The proposed designation of local green spaces was determined on how demonstrably special these spaces were considered to be to the local community on the criteria laid down in NPPF para.100.b). The question asked was *'To what extent do you feel that the following descriptions apply to the six identified green spaces i.e. beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquility and richness of wildlife.'* The respondents could put a tick in the box or boxes where the aforementioned descriptions applied.

4.4 Criteria for successful support of the formal open spaces would be a **majority agreement that the formal open spaces were highly valued**. With regards to the proposed local green spaces; those spaces considered 'demonstrably special' would be where **a majority of the respondents in the sample identified 2 or more descriptions as valid for the local green space(s)**.

Survey Questionnaire Results

4.5 The number of completed questionnaires was **284** (over 10% of the parish's households) and they were collated and analysed using 'SmartSurvey'. (A digital survey solution online to create surveys and analyse the results). The sample size was accurate at 95% confidence limits with a margin on results of less than + and – 6 (confidence interval).

Formal Open Spaces

4.6 An overwhelming support was recorded for each of the formal open spaces with the following comments representative of the feedback received. As the second part of the survey has taken place during the Co-vid pandemic, comments are reflective of this event and the impact on people's lives. Dozens of comments were received all supporting the protection and retention of the formal open spaces and the following figure shows just a few of these comments that were received.

'Must never see development on the Meadow - it is a peaceful area used by children, the elderly and dog walkers who meet for a daily chat. I love walking around the Meadow by myself or with my grandchildren.'

'Strong support for the Meadow'

'Please do not build on the field at Braces Lane'

'Publicly owned spaces need to be retained at all costs'

'Local spaces to meet our friends in the fresh air'

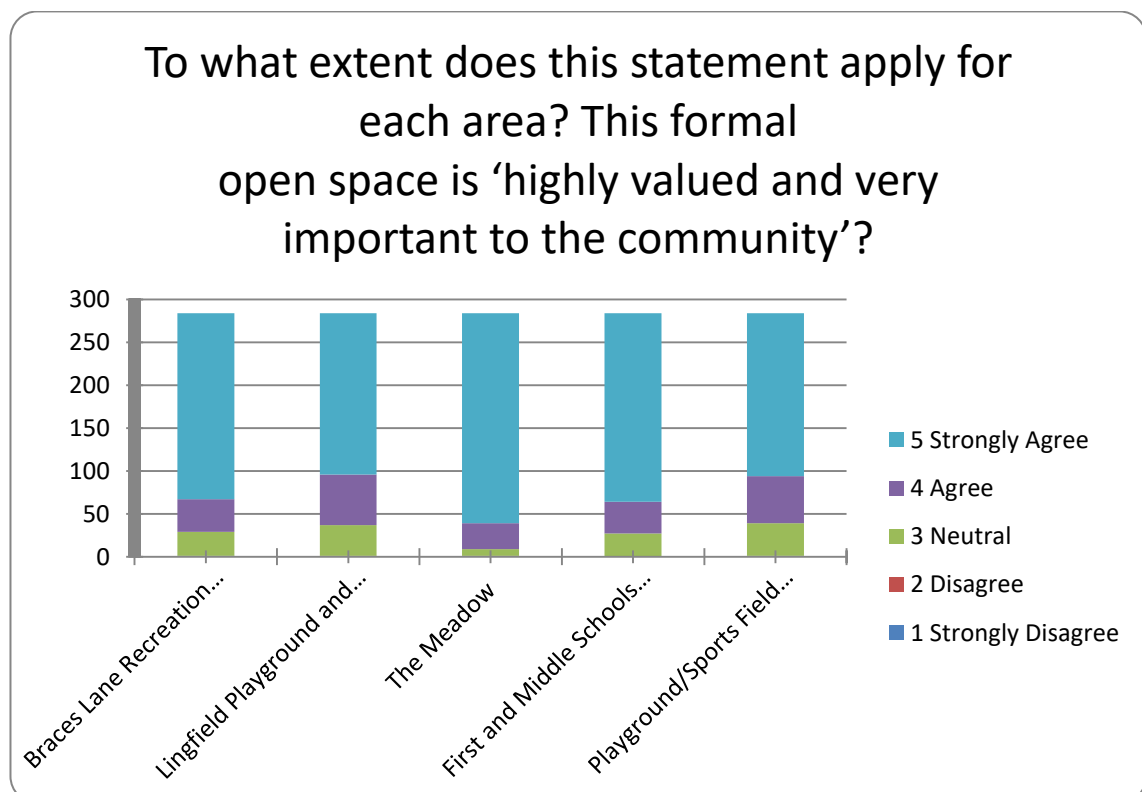
'The open spaces in Catshill are part of the reason I live in this area'

'Formal open spaces should be preserved as vital to the community'

'Due to coronavirus pandemic, we need open spaces and footpaths more than ever'

'During lockdown I found more and more places to enjoy and walk around'

4.6 Analysis of the results for the formal open spaces question showed that all formal open spaces scored over 85% 'agree' or 'strongly agree', with the Meadow scoring over 90% 'agree' or 'strongly agree' that the formal open spaces were highly valued. The following graphic demonstrates the high support for all formal open spaces;



Local Green Spaces

4.7 There was enthusiastic support for all the proposed green spaces with the following comments typical of those received. Comments were also received concerning specific green spaces and their site numbers are highlighted;

'The green areas connect everyone together, gives a space to breathe when the world gets too much.'

'The biodiversity of our green spaces is so important now and for future generations.'

'Regularly use all green spaces and green corridors identified. Need to encourage people to get out and walk or cycle to be fitter and healthier.'

'Need as many green spaces as we can for our children and grand children to experience the outdoors.'

'I run, walk and cycle a lot so all of the local open spaces are important to me.'

'Woodland areas crucial to wildlife and acts as a barrier to noise and pollution in the area.' (Sites 4 and 6)

'The trees help to protect us from the noise and pollution of the M5' (Site 6)

'Green spaces are a great value to the community and a meeting place for people to meet when walking dogs.'

'We have seen badgers, deer, foxes, owls, buzzards, green and great spotted woodpeckers and bats in our local green spaces. It is imperative that everything is done to maintain the habitats for our wild life population.' (This comment was received from a resident of North Marlbrook – sites 1 and 2)

'Footpaths around Braces Lane well used area. Site 1 is extremely important to our family and is a beautiful walk'.

'All the Local Green Spaces have natural attributes and potential for wild life'.

'Sites 4, 5 and 6 – these areas have environmental value and lessen the impact of the M5.'

'Green spaces – we use many of these for walks or are pleasant to be near during walks.'

'No development should be allowed on any of these green spaces.'

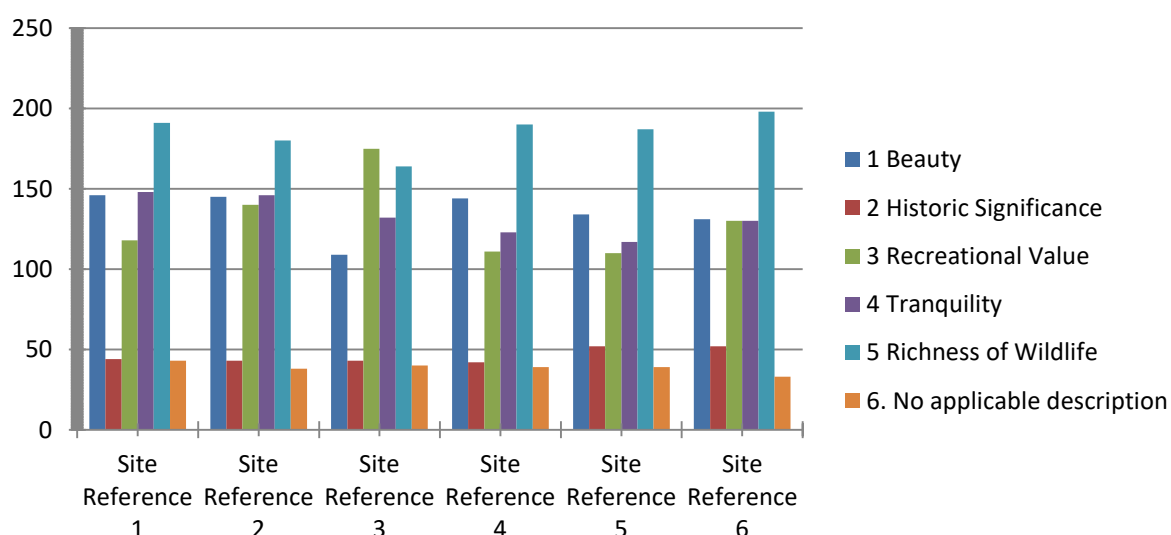
'All green spaces in Catshill must be retained to keep character of area.'

'Keep Catshill Green!'

4.8 There was a range of views on which descriptions were applicable to each identified site. In all sites the most popular factor was 'richness of wildlife with the highest score for site 6 which is a wooded area. For site 3, 'recreational value' was the most popular. Sites 1 and 2 scored highest for 'beauty' and 'tranquility'. The least subscribed descriptive factor was 'historic significance' for all sites. The following table and graphic shows the spread of descriptions and their popularity for each site;

Site Reference	1 Beauty	2 Historic Significance	3 Recreational Value	4 Tranquility	5 Richness of Wildlife	6. No applicable description
1	146	44	118	148	191	43
2	145	43	140	146	180	38
3	109	43	175	132	164	40
4	144	42	111	123	190	39
5	134	52	110	117	187	39
6	131	52	130	130	198	33

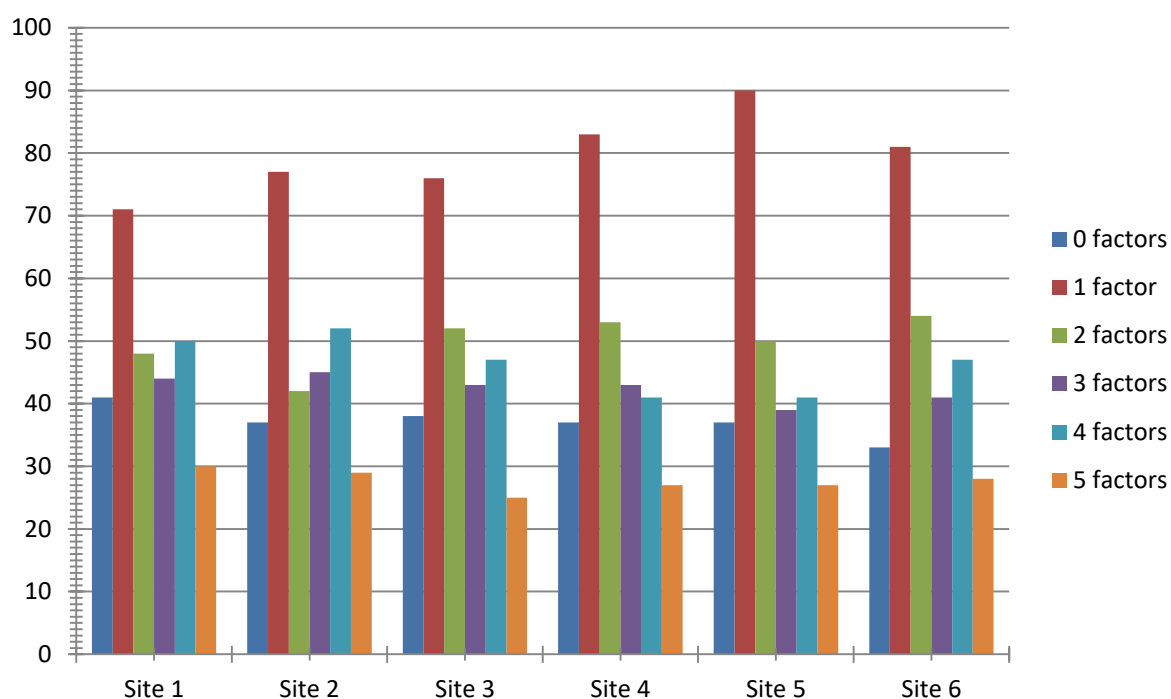
Thinking about the Local Green Spaces to what extent do you feel that the following descriptions apply to these spaces? You can tick as many boxes as you consider appropriate.



4.9 The following table shows that all sites scored at least one or more descriptive factor aggregating to well over 85% of responses and over 55% of responses indicated backing for 2 or more factors, supporting the statement that the identified local green spaces were demonstrably special to the community;

Site Reference	0 factors	1 factor	2 factors	3 factors	4 factors	5 factors
1	41 (14%)	71(25%)	48	44	50	30
2	37 (13%)	77(27%)	42	45	52	29
3	38 (14%)	76(27%)	52	43	47	25
4	37 (13%)	83(29%)	53	43	41	27
5	37 (13%)	90(32%)	50	39	41	27
6	33 (12%)	81(28%)	54	41	47	28

How many relevant descriptive factors have you identified per designated green space site?



Discussion of individual Local Green Sites

4.10 Each site was supported by the survey responses but different reasons for this support has become clear from the comments received, as follows;

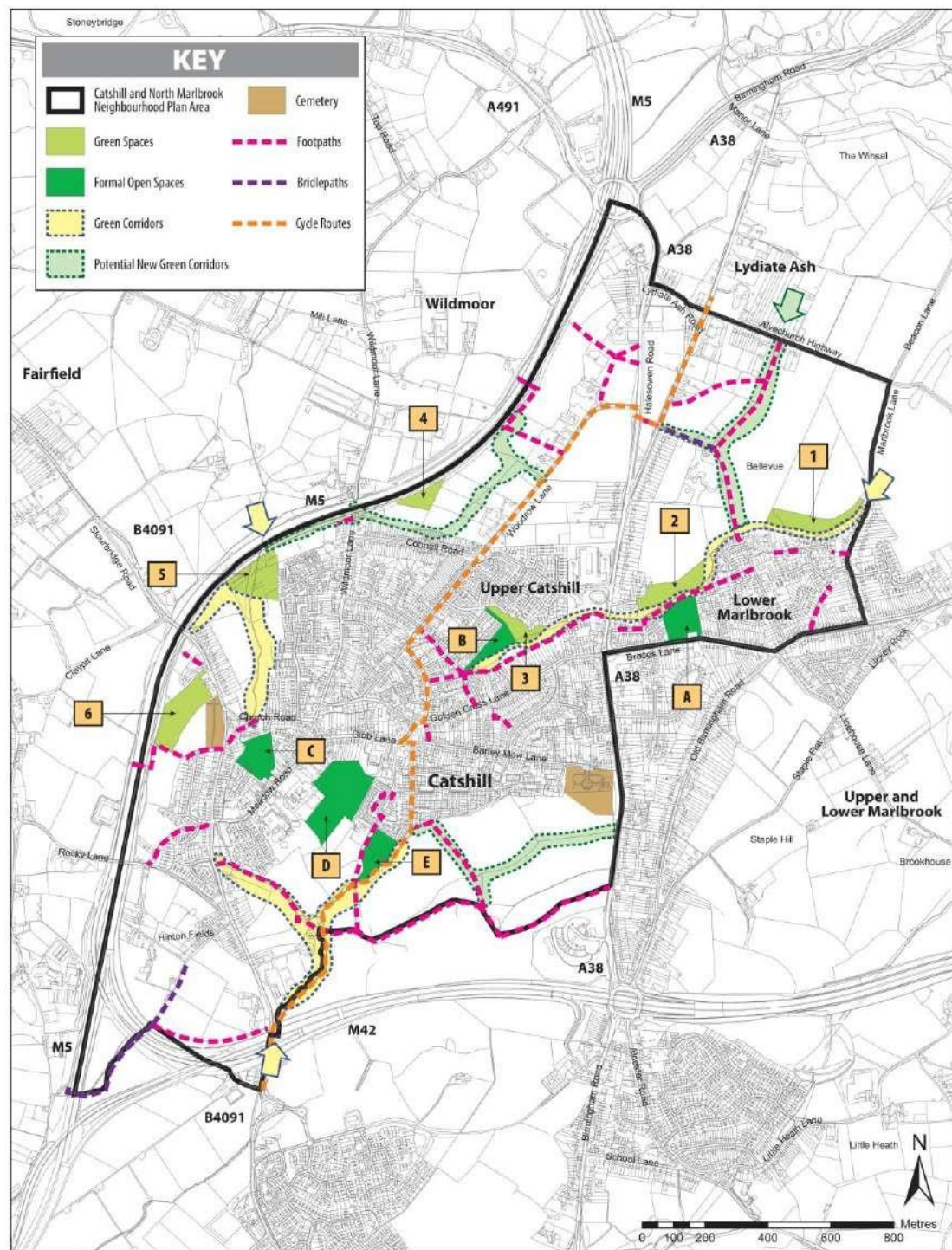
- **Sites 1 and 2** A natural blue and green corridor runs within and between these sites – the water course known as the Marl Brook and footpaths that traverse the area. Comments from residents of Marlbrook highly value these green spaces for the plentiful wildlife, the landscape and scenery and the 'beautiful' walks. It is clear that people moved to this area because of the countryside and green spaces on their door steps.
- **Site 3** This site is an open natural greenspace by the Lyngfield Walk Playing Field used for dog walking, walking, cycling and providing a natural wildlife green corridor. The site scored highest in the survey for 'recreational value' by a significant margin.
- **Sites 4, 5 and 6** These sites are located along the boundary of the M5 with the village and are seen in many responses to the survey as wooded and woodland areas which attenuate the noise and pollution from the motorway. Many varieties of wildlife have been seen in these places and are attractive places to walk by along the parish's footpaths.

4.11 From the above commentary it can be seen that all the sites are 'local in character', they are not part of the open countryside, extensive tracts of land and are in 'close proximity' to the local village centre, fulfilling the conditions set out in NPPF para.100.

5. Green Infrastructure Network

5.1 The map on the next page shows how the formal open spaces and local green spaces integrate within the proposed Green infrastructure Network. Potential new green corridors would form part of any agreed development proposals and provide further linkages between the identified local green spaces.

CATSHILL & NORTH MARLBROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
LOCAL GREEN SPACES/FORMAL OPEN SPACES STUDY. NOV 2020



Catshill and North Marlbrook Neighbourhood Plan Green Infrastructure



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5. Conclusions

5.1 The Survey, asking for the opinions of residents on Formal Open Spaces and Local Green Spaces in the village, was undertaken by over 10% of the parish households amounting to 284 questionnaires completed and showed statistically valid results to confidence limits of better than + and – 6. The following annexure details the survey questionnaire used. The map included in the parish magazine is shown on page 31.

5.2 Formal Open Spaces were overwhelmingly supported and valued highly by respondents to the survey (over 85% of respondents). **There was concern that these spaces could be under threat from future housing development and therefore the NP needs to provide additional protection through an appropriate planning policy identifying the specific sites shown in the survey.**

5.3 It was recognised from the responses and comments that the proposed Local Green Spaces were essential components of enhancing and developing green and blue corridors throughout the parish, protecting wild life and the character of the village. The majority of the respondents (over 85%) identified at least one description (required by NPPF para.100) that was appropriate for each local green space and over 55% backed 2 or more factors for each site. These results showed conclusively that all the sites were 'demonstrably special' to the community. It has already been shown in para. 4.11 that the other conditions required by NPPF para. 100 have been met. **Therefore these identified sites should be afforded the same protection as Green Belt and designated as Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan.**

Annexure

Catshill & North Marlbrook Neighbourhood Plan Green Infrastructure Planning

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please help us to designate six green spaces in order to protect wildlife, woodland areas, and places to walk and enjoy the countryside.

We are repeating the questionnaire (first included in the Autumn 2019 edition of the parish magazine) to gain further support to designate six areas as green spaces that would be protected from future development. More responses are required to ensure a favourable decision is reached in the designation of these spaces. This questionnaire also asks about your use of foot paths and cycle ways in the parish to help us develop an overall environmental plan for the village, including green corridors for the protection of wildlife. The first question of the survey looks for your support in providing additional protection for well-known recreational areas like The Meadow and Lyngfield Playground.

The Environmental Map

A map of the parish can be seen on the previous page, highlighting the green spaces, well-known open spaces, foot paths, cycle ways and green corridors. Please use this map to identify the locations of all these places.



Foot path by Battlefield Brook.



Play area at the Meadow.

FILLING IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please tick '✓' in the appropriate boxes in the tables on this questionnaire and return to The Clerk to the Parish Council in the free post envelope provided either by post or hand delivery to Catshill Village Hall. You can help us protect the village environment with your responses. An online survey of this questionnaire at our Neighbourhood Plan website is also available at:

[**www.catshillandnorthmarlbroomplan.org.uk**](http://www.catshillandnorthmarlbroomplan.org.uk)

Q1. *To what extent does this statement apply for each well-known open space?*

'This formal open space is 'highly valued and very important to the community'

Place a tick '✓' in the appropriate box for each open space based on your view on the above statement.

FORMAL OPEN SPACES						
REF	DESCRIPTION	1 Strongly disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
A	Braces Lane recreation ground					
B	Lingfield Playground & Sports Field					
C	The Meadow					
D	First & Middle School Playing Fields					
E	Playground/Sports Field Milton Road					

Other Comments.

.....

Q2. *To what extent do you feel that the following descriptions apply to the identified green spaces?*

Place a tick '✓' in the box if you think this description applies to a particular site. You can tick more than one description for a site, if appropriate.

LOCAL GREEN SPACES.						
DESCRIPTION	SITE REFERENCE					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Beauty						
Historic Significance						
Recreational Value						
Tranquillity						
Richness of Wildlife						

<i>Local Green Spaces</i>		
<div>1</div>  <p>Natural area near Cottage Lane, North Marlbrook at the side of the Marl Brook.</p>	<div>2</div>  <p>Natural ground to the north of Braces Lane sports ground.</p>	<div>3</div>  <p>Open area to the north of Lingfield Walk sports ground and balancing pond.</p>
<div>4</div>  <p>Small area of woodland adjacent to the M5 near Woodrow Lane.</p>	<div>5</div>  <p>Wooded area to the rear of Cowslip Close off Church Road near M5.</p>	<div>6</div>  <p>Wooded area to the south east of M5, near 'The Piggeries' to the rear of the cemetery.</p>