

Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan: Local Green Space and Green Finger Topic Paper, November 2020

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This document sets out the assessment process undertaken by the joint Haslemere Town Council/Haslemere Vision Working Party to inform the selection of sites suitable for designation as 'Local Green Space' or 'Green Finger'.

2.0 Policy Context

2.1 Local Green Spaces

2.1.1 Paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ states that through Neighbourhood Plans local people should be able to identify green areas of particular importance to them for special protection, ruling out new development other than in very special circumstances. Paragraph 99 also states that the spaces should be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

2.1.2 Paragraph 100 elaborates on what green spaces could be eligible for Local Green Space Designation, as follows:

"The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

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

2.1.3 Planning Practice Guidance² adds detail to Paragraph 100 in the section on "Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space". Of particular note to the green spaces assessed in this paper are the following paragraphs:

"How is land designated as Local Green Space?"

Local Green Space designation is for use in Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans. These plans can identify on a map ('designate') green areas for special protection. Anyone who wants an area to be designated as Local Green Space should contact the local planning authority about the contents of its local plan or get involved in neighbourhood planning.

Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 37-006-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014"

“What if land is already protected by Green Belt or as Metropolitan Open Land (in London)?

If land is already protected by Green Belt policy, or in London, policy on Metropolitan Open Land, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space. One potential benefit in areas where protection from development is the norm (eg villages included in the green belt) but where there could be exceptions is that the Local Green Space designation could help to identify areas that are of particular importance to the local community.

Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 37-010-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014”

“What if land is already protected by designations such as National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Monument or conservation area?

Different types of designations are intended to achieve different purposes. If land is already protected by designation, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space.

Paragraph: 011 Reference ID: 37-011-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014”

“What types of green area can be identified as Local Green Space?

The green area will need to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework. 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 Revision date: 06 03 2014”

“How close does a Local Green Space need to be to the community it serves?

The proximity of a Local Green Space 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 Revision date: 06 03 2014”

“How big can a Local Green Space be?”

There are no hard and fast rules about how big a Local Green Space can be because places are different and a degree of judgment will inevitably be needed. However, paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework is clear that Local Green Space 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 Revision date: 06 03 2014”

“Is there a minimum area?”

Provided land can meet the criteria at paragraph 77 of the National Planning Policy Framework there is no lower size limit for a Local Green Space.

Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014”

“What about public access?”

Some areas that may be considered for designation as Local Green Space may already have largely unrestricted public access, though even in places like parks there may be some restrictions. However, other land could be considered for designation even if there is no public access (eg 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 Revision date: 06 03 2014”

Does land need to be in public ownership?

A Local Green Space does not need to be in public ownership. However, the local planning authority (in the case of local plan making) or the qualifying body (in the case of neighbourhood plan making) should contact landowners at an early stage about proposals to designate any part of their land as Local Green Space. Landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in a draft plan.

Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014”

2.1.4 NPPF Paragraph 101 states that protection of Local Green Spaces should be consistent with Green Belt development policy. This means that inappropriate development in Local Green Spaces will only be permitted in very special circumstances.

Additional guidance on what constitutes ‘appropriate’ development is provided in Waverley’s emerging Local Plan Part 2 Policy DM19³ which states that:

‘Appropriate forms of development within Local Green Spaces are:

- *The construction of new buildings for:*
 - *outdoor sport or recreation;*
 - *allotments;*
 - *the reasonable requirements of agriculture or forestry or;*
 - *community uses; where they do not conflict with the local significance of the Local Green Space;*
- *The extension or alteration of an existing building provided it does not result in disproportionate additions over the original building;*
- *The re-use or replacement of existing buildings, provided that a new use does not conflict with the local significance of the Local Green Space, and any replacement building is not materially larger than the existing building; and*
- *The carrying out of engineering or other operations required for public safety or to provide essential infrastructure.*

2.2 Green fingers

2.2.1 The NPPF does not formally recognize the concept of a green finger. However, several local planning authorities, towns and villages have incorporated ‘green wedges’, ‘green lungs’ and/or ‘green fingers’ into local planning policy. Examples include Hertford⁴, Bishops’s Stortford⁴, Harlow⁵ and Bourton⁶.

Some of these green areas have been subsequently designated as Local Green Spaces but not all satisfy the key eligibility criteria set out in the NPPF para 100 and have retained their green wedge/green lung/green finger designation in Local and Neighbourhood Plans accordingly.

A review of the above examples confirm that there is no single agreed definition of a ‘green finger’.

The Haslemere Design Statement refers to green fingers as tracts of *‘undeveloped open land that penetrate closely into the town, due in part of historic patterns of land ownership’*. It states that *‘these green fingers of damp woodland and small fields with adjacent hedgerows are immensely valuable and characteristic, and protecting them is to be strongly encouraged’*⁷.

For the purposes of the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan, the following definition of a Green Finger is proposed: ***‘Undeveloped open tracts of land that penetrate the built area and provide unique character and value to the settlement’***.

3.0 Assessment

3.1 The joint Haslemere Town Council/Haslemere Vision Working Party compiled a list of 26 candidate Local Green Spaces based on local knowledge and suggestions from local residents.

Twenty three of these sites were initially submitted to Waverley Borough Council in 2018 as candidates for Local Green Space designation in the Local Plan. The results of this initial assessment are published in Waverley’s [Local Green Space LPP2 Topic Paper \(2018\)](#)⁸ with 6 sites (site ID numbers 1-6) being formally approved for LGS status in the emerging Waverley Local Plan Part 2. A further 7 sites (site ID numbers 7, 8, 9, 10, 11A, 11B and 11C) were not approved on the grounds that they already benefit from a high level of protection and/or did not satisfy one or more criteria listed in NPPF Para 100.

Neighbourhood Plans also have the power to designate Local Green Spaces. Following feedback from local residents and Waverley Borough Council in the Regulation 14 Consultation, the Haslemere Town Council/Haslemere Vision Working Party agreed that the full list of candidate LGS sites should be reviewed again with 3 new sites included. The results of this assessment are presented below.

3.2 Each candidate green space was assessed against the qualifying criteria set out in Paragraph 100 of the NPPF. The results are summarised below with full details in Appendix 1.

3.2.1 Local Green Spaces

The 16 sites identified in Table 1 and Figures 1a-d are designated as Local Green Space. All sites meet the three key criteria for such designations within the NPPF. In particular they are local in scale and are in close proximity to the communities which they serve.

It is accepted that a number of the sites listed are covered by other existing policy designations that restrict development or limit their loss. However, all of the Local Green Spaces proposed have been put forward in response to the strong feedback that these spaces are of particular importance to the local community. Government guidance supports Local Green Space designations on land already covered by existing restrictive policy designations, where the benefit of designation is in recognition of spaces that are of particular importance to the local community.

Table 1: Local Green Spaces

Site ID	Site name
1	Town Meadow
2	Haslemere War Memorial Recreation Ground
3	High Lane Recreation Ground
4	Beacon Hill Recreation Ground
5	Grovers Garden
6	Woodcock Green
7	Lion Green
8	St Christopher's Green
9	Hindhead Playing Fields
10	Pocket park at junction of Shepherds Hill and Lower Street
11A	Allotments at Clammer Hill
11B	Allotments at Sickie Mill
11C	Allotments at Collards Lane
12	Clements Corner
13	Woodland bounded by Shepherds Hill, Lower Street and Sandrock
14	Land at King's Road and Sun Brow

Figure 1a

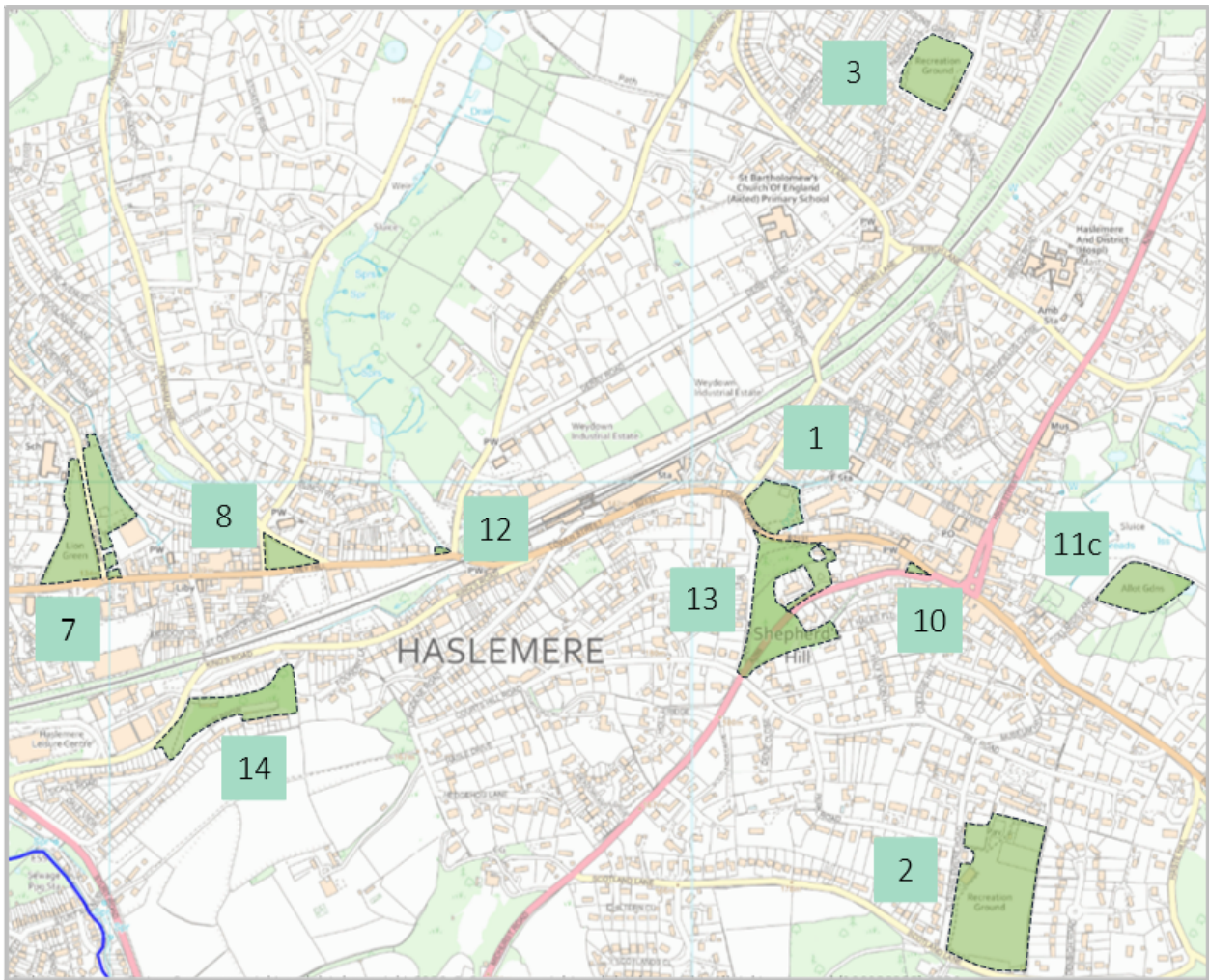


Figure 1b Designated LGS Grayswood

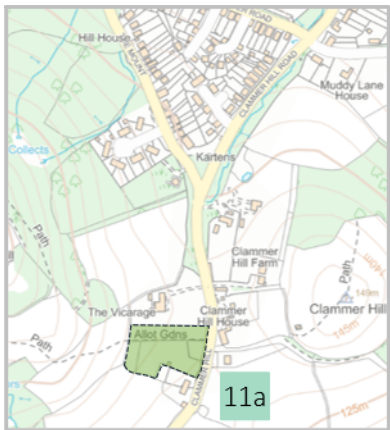


Figure 1c Designated LGS Shottermill

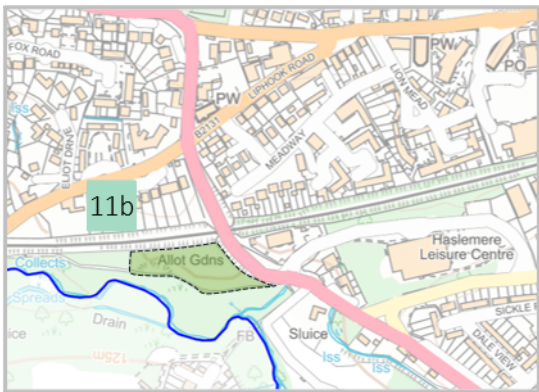
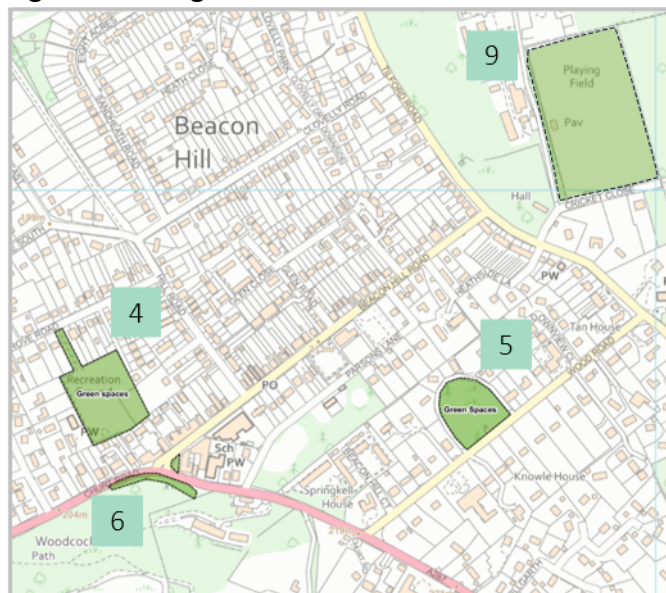


Figure 1d Designated LGS Beacon Hill & Hindhead



These Local Green Spaces are further detailed in Haslemere’s Neighbourhood Plan Policy H13.1 with a supporting plan showing all sites. This policy states that *‘inappropriate development of these sites will only be permitted in very special circumstances’*.

3.2.2 Green Fingers

The 10 sites shown in Table 2 and Figure 2 are designated as ‘Green Fingers’. These sites were all assessed as being demonstrably special to the local community because of their beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife but did not satisfy one or more of the other LGS criteria. They are typically much larger than the LGS sites identified in Table 1 and are located slightly more remotely from those that are within or on the edge of the various settlements. Some are extensive tracts of land. Others are not local in character.

Table 2: Green Fingers

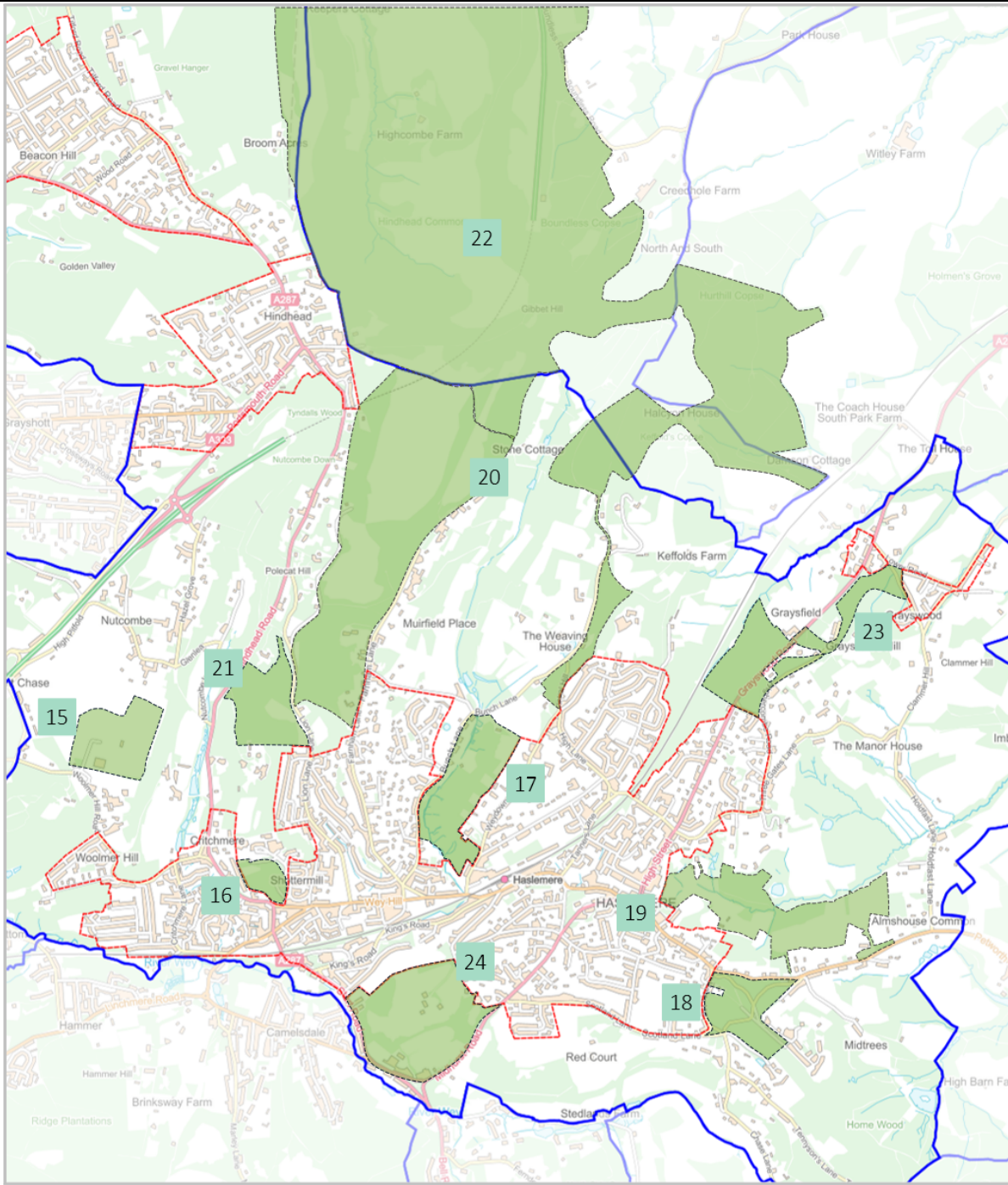
Site ID	Site name
15	Woolmer Hill Recreation Ground
16	Woodland between Buffbeards Lane and Vicarage Lane, south of Holy Cross Hospital

17	Woodland between Weydown Road and Bunch Lane
18	Haste Hill Common
19	Swan Barn
20	Polecat Valley
21	Polecat Copse
22	Hindhead Common
23	Grayswood Common
24	Sturt Farm (excluding permitted development site)

These Green Fingers are further detailed in Haslemere's Neighbourhood Plan Policy H13.2 with a supporting plan showing all sites. This policy states that *'development proposals should respect their undeveloped, open character and their ecological, landscape and/or recreational contribution'*. Although the 'Green Finger' designation confers a lower level of protection than LGs designation, it should be noted that many of these sites are also covered by other existing policy designations that restrict development or limit their loss.

Finally, it should be stated that all sites designated as Local Green Spaces and Green Fingers constitute important components of Haslemere's Ecological Network which is detailed further in Policy H14 and associated maps.

Figure 2 Designated Green Fingers



4.0 References

- ¹ [National Planning Policy Framework 2019](#)
- ² [National Planning Practice Guidance](#)
- ³ [Waverley Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocation and Development Management Policy Pre-submission Document Nov 2020](#)
- ⁴ [East Herts District Plan 2018](#)
- ⁵ [Harlow Local Development Plan Pre-submission 2018](#)
- ⁶ [Bourton Neighbourhood Plan 2017](#)
- ⁷ [Haslemere Design Statement 2012](#)
- ⁸ [Waverley Local Green Spaces Topic Paper 2018](#)
- ⁹ Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan 2013-2032

APPENDIX 1: Detailed assessment of individual sites

Site ID	1
Site name and address	Town Meadow, Tanners Lane, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is close to the centre of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, this is an attractive & valued recreational area with a childrens' playground. It is the only open green space for recreation available in the town centre. It lies within the Haslemere Conservation Area and contributes to its significance.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is a relatively small area of green space with an area of ~ 0.7 ha within the urban centre.
Other comments	Owned by WBC ¹ . This site is within a Conservation Area. Although a small part is registered Common Land, the majority is not. LGS designation is supported by WBC in emerging LPP2 (Nov 2020).
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	2
Site name and address	Haslemere War Memorial Recreation Ground, Old Haslemere Road, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is within the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, it is a valued sports and recreation site for the town incorporating facilities for football, tennis, bowls and cricket plus a children's playground. The site hosts various sports clubs including Haslemere Tennis Club which has around 450 members, and Haslemere Cricket Club who field 4 senior teams.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is substantial in scale (~3.5ha), although this is a reflection of its purpose as a sports ground, and not considered extensive in relation to the town. It has generally well defined boundaries, surrounded by development, with a road to the south.
Other comments	Owned by WBC and protected with Fields in Trust (FIT) Deed of Dedication. The northern part of the site containing tennis courts and the bowling green lie within the Haslemere Hillside. LGS designation is supported by WBC in the emerging LPP2 (Nov 2020).
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	3
Site name and address	High Lane Recreation Ground, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site lies within the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, it is an important local sports and recreation facility at the centre of the High Lane area of Haslemere. It also contains an equipped play area and community centre.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is approximately 1.2ha with clear boundaries defined by roads.
Other comments	The site is managed by WBC. LGS designation is supported by WBC in the emerging LPP2 (Nov 2020).
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

¹ The freehold is due to be transferred to Haslemere Town Council imminently (December 2020)

Site ID	4
Site name and address	Beacon Hill Recreation Ground, Grove Road, Hindhead
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is at the centre of Beacon Hill.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, this is a well-used sports and recreation ground which includes an equipped play area with basketball hoop and junior football goals. It is used by Beacon Hill Junior Football Club who have over 300 members.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is a local community recreation ground and play area (~0.95 ha) with clearly defined boundaries defined predominantly by mature hedging and tree planting.
Other comments	The site is owned by WBC. LGS designation is supported by WBC in the emerging LPP2 (Nov 2020).
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	5
Site name and address	Grovers Gardens, Wood Road, Beacon Hill
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is within the urban area of Beacon Hill.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	The site is a beautiful and tranquil community garden. It is also of local historic importance, having been gifted to the council by a local businessman who was involved in arts and crafts developments in the locality at the beginning of the 20th century which continue to define the character of the area.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is a local community garden of approx. 0.6ha, with well defined boundaries comprising hedging and adjacent streets.
Other comments	Owned by WBC ² . LGS designation is supported by WBC in the emerging LPP2 (2020).
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	6
Site name and address	Woodcock Green, Churt Road, Beacon Hill
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is opposite the centre of Beacon Hill.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	The site is important for its beauty as well as for its contribution to the semi-rural and historic character of Beacon Hill. The site was restored in a project led by a local volunteer group, the Beacon Hill Heavy Brigade.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is a small park of approximately 0.2ha which is visually associated with the Beacon Hill village centre. The site is bounded by a road to the north. The southern boundary with adjoining woodland is less well defined, however, the landscaped site is distinct in character to this woodland.
Other comments	The site is within the Surrey Hills AONB and is designated as Countryside beyond the Green Belt. Owned by WBC. ³ LGS designation supported by WBC in the emerging LPP2 (2020).
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

² The freehold is due to be transferred to Haslemere Town Council imminently (December 2020)

³ The freehold is due to be transferred to Haslemere Town Council imminently (December 2020)

Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan: Local Green Spaces and Green Fingers Topic Paper (November 2020)

Site ID	7
Site name and address	Lion Green, Lion Lane, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site lies in an urban location that is close to the centre of the Wey Hill area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	This site is an important recreation & leisure space with a well used and equipped play area. It is a popular venue for community events including the biennial Fringe Festival, Food Festival, Classic Cars and local dog show. Magnificent chestnuts line the road side while others flank each boundary with Lion Lane cutting through the middle. The stream and trees bordering the site are important habitats for certain wildlife species and constitute one of Haslemere's green lungs.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is of a relatively moderate size (~2.2 ha) with well-defined boundaries as a green space in a central urban location.
Other comments	This is a registered Village Green under the trusteeship of Village Green at Shottermill. Managed by HTC.
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	8
Site name and address	St Christopher's Green, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, this is an urban site located towards the centre of the Wey Hill area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, this pleasant triangular green space with boundaries of mature trees is used for leisure and recreation and is central to the visual attractiveness and character of this part of Wey Hill.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is a relatively small and well defined green space in the town with an area of ~ 0.3 ha.
Other comments	Registered Common land. Owned by WBC ⁴ .
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	9
Site name and address	Hindhead Playing Fields, Cricket Close, Hindhead
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is within walking distance of much of Beacon Hill.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, this is a popular sports ground used for cricket and football by Hindhead Cricket Club, Hindhead Football Club and Beacon Hill Junior Football Club. It is an important recreational resource that is highly valued by the local community. It is also used by PGL providing adventure holidays and summer camps for their residents.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is substantial in size (~3 ha) – largely a reflection of its use as sports pitches. It has a clearly defined boundary formed primarily of a tree belt around the whole site.
Other comments	The site is owned by Fields in Trust and permanently leased to Hindhead Playing Field Association. The site lies within the Green Belt and is partly within the Surrey Hills AONB.
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

⁴ The freehold is due to be transferred to Haslemere Town Council imminently (December 2020)

Site ID	10
Site name and address	Open space at the junction of Shepherd's Hill and Lower Street, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is close to the High Street and the centre of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, this is a small open space close to the centre of Haslemere. It has recently been replanted and provides an attractive pocket of greenery within the heavily built up town centre. It also has some historic value as it sits above a wartime air raid shelter.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is a pocket park of ~ 0.035 ha with well defined boundaries.
Other comments	The site is within a Conservation Area. Ownership is divided between SCC and WBC.
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	11A
Site name and address	Allotments Clammer Hill, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is in a rural location with some dwellings close to the site. The village of Grayswood is within walking distance.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes. As a popular allotment garden, the site provides important recreational and health benefits to the local community as well contributing to local food production. The site is fully occupied.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is small in scale (~0.25ha).
Other comments	The site is owned and managed by HTC. It lies within the Green Belt and the Surrey Hills AONB. It is also protected by the provisions of the Allotments Act 1925.
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	11B
Site name and address	Allotments at Sickie Mill, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is adjacent to the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes. As an allotment garden, the site provides valued recreational and health benefits to the local community as well contributing to local food production. The site is fully occupied with a waiting list. The site is not publicly accessible.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is small in scale (~0.55ha) and has well defined boundaries with a road and railway to the north and east, and woodland to the south and west
Other comments	The site is owned and managed by HTC. It lies within a Conservation Area and the site is designated as Countryside beyond the Green Belt. It is also protected by the provisions of the Allotments Act 1925
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	11C
Site name and address	Allotments at Collards Lane, off Petworth Road, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is adjacent to the built up area of Haslemere and within easy walking distance of the town centre.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes. As an allotment garden, the site provides significant recreational and health benefits to the local community as well contributing to local food production. The site is fully occupied with a waiting list. The site is not publicly accessible
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is relatively modest in scale (~0.9ha) with defined boundaries and having a distinctive character which differentiates it from the wider countryside.
Other comments	The site is owned and managed by HTC. It lies within the Green Belt and an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). It is also protected by the provisions of the Allotments Act 1925
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	12
Site name and address	Clements Corner
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is within walking distance of Wey Hill and the town centre.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, the stream and its river bank constitute an important green lung linking Clement's Corner to the Bunch Lane Woodland SNCI. The site was recently selected as the location for 'Mimesis', one of four specially commissioned sculptures commemorating the properties of plants and flowers that surround Haslemere.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	This site is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
Other comments	Owned by WBC ⁵ .
Recommended designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	13
Site name and address	Woodland bounded by Shepherds Hill, Lower Street and Sandrock
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is close to the centre of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, this is attractive deciduous woodland that contributes to the character of this part of the town, running alongside Sandrock, an ancient drove road. It is also an important 'green lung'.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	It is local in character and, at around 1ha, this is not an extensive tract of land.
Other comments	This is Common Land owned and maintained by WBC.
Recommended for designation	Local Green Space

⁵ The freehold is due to be transferred to Haslemere Town Council imminently (December 2020)

Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan: Local Green Spaces and Green Fingers Topic Paper (November 2020)

Site ID	14
Site name and address	Land at King's Road and Sunbrow
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is within walking distance of the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, this area is valued as a wildlife habitat and one of Haslemere's green lungs. It contains deciduous woodland (noted as a priority BAP habitat) along with hazel coppice and an apple tree and is linked to the hedgerow network at Sturt Farm which supports vulnerable dormice populations. Additionally the site was recently designated as Common Land following the de-registration of the Fairground site - a move that further increases its significance to the local community.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	It is local in character and is not an extensive tract.
Other comments	Common land. Owned by WBC.
Recommended for designation	Local Green Space

Site ID	15
Site name and address	Woolmer Hill Recreation Ground
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is within walking distance of much of the Woolmer Hill area.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes. Adjoining the Woolmer Hill School and the Edge Leisure Centre, this is an important community asset with facilities for rugby, hockey, football, cricket and athletics. The majority of the site is open space used for formal sporting activities, informal activities, boot camps and dog walking.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is a series of fields used as sports pitches and at approx. 15 ha, it is extensive.
Other comments	Protected with Fields in Trust through a Deed of Dedication. The site lies within the Surrey Hills AONB and Countryside beyond the Green Belt.
Recommended designation	Green Finger

Site ID	16
Site name and address	Woodland between Buffbeards Lane and Vicarage Lane, south of Holy Cross Hospital
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is surrounded on three sides by the built up area of Haslemere,
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes. This is an important green lung which contributes to the character of the landscape and townscape. The trees provide a backdrop to Shottermill and an immediate setting to Holy Cross Hospital as well as residential areas on Vicarage Lane and Priors Wood. It has also been identified as an important wildlife habitat (deer, foxes, badgers, birds). Its value in providing an alternative route for children and elderly persons to avoid crossing the Hindhead road on a blind corner is also recognised.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is substantial in scale (~4ha). It is adjacent to the built-up areas of Shottermill/Haslemere on three sides and can be considered to form part of the rural urban fringe. It relates visually to the wooded hillside that extends to the north, although it is largely separated from this to the Holy Cross Hospital.
Other comments	The site is designated as Countryside Beyond the Green Belt as well as an Area of Strategic Visual Importance (ASVI). It is owned by the Congregation of Daughters of The Cross of Liege.
Recommended designation	Green Finger

Site ID	17
Site name and address	Woodland between Weydown Road and Bunch Lane, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is located adjacent to established residential areas in Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes. This site constitutes one of Haslemere's two Areas of Strategic Visual Importance (ASVI). It acts as an important and attractive green screen and a vital green lung. Approximately half of the site is ancient woodland. Hedgerow corridors and woodland corridors linking to Bunch Lane SNCI are important for dormice and bats.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	At approx. 13ha, the site is an extensive tract of land.
Other comments	Designated as Countryside beyond the Green Belt. The site is within an ASVI. Multiple owners.
Recommended for designation	Green finger.

Site ID	18
Site name and address	Haste Hill Common, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is adjacent to the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes. The site is valued locally as an important wildlife habitat and corridor, including for bats and dormice.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	At approximately 13ha, the site is an extensive tract of land.
Other comments	The site lies within the Green Belt, the Surrey Hills AONB and is Registered Common Land. It is owned by WBC. Unsympathetic tree felling and scrub clearance to the lower slope since 2015 may have adversely affected protected dormouse and bat species.
Recommended designation	Green Finger

Site ID	19
Site name and address	Swan Barn Valley, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is located a short walk from Haslemere High Street.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, this area constitutes a quiet retreat of woodland and pasture valued locally as a wildlife habitat and vital green lung for the town. Networks of hedgerows linking to ancient woodland constitute important wildlife corridors for bats and dormice.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	At around 30ha, the site is an extensive tract of land.
Other comments	A large part of the valley is owned by the National Trust. The site lies within the Green Belt and an Area of Great Landscape Value.
Recommended designation	Green Finger

Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan: Local Green Spaces and Green Fingers Topic Paper (November 2020)

Site ID	20
Site name and address	Polecat Valley
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, is within walking distance of the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, the site is valued locally as an important wildlife habitat as well as acting as a green lung for the town. It is also a very scenic area that is popular with walkers and cyclists.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	At around 60ha, the site is an extensive tract of land.
Other comments	Owned by the National Trust. The site is partly within a SSSI and the majority of the site is Common Land, as well as partly being Ancient Woodland, within the Green Belt, a ANCI and the Surrey Hills AONB. Not supported for LGS designation by WBC in 2018 on the basis that it is an extensive tract of land and already benefits from a high level of protection from development.
Recommended designation	Green Finger

Site ID	21
Site name and address	Polecat Copse, Lion Lane, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site lies on the outskirts of Shottermill village but is within walking distance of the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes, the site is valued locally as an important wildlife habitat as well as acting as a green lung for the town. It contains many Giant Redwoods, some of which are amongst the largest trees in England. Additionally, the grass clearing in Polecat Copse is used by both Shottermill Infant and Shottermill Junior schools for athletics.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site may be considered to be an extensive tract of land.
Other comments	Owned by the National Trust
Recommended designation	Green Finger.

Site ID	22
Site name and address	Hindhead Common
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	The site includes the Devil's Punchbowl, Gibbet Hill and Hurt Hill. It lies partly within the settlement boundary and within walking distance of the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	The site is valued locally as an important wildlife habitat.as well as acting as a green lung for the town. The Common is also an important recreational area for walkers, horse riders and cyclists. From the top hills there are stunning views to the north, sometimes as far as the Chilterns and to the south over the Weald to the South Downs. Gibbet Hill is of historic interest as the spot where many highwayman met their fate having held up the coaches running between the coast and London
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The site is an extensive tract of land.
Other comments	Owned by the National Trust. The site is partly within a SSSI and the Wealden Heaths Phase 2 SPA. The majority of the site is Common Land, as well as partly being Ancient Woodland, within the Green Belt and the Surrey Hills AONB.
Recommended designation	Green Finger

Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan: Local Green Spaces and Green Fingers Topic Paper (November 2020)

Site ID	23
Site name and address	Grayswood Common
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is within walking distance of the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes. As a designated Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI) containing ancient woodland, this site is a valued wildlife habitat as well as acting as a vital green lung for the town
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	At around 20ha, the site is an extensive tract of land.
Other comments	Owned by the National Trust. The site is mainly Common Land. It lies within the Green Belt, Surrey Hills AONB and is an SNCI.
Recommended designation	Green Finger

Site ID	24
Site name and address	Sturt Farm (excluding permitted development site), Sturt Road, Haslemere
Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes, the site is adjacent to the built up area of Haslemere.
Is the site special or of particular local importance?	Yes. The site forms part of an attractive landscape setting to the southern side of Haslemere and is rich in wildlife.
Is the site local in character or an extensive tract of land	The entire site (including the permitted development site) is approx. 12ha. Area of proposed SANG is around 3.53 ha.
Other comments	The site lies within the Surrey Hills AONB. There is an extant permission for up to 135 dwellings immediately north of this site together with the provision of a SANG on the site itself. HTC is due to take over the management of the SANG.
Recommended designation	Green Finger