

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MODIFICATION PROPOSAL

2011 – 2035

LOCAL GREEN SPACE ADDENDUM

Brightwell cum Sotwell
Neighbourhood Plan



Published by Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parish Council to accompany the Modification Proposal of the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Parish Neighbourhood Plan for Regulation 14 consultation under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

March 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report has been prepared to support the proposed designation of two new green spaces in Brightwell cum Sotwell as Local Green Spaces (LGS) as part of the Brightwell cum Sotwell Parish Neighbourhood Plan (BcSNP) Modification Proposal. Both green spaces were delivered as part of a housing development allocated in the BcSNP. The purpose of the report is to demonstrate that the two new green spaces meet the necessary tests to qualify for LGS designation. An LGS designation has the policy effect of the equivalence of the Green Belt when determining planning applications located within a designated LGS.

2. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them through LGS designation.

2.2 The Paragraph 102 of the NPPF states that a LGS designation should only be used where the green space is:

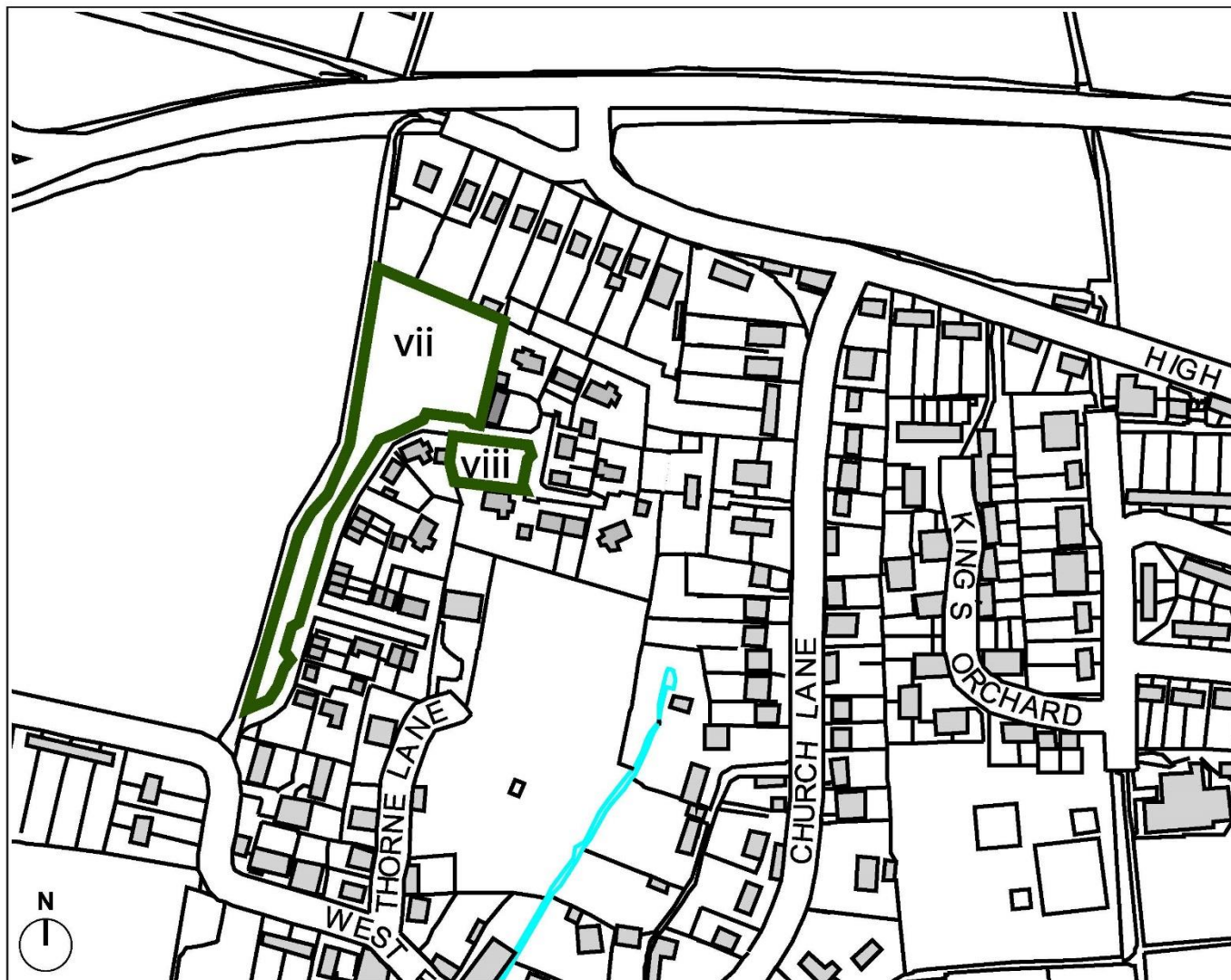
- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife;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

2.3 The South Oxfordshire Local Plan (SOLP) does not designate any green spaces in BcS as LGS, however LGS designation is broadly in line with the objectives of Policy CF4: Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities on protecting existing open space.



Community event Little Martins January 2022

3. PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES



Brightwell cum Sotwell
Neighbourhood Plan
Modification Proposal

- Proposed Local Green Spaces
- vii Little Martins Meadow
- viii Little Martins Green

4. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACES

vii Little Martins Meadow

4.1 The made BcSNP allocated Land at Little Martins and Home Farm Barns for a new residential development on the north-western side of the village of BcS. The scheme has been approved and built and has delivered two new green spaces, Little Martins Meadow and Little Martins Green (see below). Two TPO poplar trees were also retained on Little Martins Meadow and new planting included native hedgerows and field maple trees. Little Martins Meadow adjoins Watermans Lane, a popular rural walk, and wildlife corridor and future plans include additional planting, such as wildflower meadows, at Little Martins Meadow to enhance habitat provision.

4.2 Little Martins Meadow is not considered to be an extensive tract of land. At approximately 0.3 Ha it is no larger than many of the open spaces throughout the village, many of which are much larger. The land was officially handed over to the Parish Council on the last winter solstice who supports the designation of the space as an LGS.

4.3 The Parish Council has made a conscious effort to promote the space as part of the open space network for the village. A 2020-time capsule made by pupils at the local school has been buried under new time circle stones. Villagers were encouraged to leave a stone, twig, fircone or a sprig of holly (that have been picked up from somewhere else in the parish) on and around the stones which has since died down into the earth and become part of the park.

4.4 Little Martins Meadow has been used as a new village park by the whole village since last summer. The annual village wassail started at Little Martins Meadow this year and the space has provided a recreational area to serve the new development and the wider village and is establishing itself as an important part of the green infrastructure network in the parish.

viii Little Martins Green

4.5 Little Martins Green is located across the road from Little Martins Meadow. The Green was delivered as public open space through the approved and now built scheme. A TPO lime tree has been retained on Little Martins Green and new planting include lime and alder trees alongside native shrub mix and native hedgerows.

4.6 Little Martins Green is not considered to be an extensive tract of land. At approximately 0.06 Ha it is much smaller than many of the open spaces throughout the village. The land was officially handed over to the Parish Council on the last winter solstice who supports the designation of the space as an LGS.

4.7 The Green has been used as a new public open space by the whole village since last summer. Over 300 people attended the annual village wassail this year which started at Little Martins Meadow and the Green has provided a recreational area to serve the new development and the wider village. It too, is establishing itself as an important part of the green infrastructure network in the parish.



Little Martins Meadow



Little Martins Green

The Clerk

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