

SHRIVENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Evidence Base

Local Green Spaces Assessment



Photo F&J Jones

Prepared by the Shrivenham Neighbourhood Plan Team

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Shrivenham Neighbourhood Plan – Local Green Spaces Assessment

During the evidence gathering consultations for the Neighbourhood Plan residents raised a number of issues. They wanted to

1. Retain Shrivenham's identity as a discrete village.
2. Ensure provision of new housing meets the changing needs of existing residents.
3. Maintain the character, vitality and viability of the village centre
4. Promote opportunities for local jobs
5. Retain all that people like about living in Shrivenham.
6. Provide safe routes around the village for non motorists
7. Maintain rural 'look and feel' within the village and in the wider rural landscape
8. Protect the rural character of the village and maintain Local Green Spaces

These issues have been addressed within the Neighbourhood Plan, however part of point 8 relates to green spaces which have been identified as important to residents. These spaces are valued by villagers and development will only be supported that would improve access to or enhance the use of such spaces provided that the integrity of the spaces remains intact. The Landscape Character Assessment identifies the Bowls Club; the Recreation Ground; the cemeteries of St Andrew's Church and Stainswick Lane; the Golf Course and the Wilts and Berks canal as valuable GI assets (LCA section 3.4.4).

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to formally designate the following areas as Local Green Spaces:

1. The allotment gardens
2. The Recreation ground
3. 'Garage' island
4. Pump Island
5. Coppidthorne Meadow
6. The Wilts and Berks Canal, including the pathway alongside it
7. The Pocket Park in Stainswick Lane
8. Corner of Youghal Close/Berens Road

We set out below the reasons why we believe these spaces meet the criteria established in the NPPF for Local Green Spaces.



Map 1 – Showing the Allotment Gardens, The Recreation Ground, Pump Island and ‘Garage’ Island

1. THE ALLOTMENT GARDENS

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

The site is located in a central location in the middle of the built areas of Martens Road and Townsend Road. Two public rights of way pass through the allotment gardens, one of which forms part of the Shrivenham Circular walk, and provide access between bus stops and the north of the village.

NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.



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The land for the allotment gardens parish allotments is owned by Shrivenham Parish Council. The allotment gardens contain 98 plots, of which 95 are, at the time of writing, let and under cultivation. They provide an important amenity for the community and the gardens themselves provide an open aspect in the middle of the built areas of Martens Road and Townsend Road. As well as the satisfaction of growing healthier produce, the allotment gardens are valued for their impact on public health, both physical and psychological, for their educational value to children, and for their social function. The Parish Council gave permission to designate the Allotment Gardens in June 2018.

NPPF Criteria 3: The designation should only be used where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The allotments are most definitely local in character – a wide cross-section of the local community use the allotments and, having been in existence and cultivated by the community for at least eighty years they are very much part of village life.

2. THE RECREATION GROUND

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

The Recreation Ground is situated within the conservation area in the centre of the village and adjacent to the Grade II listed Memorial Hall. The Village Character Assessment, section 5.2.1 identified the recreation ground as a valued area of green space and a focal point in the village.

NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.

The Recreation Ground is managed by the Viscountess Barrington's Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust (Charity number 300202). The Parish Council is sole managing trustee and the land has been registered in the name of the Parish Council. The Village Character Assessment (VCA 5.2.7) identified the view across the recreation ground toward the church as a valuable historic view. The Recreation Ground is the hub for many sporting and recreational activities and includes the children's play area. The Recreation Ground is a key amenity green space within the village. The Viscountess Barrington's Trust gave permission to designate the Recreation Ground in June 2018.

NPPF Criteria 3: The designation should only be used where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The recreation ground is used by all sections of the community, not just for sport and play, but also as a place for quiet relaxation, as a site for the annual village fete and a venue for outdoor theatre productions. The footpath across the recreation ground via the avenue of lime trees is also part of the Shrivenham Circular walk.



3. 'GARAGE' ISLAND

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

'Garage' island is situated within the conservation area, just to the south of the Memorial Hall, bounded by Manor Lane, Highworth Road and the High Street.

NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.

'Garage' Island is a small area of green space containing one small garage which belongs to the Memorial Hall. The green space frames the Memorial Hall when viewed from the High Street, and when entering the village from the west, enhancing the setting of this grade II listed building. Like the recreation ground, 'Garage' Island is managed by the Viscountess Barrington's Memorial Hall and Recreation Ground Trust, whose sole managing trustee is the Parish Council. The Viscountess Barrington's Trust gave permission to designate the Recreation Ground in June 2018.

NPPF Criteria 3: The designation should only be used where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The site is a key feature of the setting of the Grade II listed Memorial Hall which is the most significant historic building in the village.



4. PUMP ISLAND

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

Pump Island, on the junction of High Street and Highworth Road, is on the south-western edge of the conservation area.

NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.

The Parish Council has managed Pump island for over fifty years and has recently been granted title to the land by the Land Registry. The notable pump house structure and ancient village pump situated on the island is a local landmark indicating that one is entering the historic centre of the village. The Parish Council gave permission to designate Pump Island in June 2018.



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NPPF Criteria 3: The designation should only be used where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The site is an iconic feature of Shrivenham, one which residents relate to as representative of the village. The little garden around the pump house is planted annually for the benefit of the community by the local gardening society.



Map 2 – Showing Coppidthorne Meadow, the Pocket Park and the route of the Wilts and Berks canal towpath

5. COPPIDTHORNE MEADOW

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

Coppidthorne Meadow is a natural green space situated at the southern end of the village, adjacent to the Pocket Park. The land is owned by the Parish Council, who gave permission for its designation in June 2018.

NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.

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Coppidthorne Meadow has been developed as a wildlife meadow, containing many different species of trees and wildflowers. This is an important landmark forming part of the Shrivenham Circular Walk which links the village to the southern landscape. 63% of respondents to the Village Fête Survey 2015, ([Appendix 9 Survey Village Fete 2015](#)) identified country walks as important to them.

NPPF Criteria 3: The designation should only be used where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The site sits between the Stainswick Lane Cemetery and the Pocket park. As well as being part of the Shrivenham Circular walk it has access to many other local footpaths and as such is a popular natural space for residents.

6. THE WILTS AND BERKS CANAL TOWPATH ROUTE

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

The site runs along immediately to the south of the Pocket Park and is managed by the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust. The trust was consulted in June 2018, and gave permission for the site to be designated.

NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.

The site of the Wilts and Berks canal is protected by policy L2 in the Vale Local Plan. It is a local green corridor. In addition to the recreational benefits of the canal, the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust have identified environmental benefits, such as increased biodiversity, managed wildlife areas and wildlife 'corridors' which link areas of valuable wildlife habitat.

NPPF Criteria 3: The designation should only be used where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

In LCA 9 of the Landscape Character Assessment, the bridleway which was once the road to Bourton crosses the canal over Stepping Stones bridge – an original brick arch structure recently reconstructed by the Canal Trust.

7. THE POCKET PARK

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

The site is adjacent to the canal towpath and is managed by the Wilts and Berks Canal Trust. The trust was consulted in 2018 and gave permission for the site to be designated.

NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.



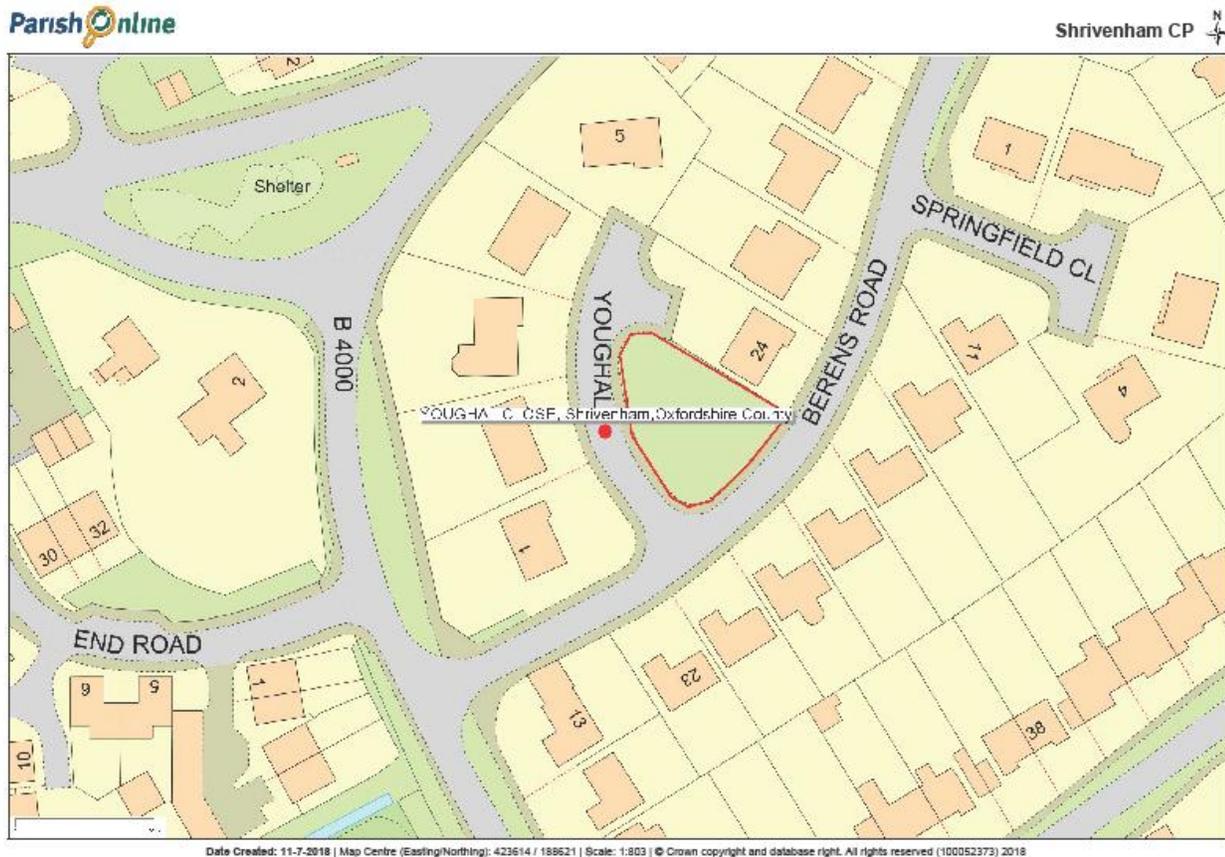
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The Pocket Park has been developed by Wilts and Berks Canal Trust and is part of the Shrivenham circular walk. It is also a wildlife ‘corridor’ linking areas of valuable wildlife habitat.

NPPF Criteria 3: The designation should only be used where the green area concerned is

local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

As the area linking the Canal Towpath and Coppithorne meadow the site forms part of a popular leisure walking route within the parish.



Map 3 – Showing the green space on the junction of Youghal Close and Berens Road

8. YOUGHAL CLOSE

NPPF Criteria 1: The designation should only be used where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves.

The site sits on the junction of Youghal Close and Berens Road. The Land Registry records the land as belonging to the Vale of White Horse District Council, but in response to our enquiries they have informed us that they do not own the land. Enquiries made during the consultation with residents in July 2018 were inconclusive with regard to ownership.



NPPF Criteria 2: The designation should only be used where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.

The land on the corner of Youghal Close is a small green space containing approximately ten large mature trees. It provides a tranquil, shady space in the midst of the built areas of Youghal Close and Berens Road, which is valued by residents. It is also used for picnics and community events.

NPPF Criteria 3: The designation should only be used where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The houses in Youghal Close and Berens Road were built in 1976 and many of the current residents have lived there since then. This space has been available to residents of the area since the houses were built.