

Woodstock

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

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2020 - 2031

LGS Assessment

January 2022



**WOODSTOCK**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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Woodstock Town Council  
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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents the assessments of all sites nominated for designation as Local Green Space in the Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The assessment involved the following main stages:
  - Identification of potential sites for designation
  - Review of sites against the criteria for designation established in the NPPF
  - Informal consultation with the public and landowners on the proposed sites
  - Formal consultation with the public and landowners of the proposed sites as part of the Regulation 14 process
  - Finalising the list of spaces to be designated in the submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.3 Thirteen sites were initially identified for designation. These are mapped in 1 and in more detail in subsequent sections of the report.
- 1.4 This report presents each of the site and provides commentary against the NPPF criteria and presents a summary of feedback from consultation. Further detail on the consultation process and responses received through that can be found in the separate Consultation Statement submitted alongside the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.5 The NPPF and associated Planning Practice Guidance outline the approach to assessing the suitability of sites as Local Green Space designations. In short, para 102 of the NPPF (2021) states that Local Green Spaces should only be designated 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.*
- 1.6 The assessment of sites has considered existing policy designations and records these in the commentary provided in the following sections. Relevant policies are summarised overleaf. Although these establish a policy framework that seeks to retain open space, it does not preclude development from taking place. The Local Green Space designation thus adds to this layer of policy as appropriate.

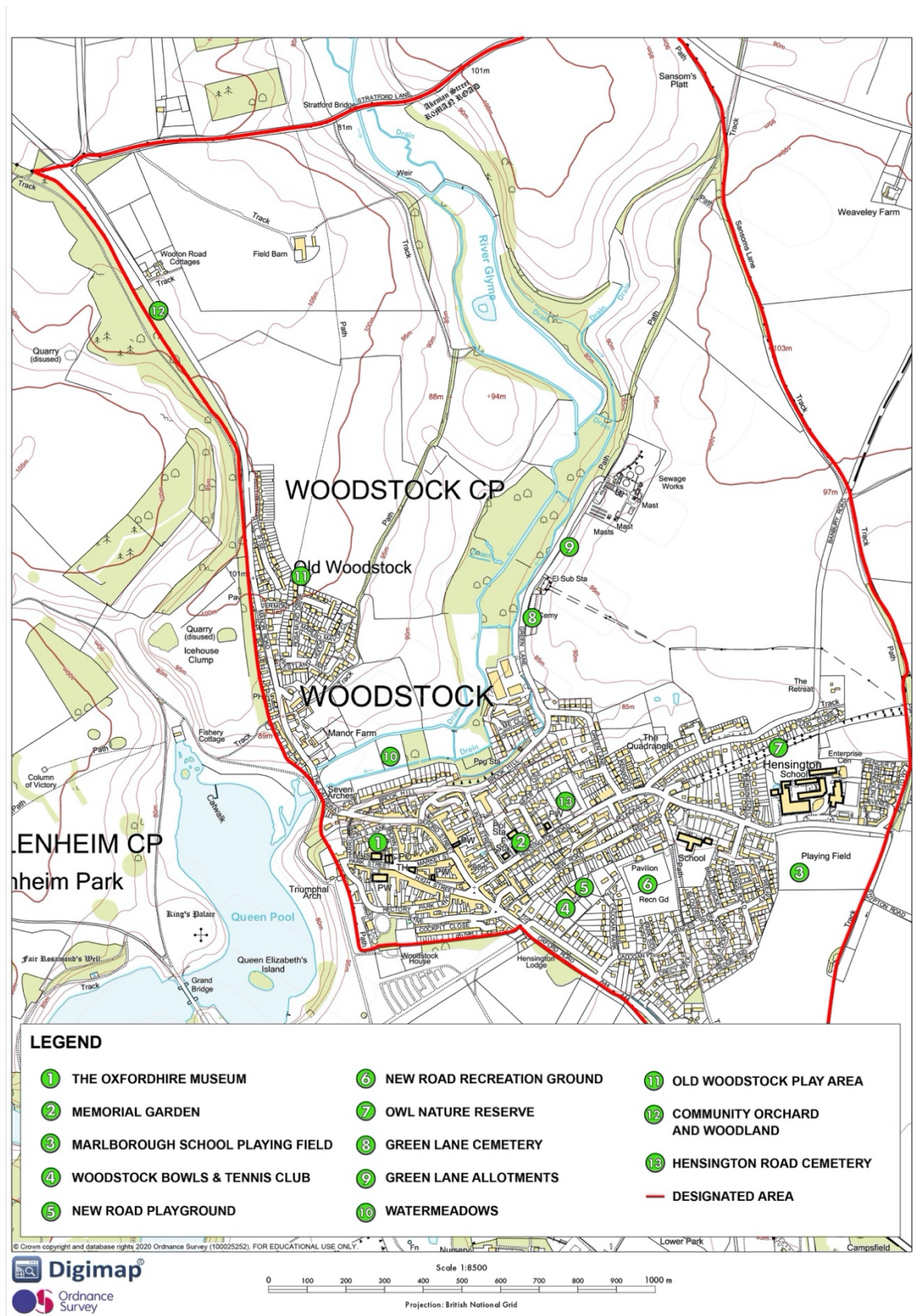


Figure 1: Location of suggested Local Green Spaces

<b>Relevant Local Plan Policies</b>	
<b>POLICY E5</b>	The Council will support the development and retention of local services and community facilities to meet local needs and to promote social wellbeing, interests, interaction and healthy inclusive communities.
<b>POLICY EH2</b>	The quality, character and distinctiveness of West Oxfordshire's natural environment, including its landscape, cultural and historic value, tranquillity, geology, countryside, soil and biodiversity, will be conserved and enhanced. New development should conserve and, where possible, enhance the intrinsic character, quality and distinctive natural and man-made features of the local landscape, including individual or groups of features and their settings, such as stone walls, trees, hedges, woodlands, rivers, streams and ponds.
<b>POLICY EH3</b>	The biodiversity of West Oxfordshire shall be protected and enhanced to achieve an overall net gain in biodiversity and minimise impacts on geodiversity, including by protecting and mitigating for impacts on priority habitats, protected species and priority species, both for their importance individually and as part of a wider network.
<b>POLICY EH4</b>	The existing areas of public space and green infrastructure of West Oxfordshire will be protected and enhanced for their multi-functional role, including their biodiversity, recreational, accessibility, health and landscape value and for the contribution they make towards combating climate change.
<b>POLICY EH5</b>	New development should not result in the loss of open space, sports and recreational buildings and land unless up to date assessment shows the asset is surplus to requirements or the need for and benefits of the alternative land use clearly outweigh the loss and equivalent replacement provision is made
<b>POLICY EH8</b>	Proposals which are likely to cause pollution or result in exposure to sources of pollution or risk to safety, will only be permitted if measures can be implemented to minimise pollution and risk to a level that provides a high standard of protection for health, environmental quality and amenity.

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<b>POLICY EH9</b>	All development proposals should conserve and/or enhance the special character, appearance and distinctiveness of West Oxfordshire's historic environment, including the significance of the District's heritage assets, in a manner appropriate to their historic character and significance and in a viable use that is consistent with their conservation, in accordance with national legislation, policy and guidance for the historic environment.
<b>POLICY EH10</b>	Proposals for development in a Conservation Area or affecting the setting of a Conservation Area will be permitted where it can be shown to conserve or enhance the special interest, character, appearance and setting.
<b>POLICY EH16</b>	When considering proposals that would affect, directly or indirectly, non-listed buildings, non-scheduled, non-nationally important archaeological remains or non-Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, as such assets are also irreplaceable, the presumption will be in favour of the avoidance of harm or loss.

## 2. Oxford Museum

### *Grid Reference*

SP 44382 16808

### *Description and purpose*

0.12 Ha site on Park Street in the heart of Woodstock. The site is a landscaped garden within The Oxfordshire Museum. Provides an outdoor area with benches and walkways for Museum visitors to enjoy. The site also includes a model dinosaur which is a part of the Dinosaur Gallery. The site sits within Woodstock Conservation Area.

### *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

E5/EH4/EH10

### *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

### *Value and benefit to the community*

The garden is an important part of the museum which, in turn, is of important heritage and recreational value to the area, containing galleries that tell the story of Woodstock. Regularly used by both local residents and visitors, it is an attractive space with places to rest and enjoy the surroundings. The life size model dinosaur is part of the Woodstock Children's History Trail.

### *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

### *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

### *Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Beauty/historic significance/recreational value/tranquillity

### *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

### *Initial Public consultation*

86% of respondents think the space should be designated



### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

90/94 respondents indicated they make use of the green space at the Oxfordshire Museum. The majority visit monthly (23%) or less often (40%). 14% said they visited 2-3 times per week and 13% explained that they used to visit more often but access is now more restricted (as a result of the Covid-19 precautions). The space is used predominantly for relaxation (82%), with others citing wildlife (8%) and informal exercise (6%) as other uses.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 76% of respondents believe the space has historic significance; 66% believe it should be protected for its tranquillity and 60% for its recreational value.

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

97% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

OCC object to designation, adding a further unnecessary layer of policy over Conservation Area status and potential restrictions it would place on the effective operation of facilities

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

No: Refer instead in the Plan to this as an important open space where there should be no net loss of space and any change should be sensitive to the setting

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

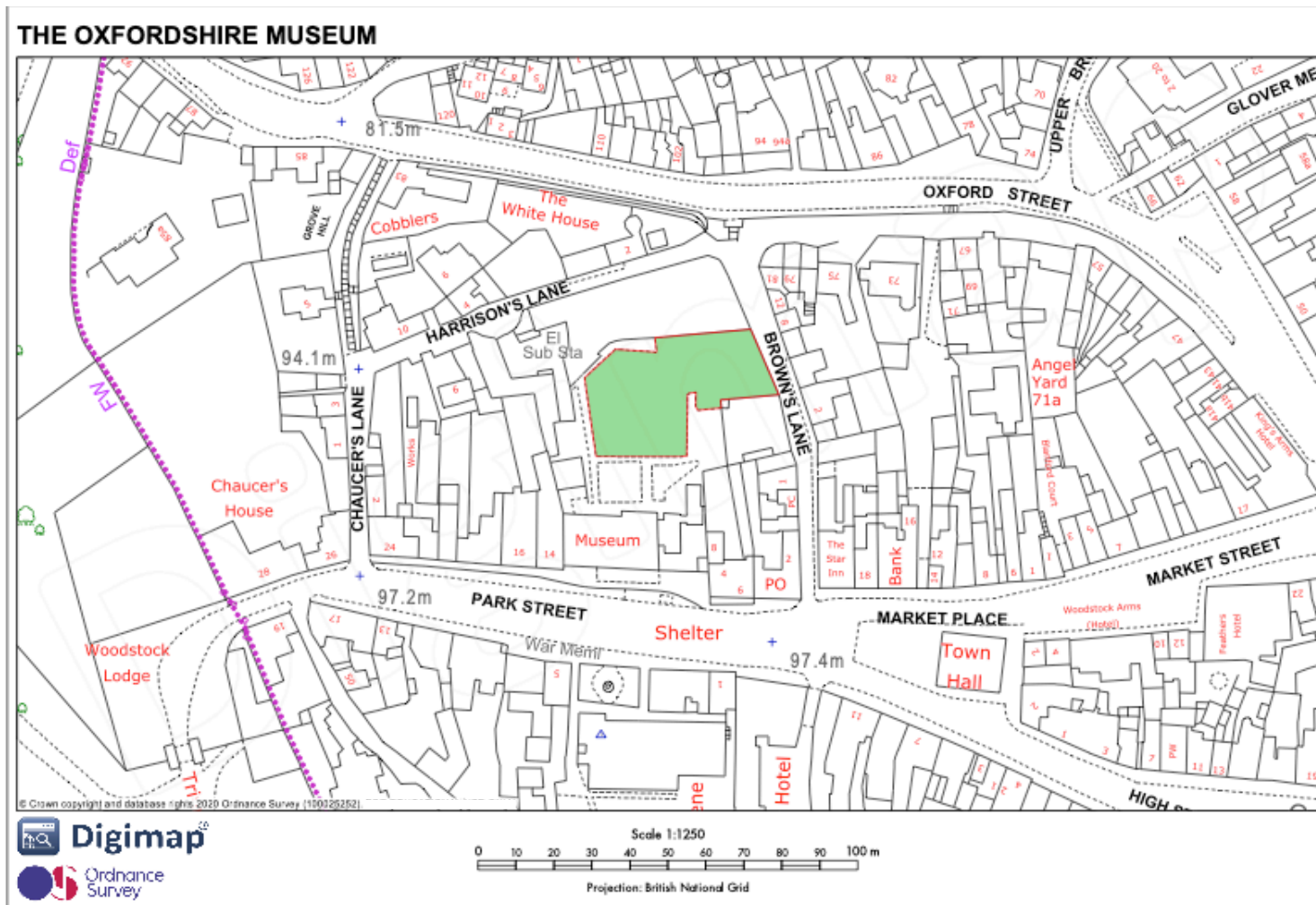


Figure 2: The Oxfordshire Museum suggested LGS

## 3. Memorial Garden

### *Grid Reference*

SP 44754 16802

### *Description and purpose*

Small site located adjacent to the former library on Hensington Road. A small garden managed and owned by local trust - Chapel Trust, the site contains a stone path, flowerbeds and benches. The development that fills the adjacent construction site (former library) will potentially overlook the garden.

### *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH4/E5

### *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

### *Value and benefit to the community*

The Memorial Garden is one of the few publicly accessible gardens in Woodstock. A place where visitors can enjoy the outdoors in a quiet and tranquil setting.

### *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

### *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

*Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Beauty/Tranquillity

### *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

### *Initial Public consultation*

72% of respondents think the space should be designated

### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

81/94 respondents indicated that they visit the Memorial Garden. The majority visit less than once per month (65%) but there are members of the community who visit weekly (5%) and 2-3 times per week (7%). 60% of respondents to the survey cited relaxation as a reason for use, while enjoying wildlife and informal exercise were other widely highlighted responses (25% and 20% respectively).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 74% of respondents believe the space should be protected for its tranquillity, while 51% believe it holds significant historic value.

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

77% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

OCC advise boundary should be redrawn to exclude land associated with adjacent Library

WODC also suggest that boundary should be amended to remove the access strip alongside the Library so as not to stymie potential future development of the Library site.

The Chapel Trust has no intention to sell the land nor use it for any other purpose than as a Memorial Garden, and that, should funds become available, the Trust would seek to restore the gardens as a quiet and reflective space.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes: LGS designation would support the aims and intentions of the Chapel Trust. The area should be redrawn accordingly to remove OCC land forming part of the Library.

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

### MEMORIAL GARDEN

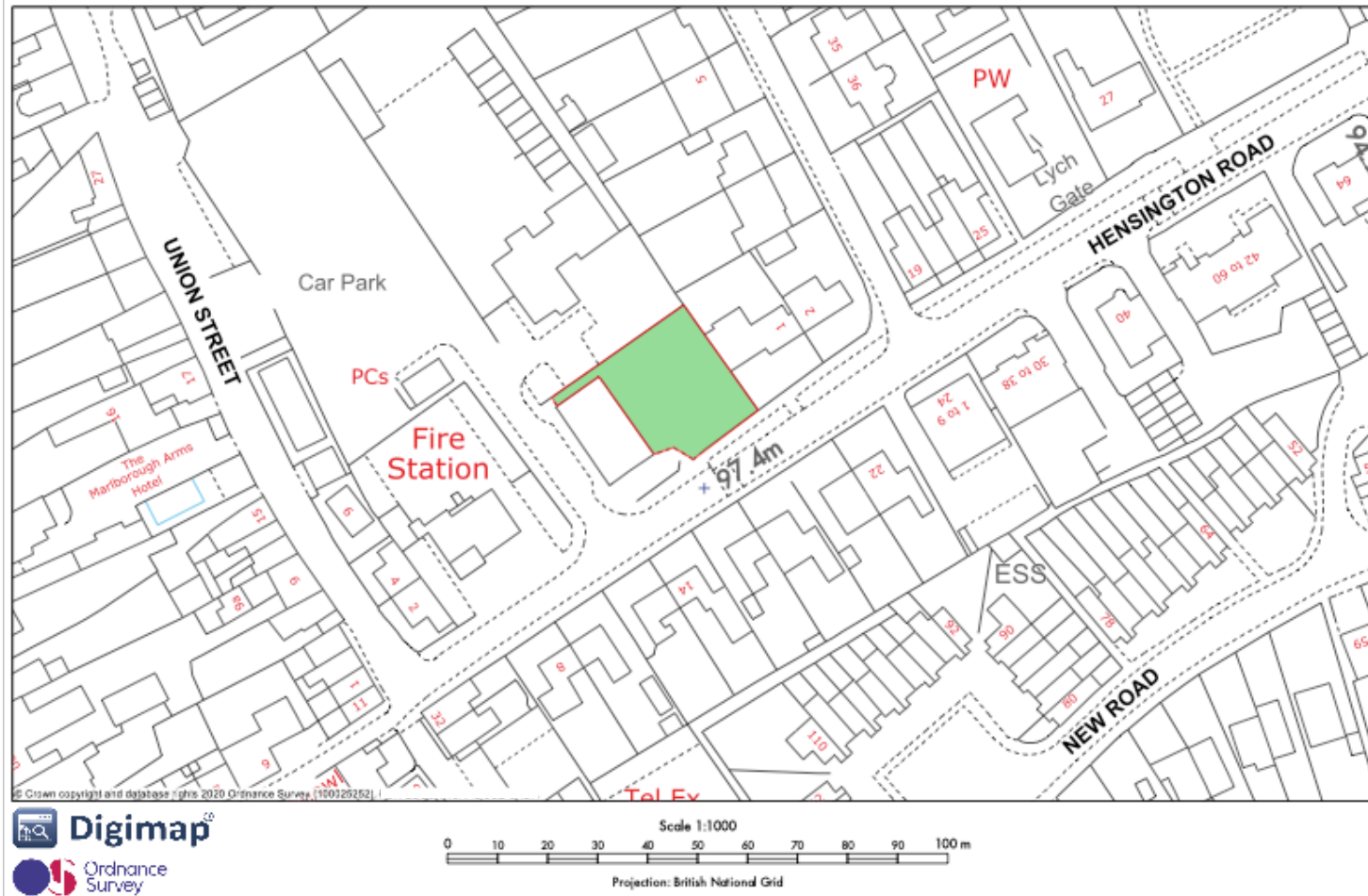


Figure 3: Memorial Garden suggested LGS

## 4. Marlborough School Playing Field

### *Grid Reference*

SP 45544 16785

### *Description and purpose*

4Ha site owned by OCC in the south east of Woodstock that acts as a playing field for the adjacent school, containing a football pitch and additional greenspace. Also adjacent (east) is the proposed PR10 development site. Future development planned in the field to the south puts the site at risk of future development but also emphasises the importance of retaining such a space for the long term health and well-being of the community.

### *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH4/EH5

### *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

### *Value and benefit to the community*

Provides important recreational space for the students of the adjacent school. Though not officially open to the public it has historically been accessible to all and is widely used by local residents for dog walking and other recreational activities.

### *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

### *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

*Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Recreational Value

### *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

### *Initial Public consultation*

91% of respondents think the space should be designated

### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

77/94 respondents indicated that they use the playing field, 9% of whom use it on a daily basis. A further 9% use it 2-3 times per week and 13% weekly. 48% of respondents use it less than once per month. The playing field is used for a number of different reasons including informal exercise (70%), children's play (28%), organised sport (15%) and relaxation (15%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 99% of respondents believe the space has recreational value, while 25% value its tranquillity.

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

90% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

OCC Property team object: designation would add extra policy in addition to existing protections and that it would prevent future educational facilities being provided here.

OCC Public Health Team support designation: with additional development coming forward in Woodstock immediately to the south and east, the Playing Field requires protection.

WODC note that national and local policy should protect the school playing fields, but that designation would make sure of this.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes: although part of the school it is separate from the main building, is open and accessible to the public for use.

Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010 and Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 provide existing protection for the school playing fields. However, with the field being opposite and separate from the main school site (split by Shipton Road) and with the public making use of this for leisure and recreation, designation as Local Green Space recognises its wider value and importance to the community.

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

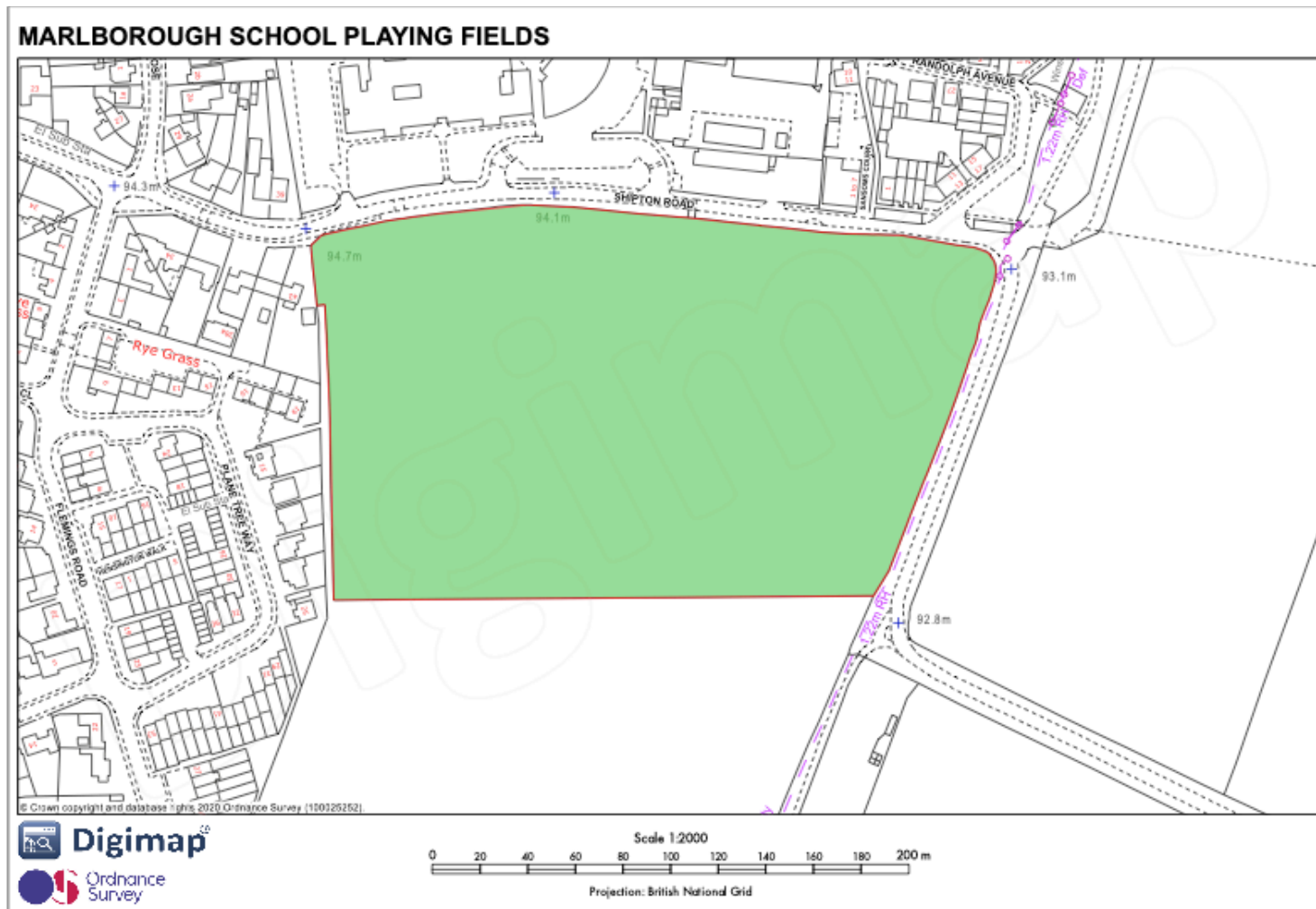


Figure 4: Marlborough School Playing Field suggested LGS



## 5. Woodstock Tennis and Bowls Club

### *Grid Reference*

SP 44866 16657

### *Description and purpose*

0.14Ha site off of Cadogan Park owned by WTC and leased to the Bowls and Tennis Club. It includes four all-weather artificial grass tennis courts, a bowling green, large car park, modern club house and bar.

### *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH4/EH5/E5

### *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

### *Value and benefit to the community*

Important recreational space, helping residents keep active. The club is a social hub for the community, especially during summer time.

### *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

### *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

*Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Recreational Value

### *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

### *Initial Public consultation*

78% of respondents think the space should be designated

*Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

73/94 respondents indicated that they visit the Bowls and Tennis Club. 73% of those visit less than once per month, while 10% visit monthly. The main reasons for using the Bowls and Tennis club were informal exercise (31%) and organised sport (31%). Less common reasons included relaxation (15%) and children's play (13%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 100% of respondents believe the space has recreational value.

*Regulation 14 Consultation*

77% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

*Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

OCC Public Health Team support designation: site is important for recreation and keeping people active in older age.

*SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

### WOODSTOCK BOWLS & TENNIS CLUB



Figure 5: Woodstock Bowls & Tennis Club suggested LGS

## 6. New Road Playground

### *Grid Reference*

SP 44912 16699

### *Description and purpose*

0.3Ha site adjoining the Bowls & Tennis club. Owned by WTC. Contains various recreational infrastructure for multiple ages, including a zip wire, swings and picnic benches.

### *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH4/EH5/E5

### *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

### *Value and benefit to the community*

Recreational space where children of multiple age groups can play and spend time outdoors. Such spaces are important for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

### *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

### *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

*Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Recreational value

### *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

### *Initial Public consultation*

83% of respondents think the space should be designated

### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

83/94 respondents indicated that they visit New Road Playground. While most of these visits are less than once per month, the playground is used regularly by parts of the community; 12% use it 2-3 times per week, 7% use it weekly and 10% use it 2-3 times per month. The main reason for use was, unsurprisingly, children's play (64%), though residents also used the space for informal exercise (29%) and relaxation (14%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 100% of respondents believe the space has recreational value.

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

83% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

OCC Public Health Team support designation: it is an important recreation space with no other playgrounds in the main area of Woodstock. It is important for the mental health of children, their physical health and social development.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

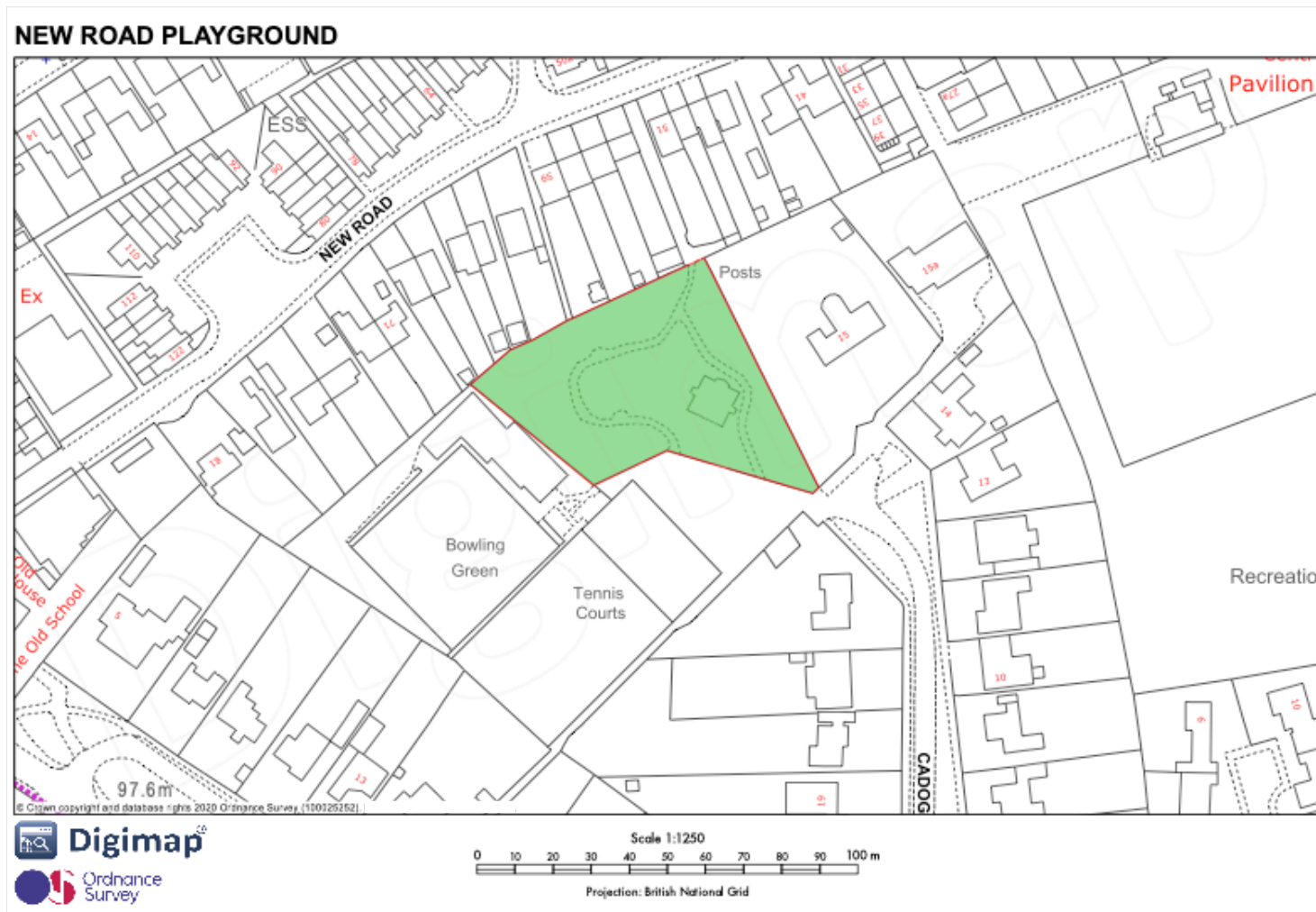


Figure 6: New Road Playground suggested LGS

# 7. New Road Recreation Ground

## *Grid Reference*

SP 45081 16728

## *Description and purpose*

0.3Ha site off of New Road including Woodstock Town FC's football pitch, additional open space and a youth centre. The football pitch is cordoned off by a fence. The site is owned by Blenheim Estate who have expressed interest in building on the site. Previously the subject of an unsuccessful 'town green' application.

## *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH4/EH5/E5

## *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

## *Value and benefit to the community*

Used by Woodstock Town FC as well as the public, the site is the only publicly accessible piece of large open space in Woodstock. As such, it is a popular space for recreational activities amongst children, such as playing football, and is regularly used by dog walkers. WTC provides a grant to the club to ensure maintenance of the space.

## *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

## *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

*Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Recreational Value

## *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

### *Initial Public consultation*

81% of respondents think the space should be designated

### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

80/94 respondents indicated that they use the Recreation Ground. 8% of those responding to the survey use it daily and a further 8% use it 2-3 times per week. Ten people claim that they use it monthly while 14% use it at least once per week. Informal exercise was the most commonly cited reason for use with 56% of residents using it for this purpose. Other typical reasons included children's play (33%) and relaxation (23%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 100% of respondents believe the space has recreational value, while 11% value its tranquillity.

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

80% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

Blenheim objects to designation given potential impact on operation of Woodstock Town Football Club as well as allowing for expansion of the adjacent school.

WODC suggest that designation may restrict the ability of the adjacent school to expand and will liaise with OCC about this. OCC did not provide comment on the site.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes. Designation will protect use of the Recreation Ground for the football club in the long term as well as continuing to provide access for public use. The Local Plan does not identify the site as a proposed expansion for the adjacent Woodstock Primary School. The WODC Infrastructure Delivery Plan notes that the school has expanded to 1.5 form entry but that the current site area is below that required for a larger school. It states that an increased site area, or moving some facilities off-site, would be required should the school need to expand. It further notes that as part of new housing growth an alternative would be to move the school to a new site. There are no proposals in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan nor Local Plan for this. Should the school expand on its current site this further emphasises the importance of the Recreation Ground as a Local Green Space – providing a place for sports (football club), informal recreation for the public, and a potential playing field. Designation would help secure all of these activities.

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)



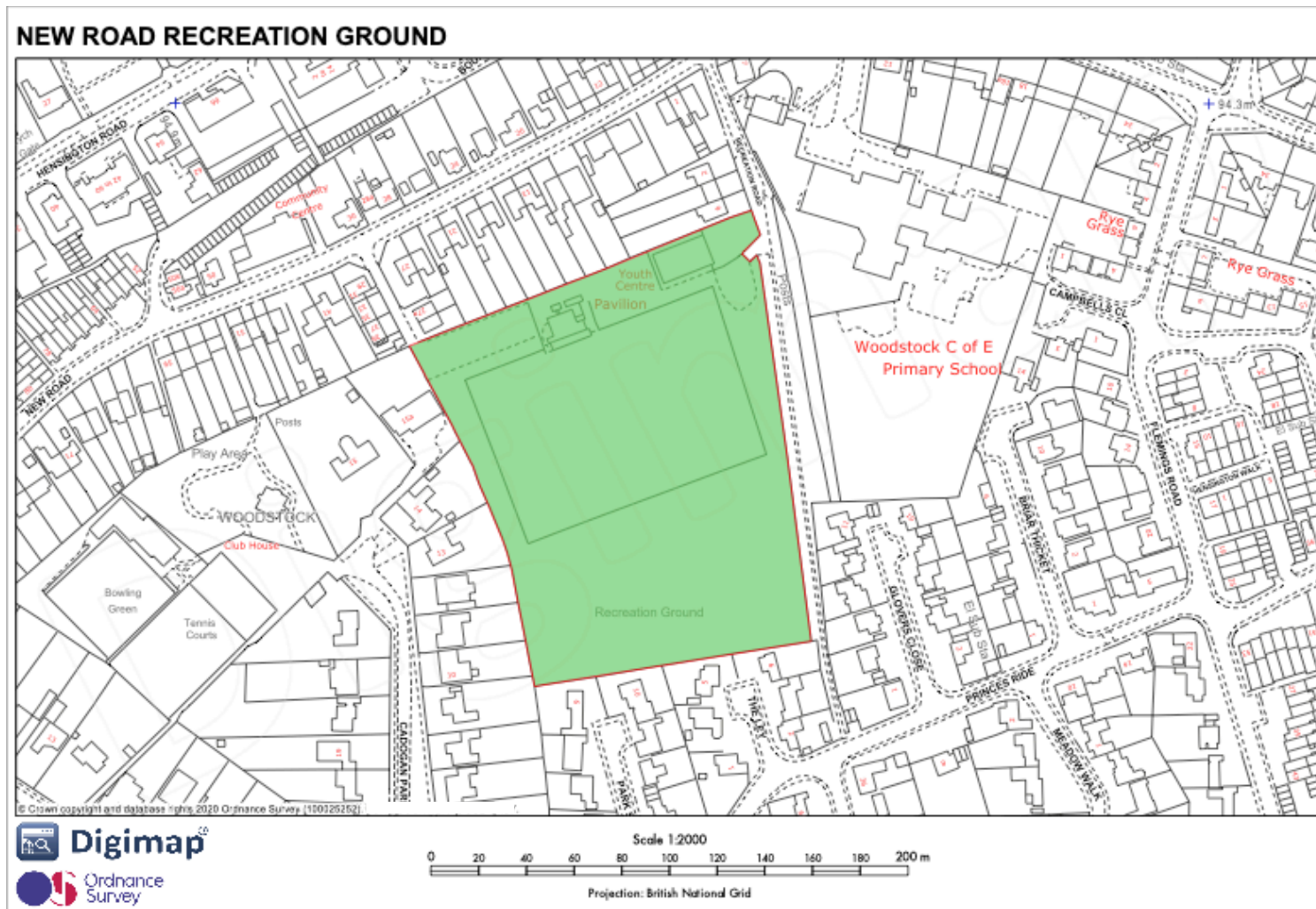


Figure 7: New Road Recreation Ground suggested LGS

## 8. OWL Nature Reserve

### *Grid Reference*

SP 45345 17028

### *Description and purpose*

1.10Ha linear stretch of land owned by WTC that runs east to west through east Woodstock out to Shipton Road. The site is a local nature reserve and is managed by WTC for the protection of wildlife and public enjoyment.

### *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH2/EH3/EH4

### *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

### *Value and benefit to the community*

Local Nature Reserve that provides sanctuary to local wildlife such as butterflies, birds, reptiles and orchids. The site also provides a valuable 'wild' trail for ramblers and dog walkers.

### *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

### *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

*Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Wildlife/Tranquillity/Recreational Value

### *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

### *Initial Public consultation*

93% of respondents think the space should be designated

### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

83/94 respondents indicated that they visit the OWL Nature Reserve, with significant numbers (54%) using it more than once per month. Of those 54%, 11% use it daily and 12% use it 2-3 times per week. The main reasons for use were informal exercise and enjoying wildlife, with 66% and 51% respectively of respondents visiting for these purposes.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant', the OWL Nature Reserve is valued for a variety of reasons: 57% value its beauty, 36% believe it has historical significance, 58% believe it has recreational value, 67% value its tranquillity and 87% value the richness of wildlife it provides.

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

77% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

WTC support designation as landowner.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

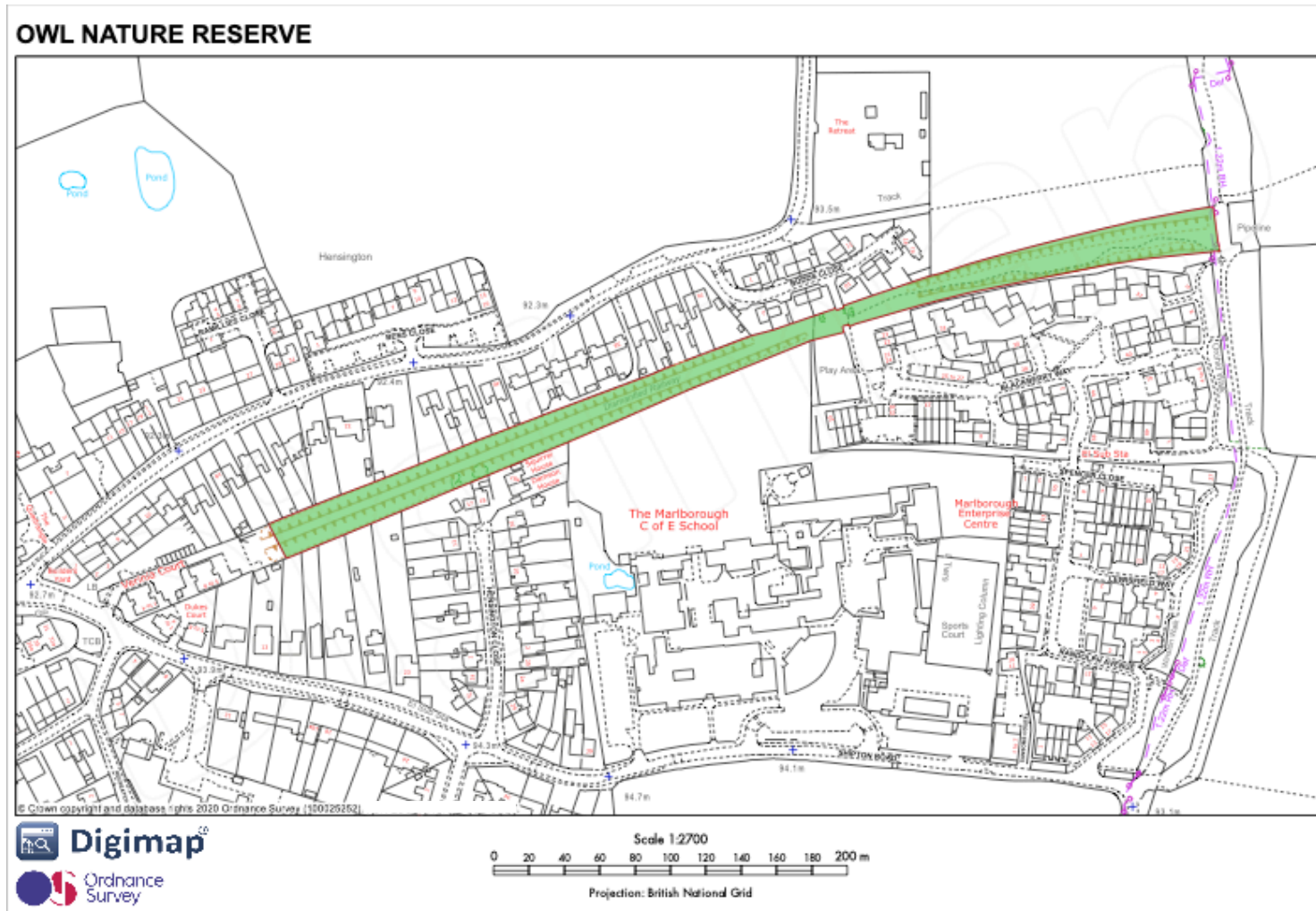


Figure 8: Owl Nature Reserve suggested LGS

## 9. Green Lane Cemetery

### *Grid Reference*

SP 44781 17395

### *Description and purpose*

0.6 Ha cemetery that is still in use. An additional piece of land to the east has been gifted to the cemetery to increase its size. A planning application has been submitted by Blenheim Estate for the adjacent land to the East/South East.

### *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH9/EH16

### *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

### *Value and benefit to the community*

The site has historic significance to Woodstock and its residents. In good condition and beautifully landscaped the site is frequently visited by local residents.

### *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

### *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

*Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Historic Significance/Tranquillity

### *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

### *Initial Public consultation*

84% of respondents think the space should be designated

### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

80/94 respondents indicated that they visit the Green Lane Cemetery. 63% of those visit less than once a month, 18% visit between once a day and once a week, and 11% visit monthly. The main reasons for use were informal exercise (28%), relaxation (22%) and enjoying wildlife (20%). 58% of users also cited 'other' as a reason for use, likely reflecting those who visit to pay respects to people who are buried there.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 83% of respondents value the tranquillity the cemetery provides. A further 40% feel the space has historic significance.

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

80% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

WODC question how likely a cemetery would come under pressure for development but also note they have considerable significance for the community and are demonstrably special green space.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

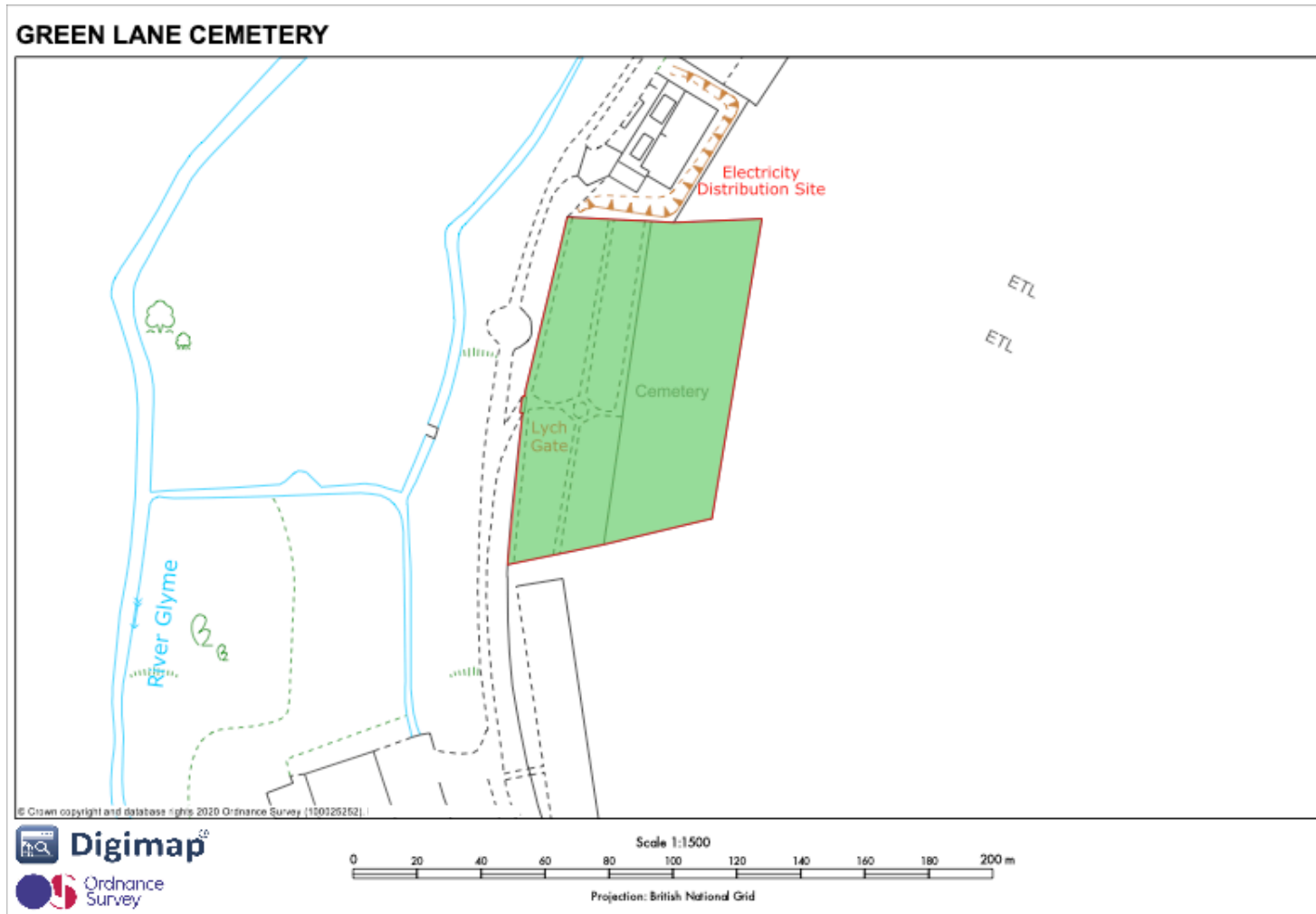


Figure 9: Green Lane Cemetery suggested LGS

## 10. Green Lane Allotments

### *Grid Reference*

SP 44884 17583

### *Description and purpose*

0.4Ha site running alongside Green Lane to the north of Woodstock that contains allotments for growing fresh produce. Owned by Blenheim Estate.

### *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

E5/EH2/EH4/EH5

### *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

### *Value and benefit to the community*

Important recreational space used by members of the local community to grow vegetables and flowers. Just outside the town, the site provides an opportunity to get out to a more rural setting. The allotments are well maintained and, as the only allotments in the town, very popular. There is a long waiting list

### *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

### *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

*Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Recreational Value/Tranquillity

### *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

### *Initial Public consultation*

87% of respondents think the space should be designated



### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

73/94 respondents indicated that they use the Green Lane Allotments, though the majority (78%) claim this is less often than once per month; however, small numbers are regular users, including 7% who use it daily. 24% of people use the space for growing food; however, there are other reasons for use including informal exercise (24%) and enjoying wildlife (21%).

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 78% feel the space has recreational value, 56% value the tranquillity afforded by the allotments while 47% appreciate the richness of wildlife.

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

80% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

OCC Public Health Team support designation: It is well used, with a waiting list for space, is important for community involvement and social interaction, for healthy eating and physical health.

Blenheim note the importance of allotments as a community resource and are keen to support provision of allotment space in Woodstock. They however suggest the proposed site forms part of a wider residential site allocation.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes, noting that the area for designation is outwith the adjacent residential site allocation.

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

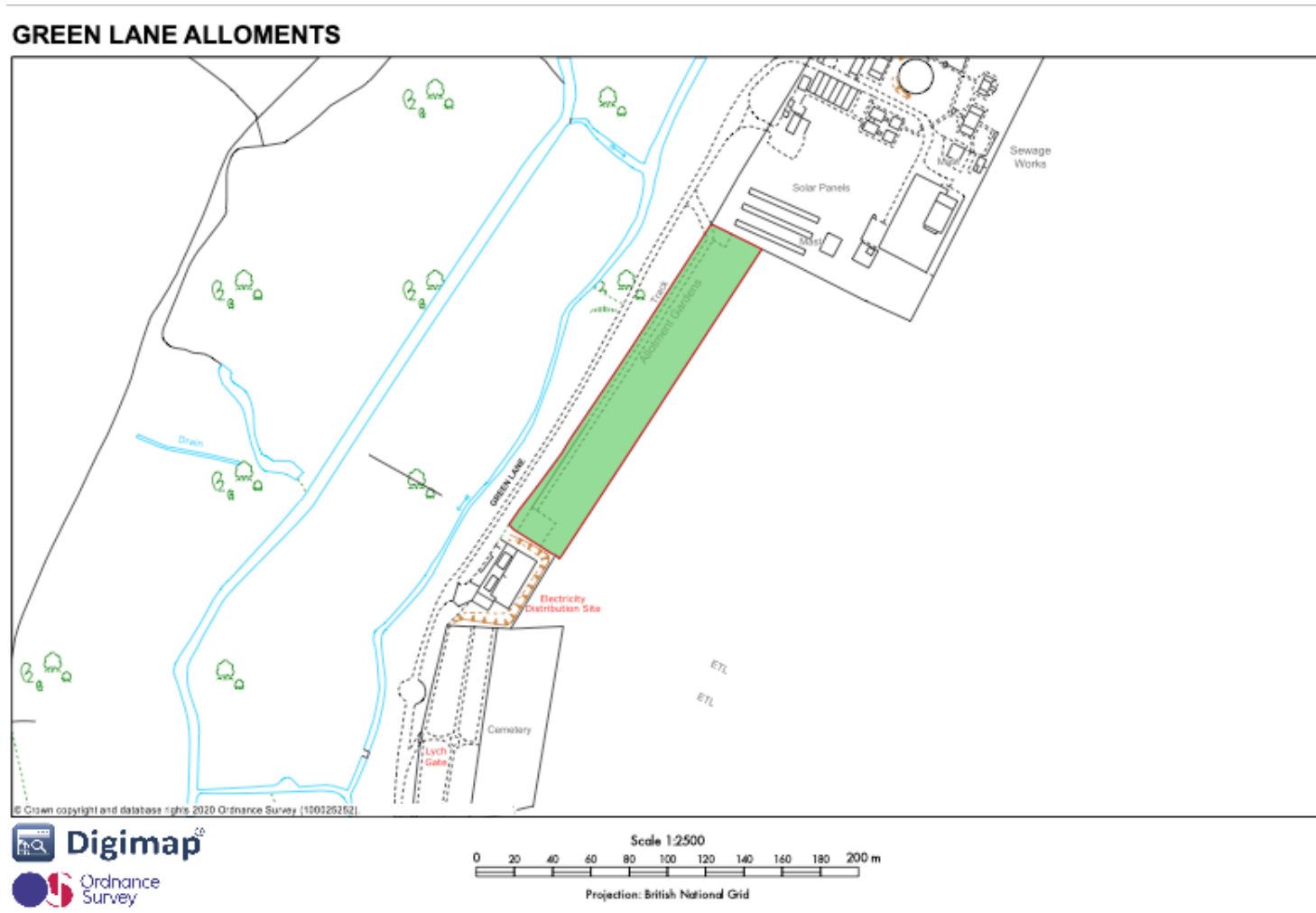


Figure 10: Green Lane Allotments suggested LGS

# 11. Watermeadows

## *Grid Reference*

SP 44457 17033

## *Description and purpose*

Covering 5.5 hectares of land on the flood plain of the River Glyme the water meadows is an area rich in biodiversity. The site is owned by WTC and is in the Woodstock Conservation Area.

## *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH2/EH3/EH4,/EH5,/EH9/EH10

Also identified as a priority habitats: Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Lowland Fens, Deciduous Woodland)

## *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

## *Value and benefit to the community*

The water meadows were granted to the town in a charter of King Henry VI dated 24 May 1453 and are a unique feature in the heart of the town, providing a valuable habitat for birds, small mammals, and plants from small aquatic species to mature trees. The water meadows are easily accessible to the public as an area of quiet tranquillity and are a popular place for walkers.

## *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

## *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

*Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Wildlife/Tranquillity/Recreational Value/Historical significance

## *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

## *Initial Public consultation*

97% of respondents think the space should be designated

### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

90/93 respondents indicated that they visit the Watermeadows, with 22% visiting daily, 20% visiting 2-3 times per week, 12% visiting weekly and 13% visiting 2-3 times per month. Just 14% visit less often than once per month. 82% of visitors use the Watermeadows for informal exercise, 63% use it for enjoying wildlife and 52% for relaxation.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant', the Watermeadows is valued across all five criteria – beauty (81%), historic significance (59%), recreational value (69%), tranquillity (88%), richness of wildlife (91%).

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

90% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

OCC Public Health Team support designation: it is an important area that helps protect the community from flooding

WODC note the site is within a Conservation Area which already affords policy protection, but that designation as a Local Green Space might help with future funding bids for ongoing management projects.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

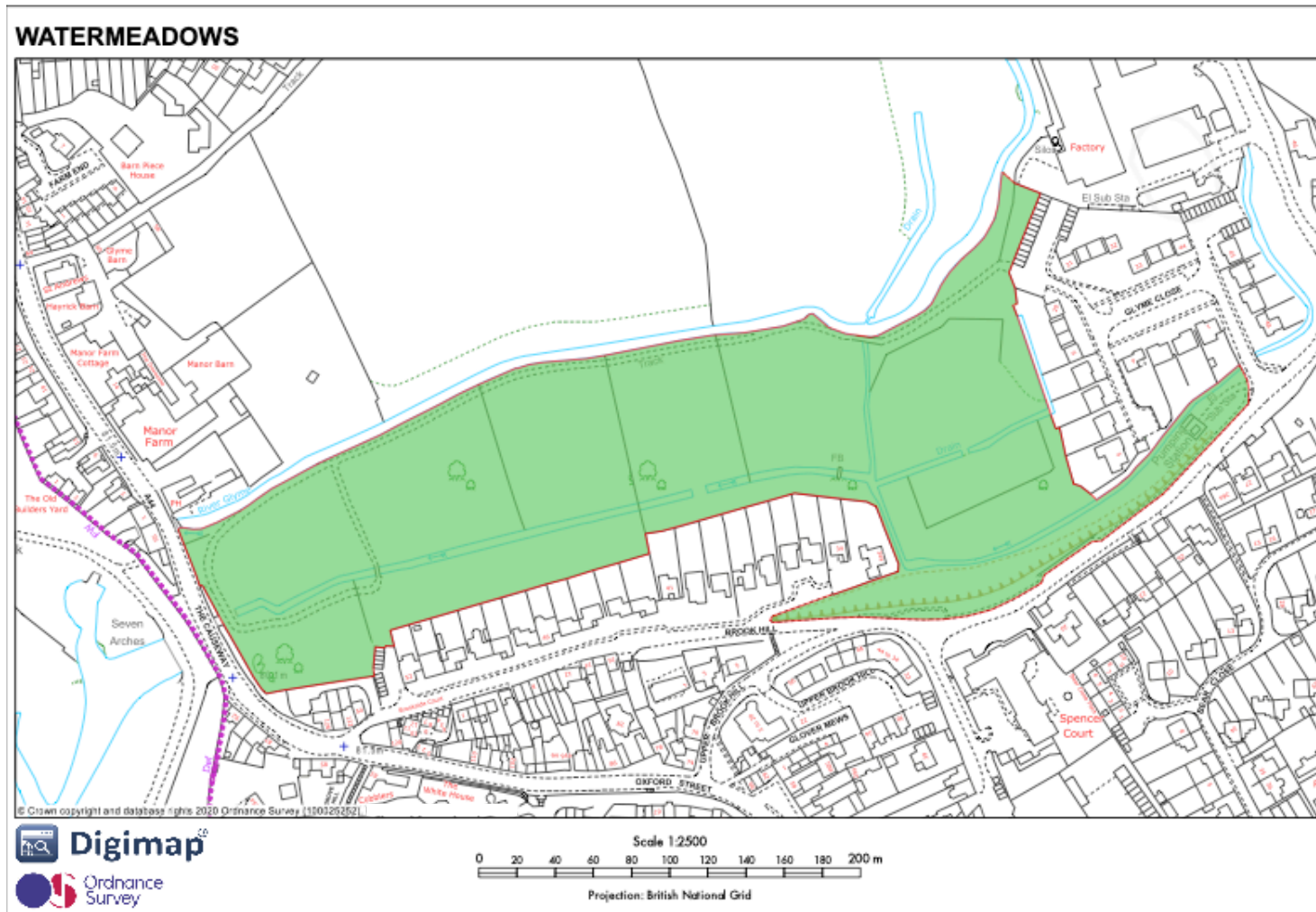


Figure 11: Watermeadows suggested LGS

# 12. Old Woodstock Play Area

## *Grid Reference*

SP 44185 17507

## *Description and purpose*

0.22Ha play area located at the end of Rosamund Drive north of Old Woodstock. The site contains a swing set, slide and additional open space. Owned by Blenheim Estate the site is currently the subject of a planning application that extends northwards. It is proposed that the children's play area may be retained or relocated within the development.

## *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH4/EH5/E5

## *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

## *Value and benefit to the community*

Important recreational space for young children in a semi-rural setting where they can play and spend time outdoors. Such spaces are important for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

## *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

Yes

## *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

## *Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Recreational value

## *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Possibly: Although part of a wider allocation, Local Plan policy states that the play area should be replaced or enhanced.

## *Initial Public consultation*

86% of respondents think the space should be designated

### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

82/94 respondents indicated that they use the Old Woodstock Play Area, 17% of whom visit daily. 11% visit 2-3 times per week and a further 11% visit monthly. 6% of respondents also claim that they used to visit often in the past, but access has since been restricted (as a result of the Covid-19 precautions). Informal exercise (48%), children's play (58%) and relaxation (37%) were the main reasons for use.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 99% of respondents believe the space has recreational value, while 29% value its tranquillity and a further 23% appreciate the richness of wildlife.

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

90% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

Blenheim notes the site forms part of a wider residential site allocation and that play space will be reprovided as part of this.

WODC note that the site forms part of a site allocation and live planning application, which would include reprovion of the Play Area in an alternative location. As such, it is considered that it is unsuitable for designation.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

No: Site is part of wider allocation for development. Development should reprovide an equal or better facility, with good practice design principles should be followed in provision of replacement space

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

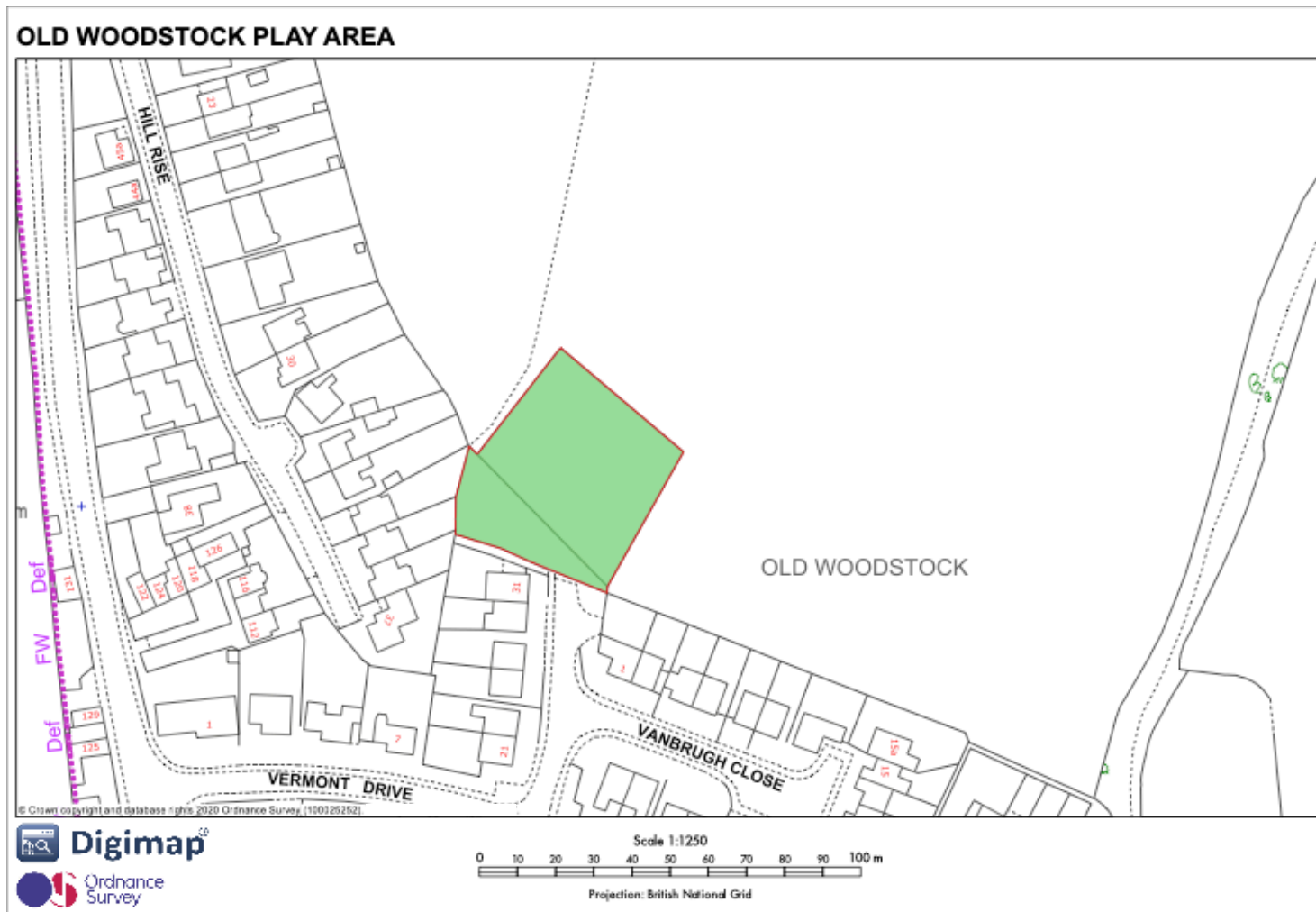


Figure 12: Old Woodstock Play Area suggested LGS



# 13. Community Orchard and Woodland

## *Grid Reference*

SP 43590 18501

## *Description and purpose*

0.72Ha strip of land that runs adjacent to the A44 north of Old Woodstock. Owned by Blenheim but on a long lease to WTC. The site is managed by the community group 'Sustainable Woodstock' as a community orchard, growing more than 80 fruit trees since 2017.

## *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EN4/EH5/E5

## *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

## *Value and benefit to the community*

Important social and recreational space, the site facilitates sustainable living by encouraging residents to come together to grow and sell local produce.

## *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

## *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

No

## *Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Recreational Value/Tranquillity

## *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes: although not immediately adjacent to the main built-up area it is connected via footpaths and is well-used and managed by the local community.

## *Initial Public consultation*

88% of respondents think the space should be designated

### *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

83/94 respondents indicated that they use the Community Orchard and Woodland, with a large proportion using it daily (12%), 2-3 times per week (17%) or weekly (10%). Informal exercise (74%), relaxation (60%) and enjoying wildlife (57%) were the main reasons for use cited by the respondents.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant', the Community Orchard and Woodland is valued across four of the five criteria – beauty (62%), recreational value (72%) tranquillity (75%), richness of wildlife (84%).

### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

87% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

OCC Public Health Team support designation: the planting of trees helps mitigate climate change and designation would prevent damage to these

Blenheim note the community interest in and use of the site.

### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

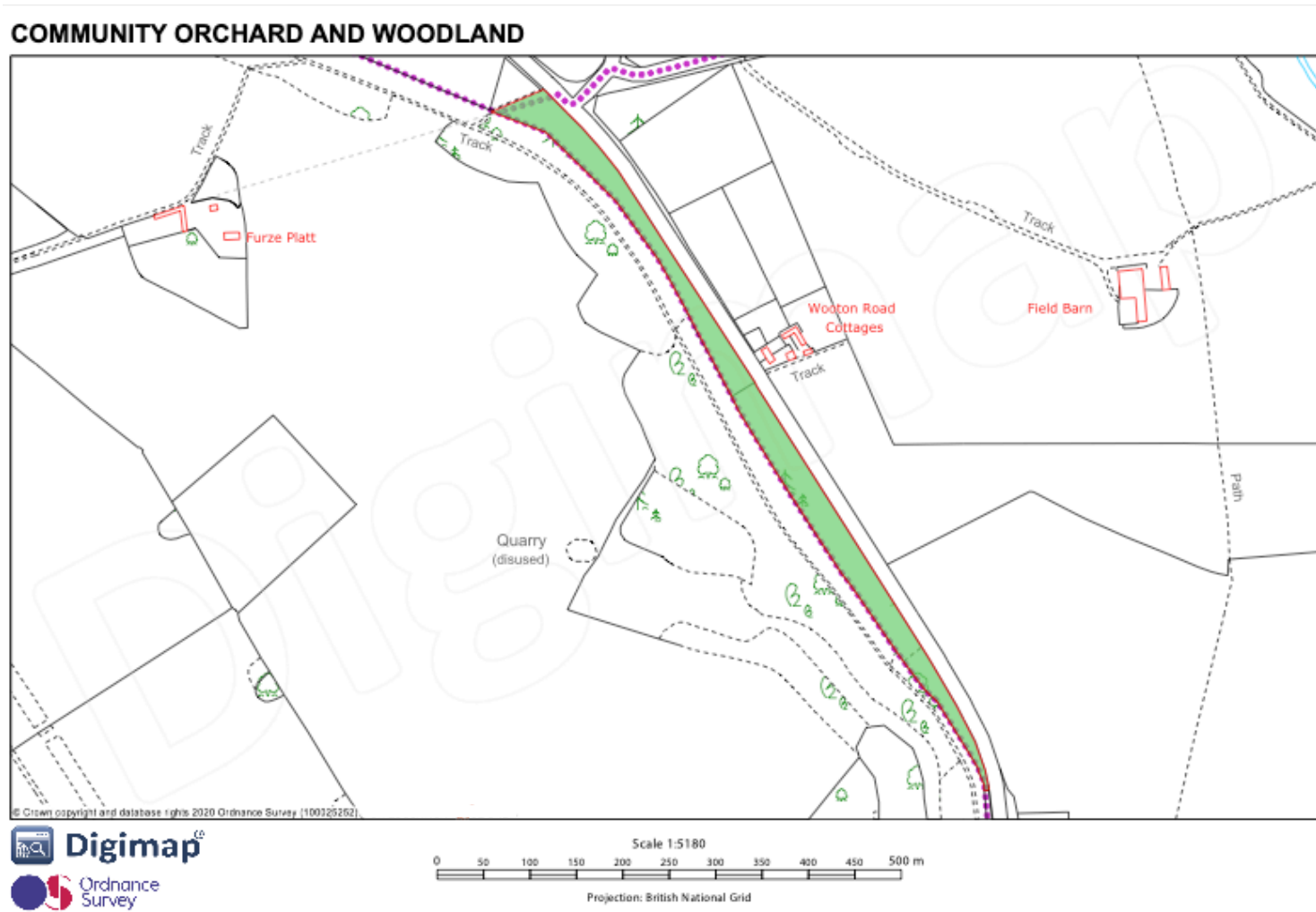


Figure 13: Community Orchard and Community Woodland suggested LGS

# 14. Hensington Road Cemetery

## *Grid Reference*

SP 44857 16891

## *Description and purpose*

0.9 Ha site off of Hensington Road which contains Woodstock Cemetery.

## *Policy designations (see table in section 1)*

EH9/EH16

## *Quality and condition (good/mixed/ poor)*

Good

## *Value and benefit to the community*

The site has historic significance to Woodstock and its residents. In good condition and beautifully landscaped the site is frequently visited by local residents.

## *Does the green space have planning permission for development?*

No

## *Is the green space in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?*

Yes

## *Is the green space considered to be demonstrably special to a local community and hold particular local significance because of its beauty / historic significance / recreational value / tranquillity / wildlife / other?*

Historic Significance/Tranquillity

## *SIFT 1: Does this site meet the criteria?*

Yes

## *Initial Public consultation*

83% of respondents think the space should be designated

## *Use and value of space reported in initial consultation*

78/94 respondents indicated that they visit the Hensington Road Cemetery, though the majority use it either monthly (10%) or less often (73%). Reasons for visiting

include informal exercise (24%) and relaxation (33%). 50% of visitors cited 'other' as reasons for their visit., reflecting those who visit the cemetery to pay their respects to those who are buried there.

In terms of aligning with national policy to be considered 'locally significant': 56% of respondents believe the space has historic significance, while 20% appreciate the richness of wildlife.

#### *Regulation 14 Consultation*

80% of responses agree or strongly agree with designation

#### *Landowner / Statutory Consultee Response*

WODC question how likely a cemetery would come under pressure for development but also note they have considerable significance for the community and are demonstrably special green space.

#### *SIFT 2: Recommend as designation?*

Yes

(SEE LOCATION PLAN OVERLEAF)

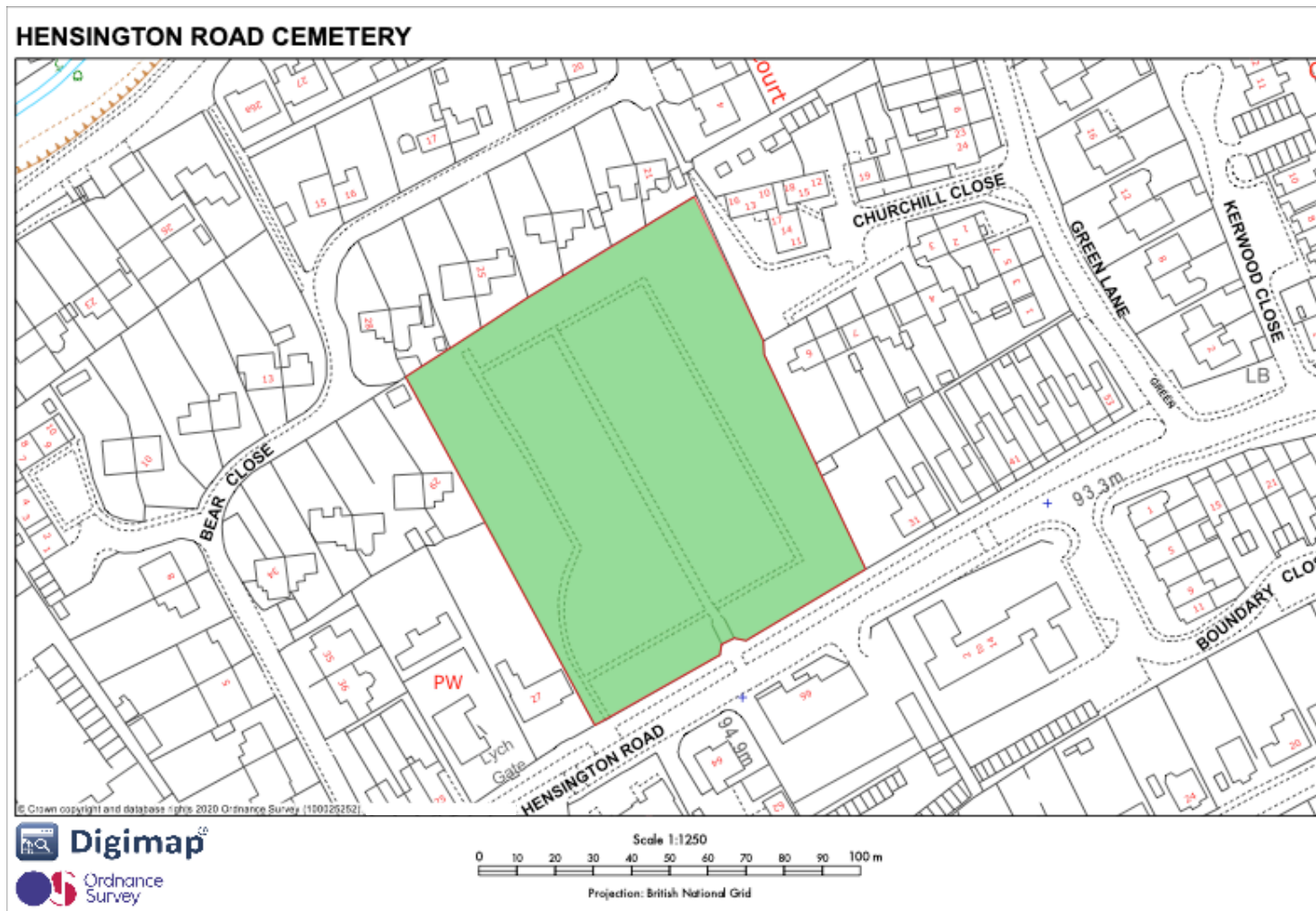


Figure 14: Hensington Road Cemetery suggested LGS

## 15. Recommendations

15.1 The assessment concludes that the following sites warrant designation as Local Green Spaces in the Neighbourhood Plan:

- Memorial Garden
- Marlborough School Playing Field
- Woodstock Bowls and tennis Club
- New Road Playground
- New Road Recreation Ground
- OWL Nature Reserve
- Green lane Cemetery
- Green Lane Allotments
- Watermeadows
- Community Orchard and Community Woodland
- Hensington Road Cemetery

15.2 In addition to their designation as Local Green Spaces all are considered potential locations where improvements and enhancements might be targeted to help deliver biodiversity net gains in line with the Environment Act. Where applications for development come forward in Woodstock it is expected that biodiversity net gains will be delivered on site. However, if this is not practicable, the Local Green Spaces identified in this report may be appropriate locations for such gains, subject to the appropriate agreements being put in place between the applicants, landowner and District Council.

15.3 The following sites are not considered to meet the criteria for designation, but remain important green spaces and where policies in the NPPF and Local Plan apply.

- The Oxfordshire Museum
- Old Woodstock Play Area

Woodstock Town Council  
**Neighbourhood Plan for Woodstock, 2020-2031**

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LGS Assessment  
January 2022

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