

Woodstock

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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2020 - 2031

Referendum Version 2023





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2020 – 2031

Referendum Version January 2023

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Woodstock Town Council  
Town Hall  
Market Square  
Woodstock  
Oxfordshire, OX20 1SL

<http://www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk/>

# Contents

Foreword .....	ii
1. Introduction .....	3
2. Setting the Scene.....	6
3. Local Green Spaces .....	14
4. Policies .....	18
Appendix 1: Planning Practice Guidance.....	36
Appendix 2: Habitats and policy designations .....	41
Appendix 3: Flood mapping .....	43
Glossary .....	45
Acknowledgements.....	48

# Foreword

*Dear Residents,*

The small historic town of Woodstock is currently experiencing massive developments which, when complete, will add approximately 30% to the housing stock.

In consequence, the Town Council in collaboration with Blenheim Estate – the landowner and developer of the new builds - commissioned local company *Community First* to undertake a **Community and Infrastructure Delivery Plan**. This document set the base for proceeding with a Neighbourhood Plan that would seek to identify and protect the remaining valuable green spaces in the town.

With the support of West Oxfordshire District Council, town councillors formed a steering group and appointed Troy Planning + Design to guide and assist the formulation of a neighbourhood plan that concentrates on green spaces.

The community – having already expressed their views during the **Community and Infrastructure Delivery Plan** consultation – were again consulted on the specific sites. The resulting **Neighbourhood Plan** has been subject to independent examination and we thank all past and present Council members who initiated the project.

The **Neighbourhood Plan** will be used to determine planning applications within the Parish of Woodstock and has the legal weight within the planning system as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who contributed their views and illustrated their passion for the town through their responses to the consultations. It is our purpose and our hope that the Plan will safeguard the future of these open spaces as green lungs in Woodstock, appreciated by generations to come.

**Elizabeth Poskitt**  
**Town Mayor, Woodstock, 2022-23**

# 1. Introduction

## A new plan for Woodstock

- 1.1 This is the Neighbourhood Plan for Woodstock. It covers the entire area covered by the Town Council, as illustrated in Figure 1.
- 1.2 The purpose of neighbourhood planning is to give local people and businesses a much greater say in how the places they live and work should change and develop over time. Neighbourhood planning is designed to give local people a very real voice in shaping the look and feel of an area.
- 1.3 There is no set format for a Neighbourhood Plan, nor what it should include, though policies in it should relate to land use and development. Good practice advice is that such plans should really focus on the key issues and challenges within an area, which are not already addressed through national or local policy, and where the local community can affect very real change.
- 1.4 This Neighbourhood Plan for Woodstock, which covers the period to 2031<sup>1</sup>, has a singular focus on the protection of green and open spaces within the neighbourhood area for current and future generations, which it aims to achieve through the designation of 'Local Green Spaces'.
- 1.5 Woodstock was formally designated as an area for neighbourhood planning purposes in January 2020<sup>2</sup>. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee has sought the views of the wider community, as well as landowners, through the process of preparing this Neighbourhood Plan, seeking feedback on the proposed Local Green Space Designations contained within it.
- 1.6 The Plan has been subject to formal consultation and independent examination. The Examiner's report noted that:

*'The Plan is an excellent example of an approach which seeks to add a very distinctive element to the existing adopted Local Plan'.*

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<sup>1</sup> This aligns with the period covered by the existing West Oxfordshire Local Plan.

<sup>2</sup> The Localism Act 2011 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>) gave communities the power to develop neighbourhood plans, to be progressed by Town and Parish councils, or neighbourhood forums, as opposed to the local authority.



Figure 1: The designated Neighbourhood Plan area for Woodstock

## Structure of the plan

- 1.7 Following this introduction, the draft Neighbourhood Plan comprises three further sections. These are:
- Section 2: 'Setting the Scene', presents the context for the Neighbourhood Plan, providing an overview of the area today and the policy framework within which the Neighbourhood Plan sits.
  - Section 3: 'Local Green Spaces', introduces the concept of Local Green Space designations, how and when it can be used, as well as an overview of key documents and resources that have informed the designation of Local Green Spaces in this Neighbourhood Plan.
  - Sections 4: 'Policies', presents the Local Green Space policies for Woodstock and includes a discussion of each of the sites identified for designation.

## Reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan

- 1.8 Notwithstanding the defined period of the Neighbourhood Plan to 2031, it is recognised that, with further changes to and review of the Local Plan likely (and, indeed, to national guidance), the Neighbourhood Plan will need to be reviewed periodically. This will enable the Neighbourhood Plan to remain 'current' and in conformity with the West Oxfordshire Local Plan and national planning guidance (whether that is the National Planning Policy Framework or a replacement of this).

## 2. Setting the Scene

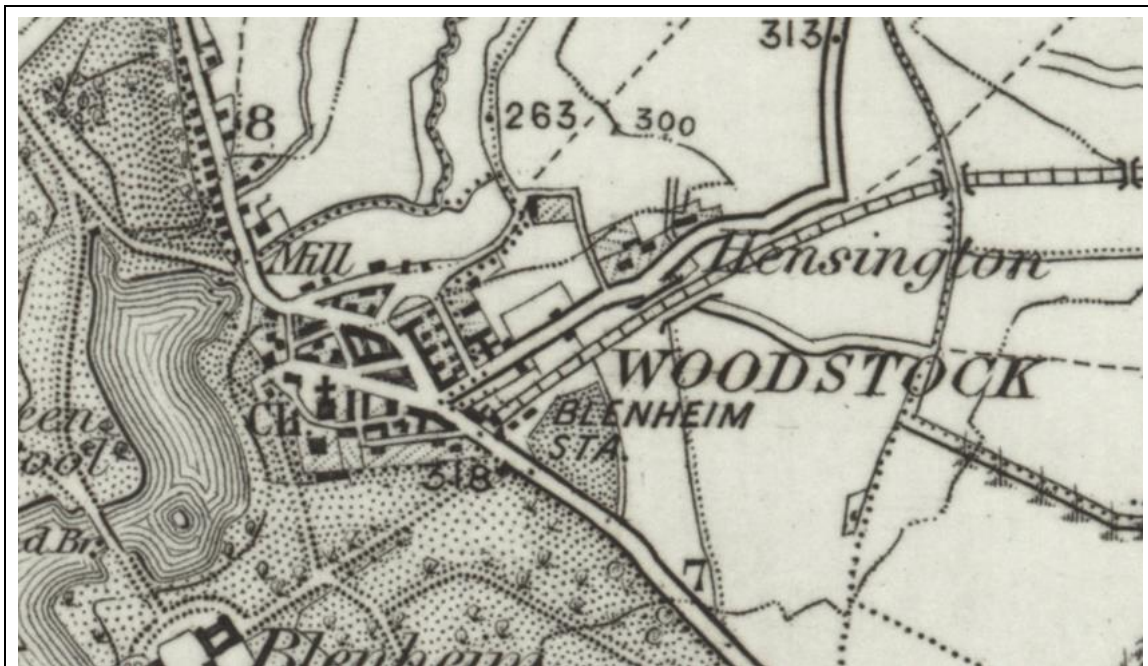
### The neighbourhood plan area

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the entire parish of Woodstock. The main settlement – Woodstock – is located in the south of the Parish, with the boundary extending northwards to include Old Woodstock, a smaller settlement. The two are separated by the River Glyme, a tributary that runs north to south through the Parish.
- 2.2 The main access routes into the Town is Oxford Road from the South and Manor Road from the North. These merge to become Oxford Street, off of which you can find the High Street, the town’s main thoroughfare. On these two streets you can find many of the communities’ main amenities and facilities including Woodstock Surgery, the Co-operative, The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock Town Hall, The Post Office and the Macdonald Bear Hotel. Additional access to the town can be obtained from the east via Banbury Road. High through traffic levels (particularly lorries using the A44) have long been an issue for the town<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.3 Woodstock is a historic town of national renown. The old part of Woodstock is a well-preserved medieval town, much of which is covered by a Conservation Area in which there are almost 200 listed buildings. Residential estates have been added to the historic core of the town since the 1930s, and particularly so in the 1950s and 1960s. More recent development has been more limited, although, in the last fifteen years, new residential development to the east of the town adjacent to Marlborough School has taken place.
- 2.4 The series of plans shown in Figure 2, 3 and 4 illustrates the growth of Woodstock over time. With continued growth of the town proposed in the Local Plan through site allocations north and east of Woodstock so the role and function of green space becomes ever more important. Indeed, the mapping indicates that many of the green spaces designated in this Neighbourhood Plan have formed part of the fabric of Woodstock for a considerable time.

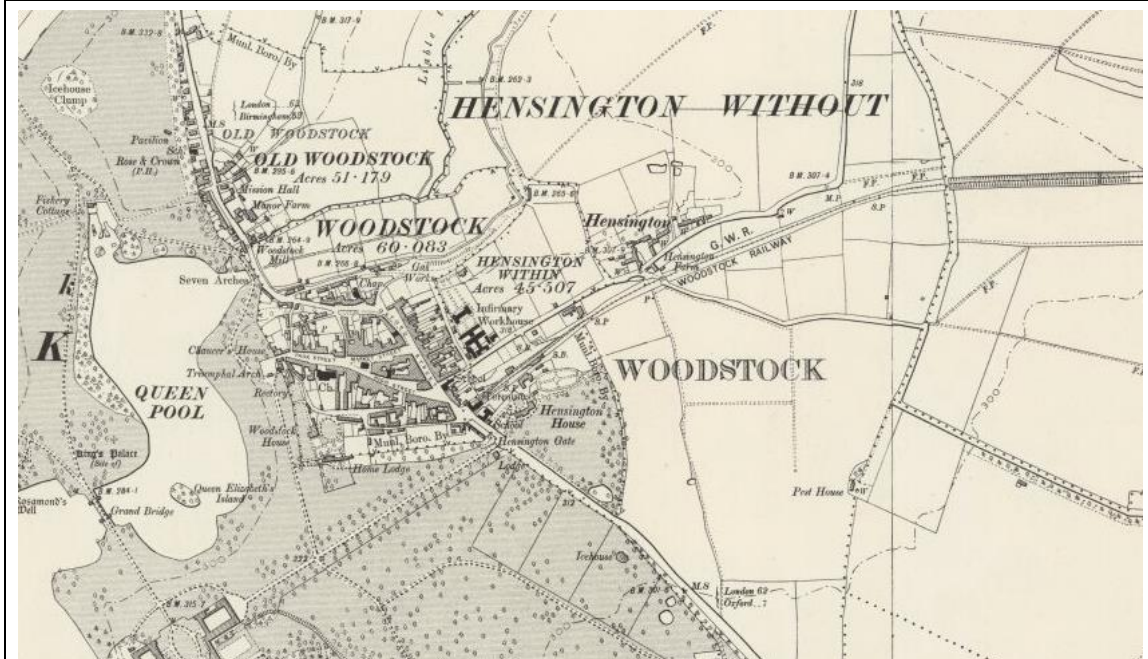
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<sup>3</sup> West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031. Available at: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan/>



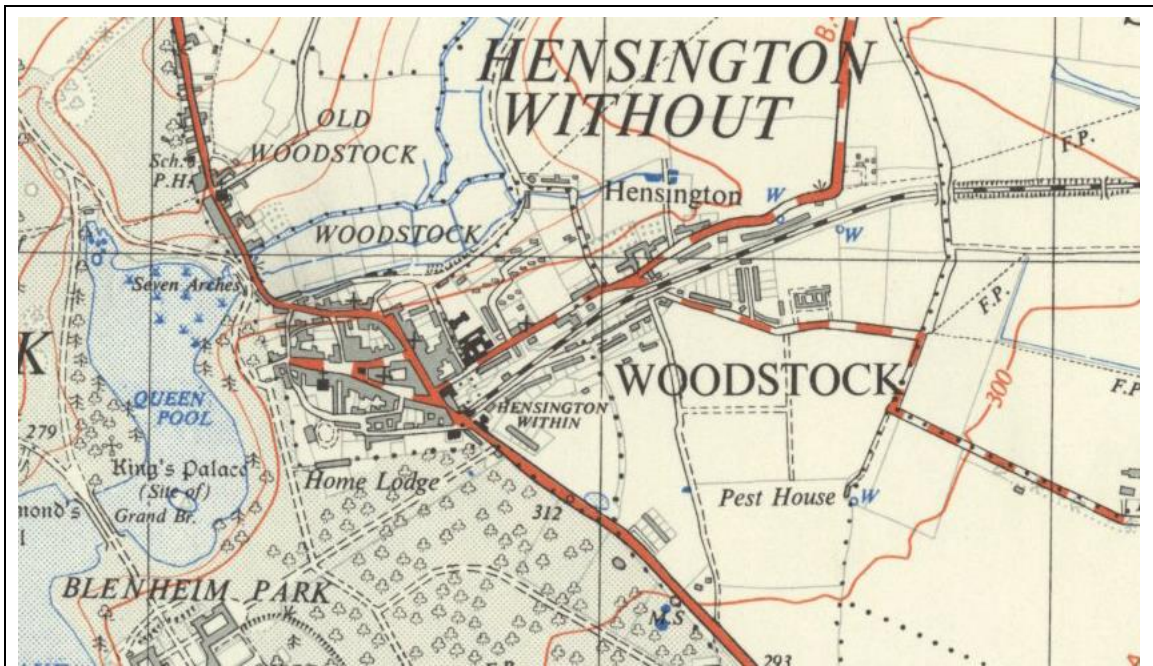


Mapping, period 1885 to 1900



Mapping, period 1888 to 1913

Figure 2: Historic maps of Woodstock, illustrating growth over time. Source: National Library of Scotland online mapping

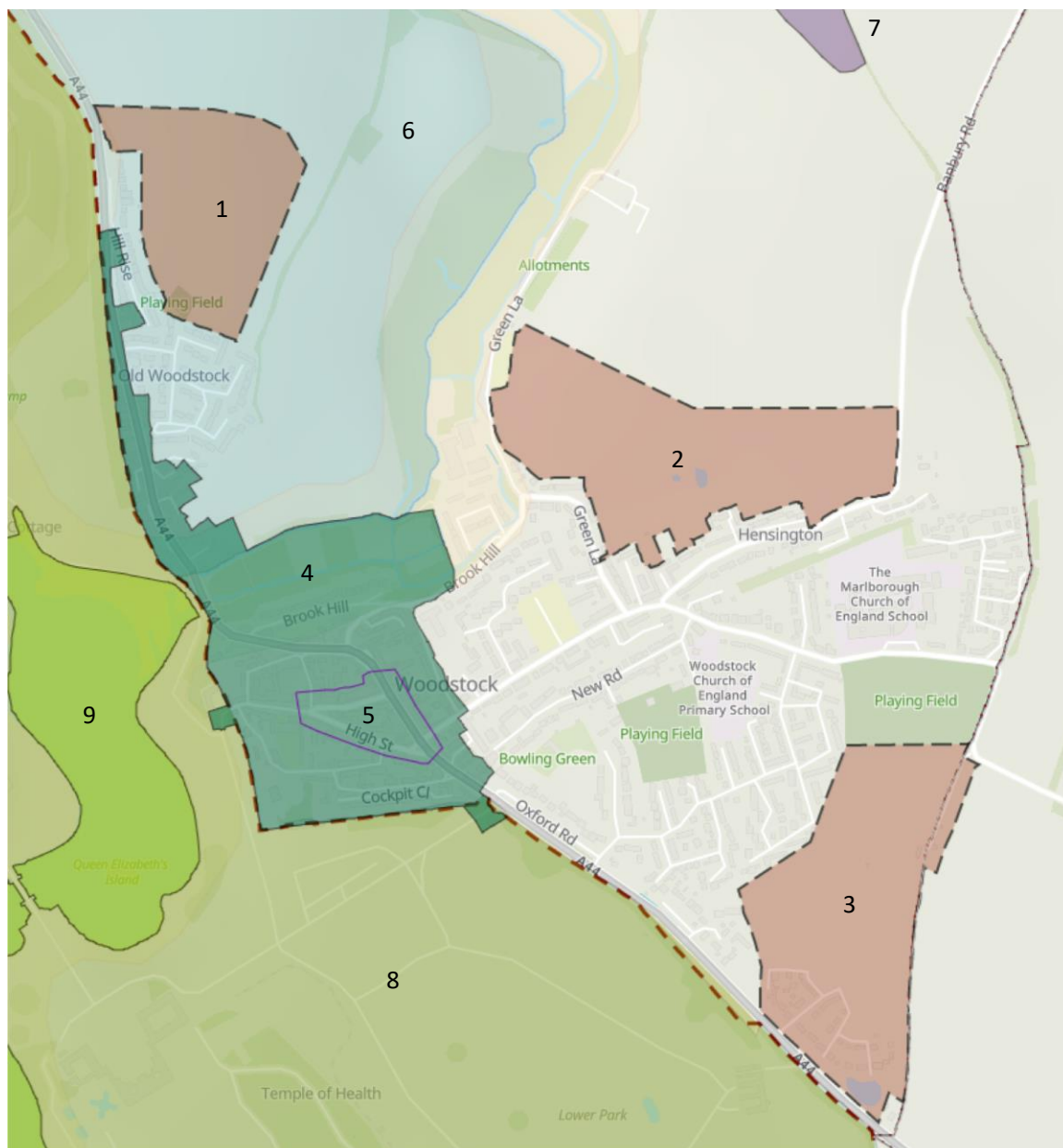


Mapping, period 1937 to 1961



Aerial photography, current day

Figure 3: Historic maps of Woodstock, illustrating growth over time. Source: National Library of Scotland online mapping



1	Site Allocation: North of Hill Rise (120 homes)	6	Eastern Park and Valley Character Area
2	Site Allocation: North of Banbury Road (180 homes)	7	Scheduled Ancient Monument: Rectangular Earthwork, Hensington
3	Site Allocation: East Woodstock (300 homes)	8	World Heritage Site: Blenheim Palace
4	Woodstock Conservation Area	9	Site of Special Scientific Interest (Blenheim Park)
5	Woodstock Town Centre Boundary		

Figure 4: Extract from WODC Local Plan Interactive Policy map, showing future growth locations around Woodstock as well as other policy designations

- 2.5 To the north of Woodstock, the landscape is rural in character. Glyme Valley, forming part of the Evenlode catchment, divides the two settlements, is attractive and currently characterised by semi-enclosed valley-side farmland and open limestone wolds farmland. Further north is larger scale open arable farmland, with few trees and a weak hedgerow structure<sup>4</sup>.
- 2.6 Land to the east of Woodstock is largely characterised by open limestone wolds farmland. There is some ribbon development along Banbury Road, but the rural edge is currently largely unspoilt. The former railway line that runs east to west has become a strong landscape feature<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.7 The open limestone wolds farmland continues to the south where it is very flat, with medium to large scale farmland. This farmland is largely unspoilt by urban influences as there is a strong boundary between the urban edge and the more rural land uses. This boundary is slightly less clear with regard to the school because of its playing fields, fences and lighting<sup>6</sup>.
- 2.8 To the west of the Parish lies Blenheim Estate and Blenheim Palace. Blenheim Palace and its parkland was inscribed as a World Heritage Site (WHS) in 1987. In addition to this, it is also considered a National Heritage Landscape because of its outstanding historic and architectural interest. The park is a well-defined and contained landscape with limited inter-visibility with its wider agricultural setting (including Woodstock). The Blenheim Palace World Heritage and National Heritage Management Plan<sup>7</sup> was published in 2017 and sets out an approach to the conservation of the site. Within Blenheim Park and adjoining the parish is the Blenheim Park Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Glyme and Dorn Conservation Target Area (which extends into the town's water meadows) and the Blenheim and Ditchley Conservation Target Area.
- 2.9 Blenheim Palace is the District's largest visitor attraction and a major contributor to the local economy. As such, tourism is an important part of Woodstock's livelihood and character, with several pubs, restaurants, hotels and tea shops populating the town to support the industry<sup>8</sup>.

## West Oxfordshire Local Plan

- 2.10 Neighbourhood Plans must be prepared in line with national guidance and legislation including the Localism Act (2011), the Neighbourhood Planning

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<sup>4</sup> West Oxfordshire Landscape Assessment 1998. Available at: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-evidence-base/>

<sup>5</sup> ibid

<sup>6</sup> ibid

<sup>7</sup> Blenheim World Heritage Site Revised Management Plan 2017. Available at: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-evidence-base/>

<sup>8</sup> West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031. Available at: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan/>

(General) Regulations (2012)<sup>9</sup>, the Neighbourhood Planning Act, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

- 2.11 Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan. The development plan for Woodstock is the West Oxfordshire Local Plan, which was adopted by West Oxfordshire District Council in 2018 and sets out the overall planning framework for the district from 2011 to 2031.
- 2.12 Due to its 'very good range of services and facilities given its size' and its good accessibility to and from Oxford, the Local Plan states that Woodstock can accommodate a reasonable scale of development throughout the plan period. Policy OS2 (locating development in the right places) notes that Woodstock is suitable for a reasonable scale of development, whilst protecting its important historic character and setting of Blenheim Palace. Policy EW10 (Eynsham – Woodstock sub-area strategy) directs growth towards Woodstock whilst seeking to ensure that new development also provides for essential supporting infrastructure and that the masterplanning of development sites maximises opportunities to create and strengthen green infrastructure.
- 2.13 The Local Plan allocates three (non-strategic) sites in Woodstock for a total housing allocation of 600 homes (illustrated on Figure 4):
- EW3 Land east of Woodstock to accommodate 300 homes north of the A44 Oxford Road. This is a greenfield site on the south eastern edge of Woodstock currently in agricultural use. The site immediately adjoins existing residential development to the west and is bordered to the north by sports pitches associated with the Marlborough School.
  - EW4 Land north of Hill Rise, Woodstock to accommodate around 120 dwellings. This is a greenfield site located on the northern approach into Woodstock along the A44 Manor Road. It adjoins existing development at Hill Rise and Vanbrugh Close to the west and south.
  - EW5: Land north of Banbury Road, Woodstock to accommodate 180 homes. This is a greenfield site located on the northern edge of Woodstock between Green Lane and Banbury Road. The site is currently in agricultural use.
- 2.14 The Local Plan sets out a number of objectives associated with environmental and heritage assets, including open space. Of particular importance to the protection of Woodstock's environmental and heritage assets is the following:
- CO14: Conserve and enhance the character and significance of West Oxfordshire's high quality natural, historic and cultural environment

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<sup>9</sup> Updated in 2015 and 2016

– including its geodiversity, landscape, biodiversity, heritage and arts – recognising and promoting their wider contribution to people’s quality of life and social and economic well-being both within the District and beyond.

2.15 This objective is supported by a number of Local Plan policies including:

- Policy EH2: Landscape Character: *'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.'*
- Policy EH3: Biodiversity and geodiversity: *'The biodiversity of West Oxfordshire shall be protected and enhanced to achieve an overall net gain in biodiversity and minimise impacts on geodiversity.'*
- Policy EH4: Public realm and green infrastructure: *'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.'*
- Policy EH5: Sport, recreation and children’s play: *'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.'*

2.16 The policy framework outlined above seeks to protect and enhance green spaces and important assets, but does not preclude development. With the scale of growth proposed in Woodstock in mind, and the recognised importance of green spaces, this Neighbourhood Plan focuses on designating important local green spaces of significance to the community, and which can be enjoyed by existing and new residents alike. It is important to note that beyond the green spaces designated in this Neighbourhood Plan there are other areas of green space within the Parish that fulfil an important role and where proposals for development which impact on such areas will need to comply with national and local plan policies.

2.17 The Neighbourhood Plan has been informed by the Local Plan documents and the suite of supporting material providing evidence to this, all of which can be accessed via the West Oxfordshire Council website<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/>

## Woodstock Community and Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- 2.18 In February 2019, Woodstock Town Council and Blenheim Estate commissioned a Community and Infrastructure Delivery Plan<sup>11</sup> to help address future infrastructure needs for the town in light of the new housing sites brought forwards in the West Oxfordshire Local Plan.
- 2.19 The aim of the Plan was to identify the 'hard' and 'soft' infrastructure needs within Woodstock, so that it can continue to prosper; ensure proposed developments preserve and enhance the special character of the existing town; ensure new communities are integrated into the town; and recommend how 'projects and priorities' identified by the local community can be achieved.
- 2.20 Amongst priorities raised during consultation with the local community, the protection and enhancement of green and open spaces were raised as a key concern, particularly the status of the Recreation Ground. In the community survey distributed, providing more green spaces was rated as 4.1 out of 5 in terms of importance by 510 respondents, while keeping the Woodstock FC site (Recreation Ground) as a green space was rated as 4.6 out of 5 by 508 respondents.
- 2.21 Though concerns were raised about the impact of planned development, there was support to consider these issues on a 'town-wide' basis, with discussions raised regarding the environment and the climate crisis dominating community events. Environmental and low carbon improvements, including biodiversity, wildlife habitats and green spaces, was placed on the Priority List relating to Section 106 developer contributions. Following from this, the Town Council has prepared this Neighbourhood Plan which has a focus on designating important Local Green Spaces in Woodstock for protection.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://woodstock-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Woodstock-Community-Infrastructure-Delivery-Plan-2019.pdf>

## 3. Local Green Spaces

### The importance of green space

- 3.1 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (Paragraph 5) highlights the importance of green infrastructure for communities, referencing benefits such as '*enhanced well-being, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, food and energy production, urban cooling and the management of flood risk*'.
- 3.2 Green infrastructure can drive economic growth and regeneration, reinforce and enhance local landscape character and contribute to a sense of place (Paragraph 6). It can also help to improve the health and well-being of a community, providing opportunities for residents and visitors to exercise, interact with one another experience nature, get involved in their community through activities like food growing and gardening, all of which bring physical and mental health benefits (Paragraph 6).
- 3.3 In their research project '*Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces*,' Fields in Trust, the independent charity working to secure the protection of parks and green spaces at both the local and national level, quantified the 'Wellbeing Value' of such spaces. They established that an individual would need to be compensated by £974 a year to replace the life satisfaction they would have gained from using their local park or green space. Equally, parks and green spaces are estimated to save the NHS around £111 million per year based solely on a reduction in GP visits<sup>12</sup>.
- 3.4 Such spaces are particularly important in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. With access to gyms, sports facilities, cafés, shops and other community facilities restricted, open spaces have become hugely important sites where people can exercise and interact with one another in a socially distanced and safe environment.<sup>13</sup> Fields in Trust Guidance has been to ensure that such spaces remain open and accessible, recognising their role in community well-being, now more than ever<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup> Fields in Trust – Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces. Available at:

<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/research>

<sup>13</sup> LSE London Blog – Valuing London's urban green space in a time of crisis – and in everyday life. Available at:

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lse/london/valuing-londons-urban-green-space-in-a-time-of-crisis-and-in-everyday-life/>

<sup>14</sup> Fields in Trust – Management of green spaces during Covid-19. Available at:

<http://www.fieldsintrust.org/knowledge-base/management-of-green-spaces-during-covid-19>



- 3.5 This is highlighted in recent guidance published by the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA)<sup>15</sup>, which identifies 'good green spaces in the right places' as a key ingredient in the '20-minute neighbourhood', being places where the community has access to the full range of services and facilities to support day-to-day life.
- 3.6 Equally, the Quality of Life Framework<sup>16</sup> identifies access to places for leisure and recreation, and contact with nature, as being important determinants in the quality of a place and people's quality of life, making health and wellbeing central to the way we plan for our communities. Furthermore, and with the requirement to demonstrate biodiversity net-gain on development sites through the Environment Act (2021)<sup>17</sup> and publication of the Natural England /Defra Biodiversity Metric<sup>18</sup>, Local Green Spaces might comprise locations where net gain can be delivered.

## National Guidance

- 3.7 Under the NPPF, Neighbourhood Plans can designate Local Green Spaces which are of importance to the local community. The NPPF 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.<sup>19</sup>*
- 3.8 It is important to note that whilst designation affords the green space similar policy protection to Green Belt, it does not place any new restrictions or obligations on landowners. Management of the land remains the responsibility of the landowner although, with the agreement of the landowner, there may be opportunities that can be explored which allow the local community to become more involved in the management of the space. Furthermore, designation does not confer any rights of access over what exists at present.
- 3.9 Both the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code emphasise the importance of green space for communities, including those that form part

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<sup>15</sup> TCPA, March 2021, 20-Minute Neighbourhoods: Creating Healthier, Active, Prosperous Communities – An Introduction for Council Planners in England

<sup>16</sup> The Quality of Life Foundation, March 2021, Quality of Life Framework (prepared with support from MHCLG, the TCPA, RTPI and others)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted>

<sup>18</sup> <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720>

<sup>19</sup> Para 102, MHCLG, July 2021, National Planning Policy Framework

of a multi-functional green infrastructure network. The Design Code states that *'nature and green spaces should be woven into the fabric of our villages, towns and cities. This provides benefits in terms of health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate and flood mitigation and can connect nature to wider surroundings'*.<sup>20</sup>

- 3.10 Appendix 2 of this Neighbourhood Plan includes extracts from Planning Practice Guidance providing more information on the designation of sites as Local Green Spaces.

## Open Space & Green Infrastructure

- 3.11 The West Oxfordshire District Council Open Space Study 2008<sup>21</sup> reports that most of the open space in Woodstock is dominated by institutional sports grounds, found to the east of the town. This includes the Marlborough School Playing Field and the space behind Woodstock Church of England Primary School. Consequently, the study notes that there is very little public open space in Woodstock.
- 3.12 Other types of open space in Woodstock include outdoor sports facilities (non-institutional) in the form of the New Road Recreation Ground and Woodstock Bowls & Tennis Club. There is provision for children and young people in the form of New Road Playground and Old Woodstock Play Area (see figure x for full map of open space in Woodstock).
- 3.13 The largest parcel of open space exists in the form of the Watermeadows. This is a unique feature in the heart of the parish and provides a valuable habitat for birds, small mammals and plants. Granted to the town in a charter of King Henry VI in 1453, the Meadows form low-lying ground approximately five hectares in extent between Old and New Woodstock in the valley of the River Glyme. The river flows along the northern boundary of the Meadows but a second, smaller channel flows through the middle of the site.
- 3.14 The Meadows are a popular local area used by many for recreational activities; access is gained at four points and a network of footpaths supplemented by footbridges, stiles and kissing gates allow visitors to navigate the wetlands. Due to their low level, the meadows regularly flood during periods of heavy rain<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> Para 51, MHCLG, National Model Design Code, Part 1: The Coding Process, 2021

<sup>21</sup> West Oxfordshire Open Space Study 2008. Available at: <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan/local-plan-evidence-base/> It should be noted that the 2013 version of the Open Space study only focusses on three areas across the district and does not include Woodstock in this.

<sup>22</sup> A Water Management Plan for Woodstock Water Meadows 2014. Available at: [http://www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk/environment.html#The\\_Water\\_Meadows](http://www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk/environment.html#The_Water_Meadows)

- 3.15 The Watermeadows lie within the Woodstock Conservation Area. The area is a Local Wildlife Site and part of the site is covered by the Glyme and Dorn Conservation Target Area. The 2013 Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre<sup>23</sup> report notes that the site resembles defined habitat types known as Lowland Fen and Wet Woodland. Both are important local biodiversity action plan priority habitats. Of the two, Lowland Fen is relatively rare in Oxfordshire and considered the priority for conservation action.
- 3.16 There are a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in the Parish, including those that run through the Watermeadows. Others include a footpath running parallel to the New Road Recreation Ground, connecting Princes Ride with Recreation Road, a footpath that runs south west-to-north east across the field east of Green Lane, and a footpath that runs between Banbury Road and the woodland strip that marks the boundary between West Oxfordshire and Cherwell District.
- 3.17 In 2005, the Town Council acquired the old railway line that was once the Blenheim and Woodstock branch line, a four mile stretch of railway that linked Kidlington and Woodstock. The line was closed in 1954 and had lain abandoned since. Under the leadership of the Oxfordshire County Council, the part of the line that is visible within Woodstock, from Verenia Court out to the eastern boundary of the parish (and district), has been transformed into a linear nature reserve that has become an important sanctuary to local wildlife including butterflies, birds, reptiles and orchids. The site is also a popular 'wild' trail amongst local dog walkers and ramblers. There are no known statutory conservation designations on this site.

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<sup>23</sup> Thames Valley Environmental Records 2013.

## 4. Policies

### Process

- 4.1 This section of the Neighbourhood Plan presents the sites that have been designated as Local Green Spaces. A long list of sites were initially identified by the Town Council, reflecting previous work and Local Plan consultations, as well as consultation on the Town Council's 'Community and Infrastructure Delivery Plan'. These were subject to consultation with landowners, seeking their feedback on proposed designations, and with the wider community, involving production of display material and use of surveys. The surveys sought to understand the significance of the sites, how they are used and what for. The proposed sites have all been considered against the criteria for designation outlined in the NPPF and in supporting guidance, including that published by Locality<sup>24</sup>.

### Designations

- 4.2 This section presents the Local Green Spaces designated through this Neighbourhood Plan, as outlined in Policy WNDP1 and in subsequent supporting text. Respondents to the consultation highlighted the importance of the designations, stating:
- *"These green areas have all been around for a long time and offer places for rest, recreation, getting outdoors and boosting one's mental health"*
  - *"All are significantly important green spaces to all in Woodstock, I utilise most of the green spaces everyday while out walking with my dogs."*
  - *"The green spaces are the lungs of the town"*
  - *"Woodstock is lucky to be surrounded by tranquil spaces on our doorstep. We should be proud of our green spaces, or we are no different to any other local town. Proximity to green spaces is important and the further out these get due to housing development means they are used less by the long-standing residents as Woodstock expands outwards. We must protect these spaces"*
  - *"Each of these spaces are what makes Woodstock such a special place, green, historical and family friendly, with an amazing array of wildlife. These need to remain."*
- 4.3 Policy WNDP1 follows the matter-of-fact approach in the NPPF. In the event that development proposals come forward on the local green spaces within the

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<sup>24</sup> <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/making-local-green-space-designations-neighbourhood-plan/>

Plan period, they can be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the District Council. In particular it will be able to make an informed judgement on the extent to which the proposal concerned demonstrates the 'very special circumstances' required by the policy.

- 4.4 It would be inappropriate for this Plan to attempt to anticipate the scale and nature of any proposals which may come forward on the proposed local green spaces and whether they would demonstrate the very special circumstances as set out in the policy. However, modest proposals which would support and supplement the functions of the various green spaces may fall into such a category. Proposals to improve and enhance the biodiversity value of the spaces including opportunities to deliver biodiversity net gains may also fall into this category.
- 4.5 Policy WNDP1 applies specifically to the eleven local green spaces. Development proposals on other green space in Woodstock will be determined on the basis of national and local plan policies for green spaces.

### **Policy WNDP1: Local Green Space Designations**

The following areas are designated as Local Green Spaces:

LGS1: Hensington Road Cemetery

LGS2: Memorial Garden

LGS3: New Road Playground

LGS4: Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club

LGS5: New Road Recreation Ground

LGS6: OWL Nature Reserve

LGS7: Marlborough School Playing Field

LGS8: Green Lane Allotments

LGS9: Green Lane Cemetery

LGS10: Watermeadows

LGS11: Community Orchard and Community Woodland

Development proposals within the designated local green spaces will only be supported in very special circumstances.

- 4.6 Each of the Local Green Space Designations are discussed further in the following sections.

### LGS1: Hensington Road Cemetery:

*"Cemeteries are places to meditate and relax and this one, a short walk from the town centre, is ideal for such. It is well maintained and is used for remembering relatives or just walking in a peaceful and contemplative environment. It is also of historical importance. Its gates are always open to the public"* (Consultation comment)

- 4.7 Situated in the heart of Woodstock, the Hensington Road Cemetery (Woodstock Cemetery) (Figure 5) is an important historical site for the local community. The cemetery is well looked after and frequently visited by local residents. There is no planning application for development on the site and it has clear demonstrable value. Respondents to consultation indicated that the Cemetery has historic significance and is also rich in wildlife, and is used on a regular basis, often for informal exercise and relaxation.



Figure 5: Hensington Road Cemetery LGS

## LGS2: The Memorial Garden:

*"The Memorial Garden is another quiet and tranquil refuge with its benches, flowers, bushes and pathways which give an aura of a nature reserve close to the town centre. It's a place to relax and unwind and should be regularly maintained. It is also an historic site of the UNION workhouse".* (Consultation comment)

- 4.8 The Memorial Garden (Figure 6) on Hensington Road is one of the few publicly accessible gardens in Woodstock, providing a quiet and tranquil setting for local residents. The site does not have any existing protection and would benefit from local green space designation. There is no existing planning permission for development and the site is within walking distance for most of the local community. Respondents to the public consultation indicated that the Memorial Garden is valued as a place for relaxation, to enjoy wildlife and undertake informal exercise. Currently (September 2022) the Garden is undergoing a major upgrade and the improvements to the quality of the Garden will be very welcome.



Figure 6: Memorial Garden LGS

### LGS3: New Road Playground:

*"Used by generations of children for the past 50 years at least"* (Consultation comment)

- 4.9 The New Road Playground (Figure 7) contains various recreational infrastructure for young children, including a zip wire, swings and picnic benches. The earlier Open Space Study (2008) noted that the site is an important recreational space for parents of young children as there are no other playgrounds within the main area of the town. There is no planning permission for development on the site and currently no other policy designations that give it protection. Located in the heart of the town, it fits the criteria for Local Green Space designation and would benefit from the protection it grants. Respondents to consultation indicated that the Playground is used on a regular basis by residents, primarily for play, but also for informal exercise and recreation. The site is owned by the Town Council.



Figure 7: New Road Playground LGS



**LGS4: Woodstock Bowls & Tennis Club:**

*"Vital green space near the heart of the town. It provides well-kept facilities and recreation for both young and old. It also act as a local social venue"*  
(Consultation comment)

- 4.10 Adjoining New Road Playground, the Woodstock Bowls and Tennis Club (Figure 8) off Cadogan Park not only provides formal recreational space in the form of tennis courts and a six-rink bowling green but also acts as a community social hub. Such spaces are important for maintaining community well-being and should be protected. Local Plan Policy E5 protects sports and recreational buildings unless shown to be surplus to requirements; however, the site itself has no designations and the additional protection will help ensure the space remains protected in the event that further recreational space is provided. There is no planning permission on the site and the space is within close proximity to the community it serves. Respondents to consultation highlighted the importance of the Bowls and Tennis Club as a place for recreation and an opportunity for participating in organised sport. The site is owned by the Town Council and leased to the Bowls and Tennis Club.



*Figure 8: Woodstock Bowls & Tennis Club LGS*

### LGS5: New Road Recreation Ground:

*" These large recreational grounds are like lungs of fresh air away from the town centre and the heavily travelled A44. They serve as the home site of the local football club but there is plenty of open space for public informal recreational activities such as walking dogs, play and general exercise and relaxation. It also serves the town as a social venue. It is a valuable green open space".* (Consultation comment)

- 4.11 New Road Recreation Ground (Figure 9) is the football ground for Woodstock Town FC. The football pitch is currently cordoned off, but the site contains additional green space for more informal recreational activities (dog walkers, playing football); consequently, it is one of the few public open spaces accessible within Woodstock and one of just three areas with outdoor sports facilities (Open Space Study 2008). Local Plan Policy E5 grants the attached youth centre and club house protection but the green space itself is largely unprotected. The LGS designation would grant the site important additional protection. Respondents to consultation suggested that the Recreation Ground is used on a regular basis, mainly for exercise, but also for play and relaxation. The site plays such a central role in the town, as a social and recreational hub, that residents have expressed a desire to have it designated as a town green, reflecting the importance of the site for recreation in the town, dating back over many years. In addition to designation as a Local Green Space consideration will be given to listing the site as an Asset of Community Value.



Figure 9: New Road Recreation Ground LGS

#### LGS6: OWL Nature Reserve:

*"The OWL corridor is a rich wildlife corridor joining the town with the countryside... a haven for wildlife and people in the town... an exception area for birdlife."* (Consultation comments)

- 4.12 The Old Woodstock Line (OWL) Nature Reserve (Figure 10) is a linear parcel of land that stretches across eastern Woodstock out to Shipton Road. It was acquired by the Town Council in 2005 and having lain abandoned for many years has since been transformed into a linear nature reserve. The site provides important sanctuary to local wildlife including butterflies, birds, reptiles and orchids. The eastern part of the site also provides a popular 'wild' trail for ramblers/dog walkers. Respondents to consultation indicated that it is used on a regular basis for informal exercise and enjoying local wildlife, as well as being a place of historical significance and beauty.



Figure 10: OWL Nature Reserve LGS

### LGS7: Marlborough School Playing Field:

*"One of the very few local open air amenities for our children. At a time when children are being encouraged to exercise more, this area is vitally important".*  
(Consultation comment)

- 4.13 Marlborough School Playing Field (Figure 11) provides formal recreational space for the students of the connected school, containing a football pitch and additional open space. Historically the site has been well used by the local community and continues to be so, particularly for dog walking and as a recreational space for children. With very little Public Open Space within Woodstock compared to the rest of the local authority (Open Space Study 2008), such spaces are particularly valuable to the local community. With development coming forwards to the east and to the south (EW3), the school playing field is vulnerable to future development and in need of the protection provided by local green space designation. Respondents to consultation highlighted the recreational value of the Playing Field, as well as valuing the tranquillity of the space. It is visited regularly for the purposes of informal exercise, children's play, organised sport and relaxation and has been for many years. In the 1998 appraisal, to which 73% of all households in Woodstock responded, 55% said the school fields are important and a further 24% said they're "nice to have", demonstrating the importance attached to the playing field by the community.



Figure 11: Marlborough School Playing Field LGS

### LGS8: Green Lane Allotments:

*"Significant community asset. Recreational value, food production, friendship, tranquil and wildlife supporter".* (Consultation comment)

- 4.14 The Green Lane Allotments (Figure 12) are an important informal recreational space for the local community (gardening). It is the only allotment space within Woodstock Parish and is well used – there is a waiting list for new spaces. Though currently outside of the Town’s urban form, the site is within walking distance and has clear demonstrable value to the community. Allotments are protected under Local Plan Policy E5 and the Open Space Study 2013, but more site-specific protection would be beneficial. Respondents to the survey highlighted the importance of the allotments as a place for locally grown food, supporting informal exercise and wildlife.



Figure 12: Green Lane Allotments LGS

### LGS9: Green Lane Cemetery:

*"It is used by local residents as an important place for quiet soul-searching and remembrance. It's within a short walk of the bustling town centre. It's place where one can relax because of the tranquillity of the site. The cemetery also enjoys an historical providence". (Consultation comment)*

- 4.15 Green Lane Cemetery (Figure 13) is a landscaped cemetery currently in use. Frequently visited by local residents and of important historical significance to the community, it has demonstrable value. The site is outside of Woodstock's urban form but is within walking distance. There are no planning applications for the site, but an application submitted for the land to the east/south east puts the site at risk of future development. Consequently, local green space designation would provide important protection in the future. Respondents to consultation suggested that the cemetery was highly valued for its tranquillity and that it also has historic significance. It was noted as being used for relaxation, access to and enjoying wildlife.



Figure 13: Green Lane Cemetery LGS

### LGS10: Watermeadows:

*"The historic watermeadows are both tranquil and teeming with wildlife - an important recreational walking area."* (Consultation comment)

- 4.16 Marking the flood plain of the River Glyme, the Watermeadows (Figure 14) are a unique feature on the northern edge of the town. The site is rich in biodiversity, providing a valuable habitat for birds, small mammals, plants, small aquatic species and trees. The site has a number of Priority Habitats (Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Lowland Fens, Deciduous Woodland – see Appendix 2) within its boundary but no national or local wildlife designation. The Watermeadows are easily accessible to the public via a number of Public Rights of Way. Respondents to consultation highlighted the significance of the Watermeadows in respect of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of wildlife. It is visited regularly for informal exercise, relaxation and enjoying wildlife. The Watermeadows are in the process of being designated formally as a Local Nature Reserve. Designation will help protect the site and support its long term management, potentially through bids for funding management projects.



Figure 14: Watermeadows LGS

### **LGS11: Community Orchard and Community Woodland:**

*"A place for residents to volunteer for outdoor activities and being close to nature... A rich area of ecologically diverse flora and fauna"* (Consultation comments)

- 4.17 The Community Orchard and Community Woodland (Figure 15) is a linear parcel of land that runs adjacent to the A44 north of Old Woodstock. Owned by Blenheim but on a long lease to the Town Council, the site is managed by the community group 'Sustainable Woodstock'. It is an important social and recreational space, with members of the Woodstock community regularly coming together to tend to the orchard having planted more than 900 trees in winter 2010/11 to commemorate 900 years since the foundation of Woodstock. Though outside of Woodstock's main built-up area, the regularity with which it is used suggests that it is within a reasonable distance of the community it serves. There is no planning application for the site. Respondents to consultation suggested that the Community Orchard and Community Woodland is used on a regular basis and is valued for tranquillity, richness of wildlife, relaxation and exercise.



*Figure 15: Community Orchard and Community Woodland LGS*





Figure 16: Mapping showing location of sites designated as Local Green Space (LGS1 – LGS5)

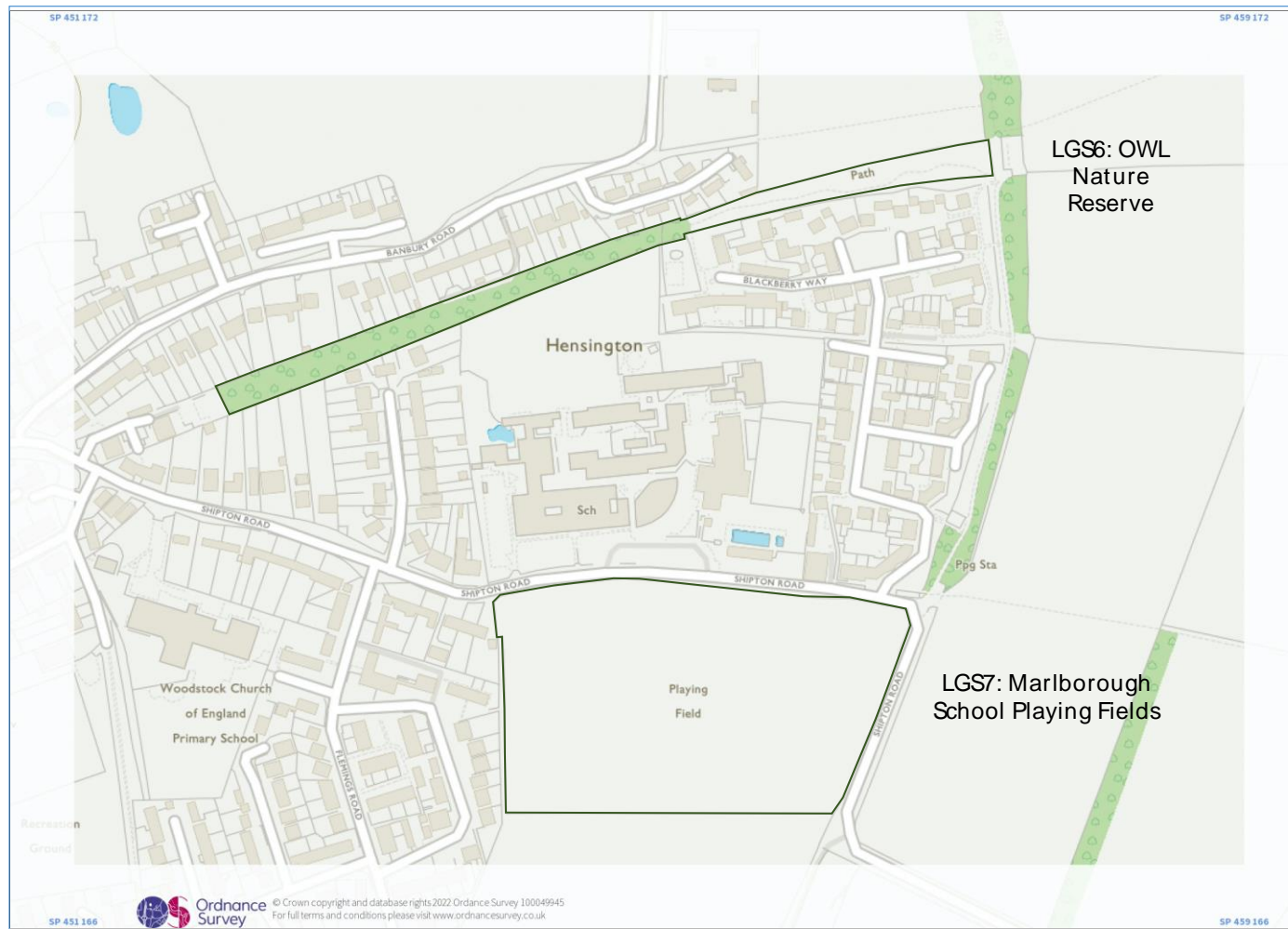


Figure 17: Mapping showing location of sites designated as Local Green Space (LGS6 – LGS7)



Figure 18: Mapping showing location of sites designated as Local Green Space (LGS8 – LGS9)



Figure 19: Mapping showing location of sites designated as Local Green Space (LGS10)



Figure 20: Mapping showing location of sites designated as Local Green Space (LGS21)

# Appendix 1: Planning Practice Guidance

The following is extracted from Planning Practice Guidance and provides an overview of the Local Green Space Designation, how these should be identified and what is conferred by designation.

## **What is Local Green Space designation?**

Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

*Paragraph: 005 Reference ID: 37-005-20140306*

*Revision date: 06 03 2014*

## **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*

## **How does Local Green Space designation relate to development?**

Designating any Local Green Space will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making.

*Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306*

*Revision date: 06 03 2014*

## **What if land has planning permission for development?**

Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented.

*Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306*

*Revision date: 06 03 2014*

### **Can all communities benefit from Local Green Space?**

Local Green Spaces may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or in a neighbourhood in a town or city.

*Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306*

*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 about new communities?**

New residential areas may include green areas that were planned as part of the development. Such green areas could be designated as Local Green Space if they are demonstrably special and hold particular local significance.

*Paragraph: 012 Reference ID: 37-012-20140306*

*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 100 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 100 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 100 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*



### **What about public rights of way?**

Areas that may be considered for designation as Local Green Space may be crossed by public rights of way. There is no need to designate linear corridors as Local Green Space simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation.

*Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306*

*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*

### **Would designation place any restrictions or obligations on landowners?**

Designating a green area as Local Green Space would give it protection consistent with that in respect of Green Belt, but otherwise there are no new restrictions or obligations on landowners.

*Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306*

*Revision date: 06 03 2014*

### **Who will manage Local Green Space?**

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

*Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306*

*Revision date: 06 03 2014*

### **Can a Local Green Space be registered as an Asset of Community Value?**

Land designated as Local Green Space may potentially also be nominated for listing by the local authority as an Asset of Community Value. Listing gives community interest groups an opportunity to bid if the owner wants to dispose of the land.

*Related policy: paragraphs 99-100*

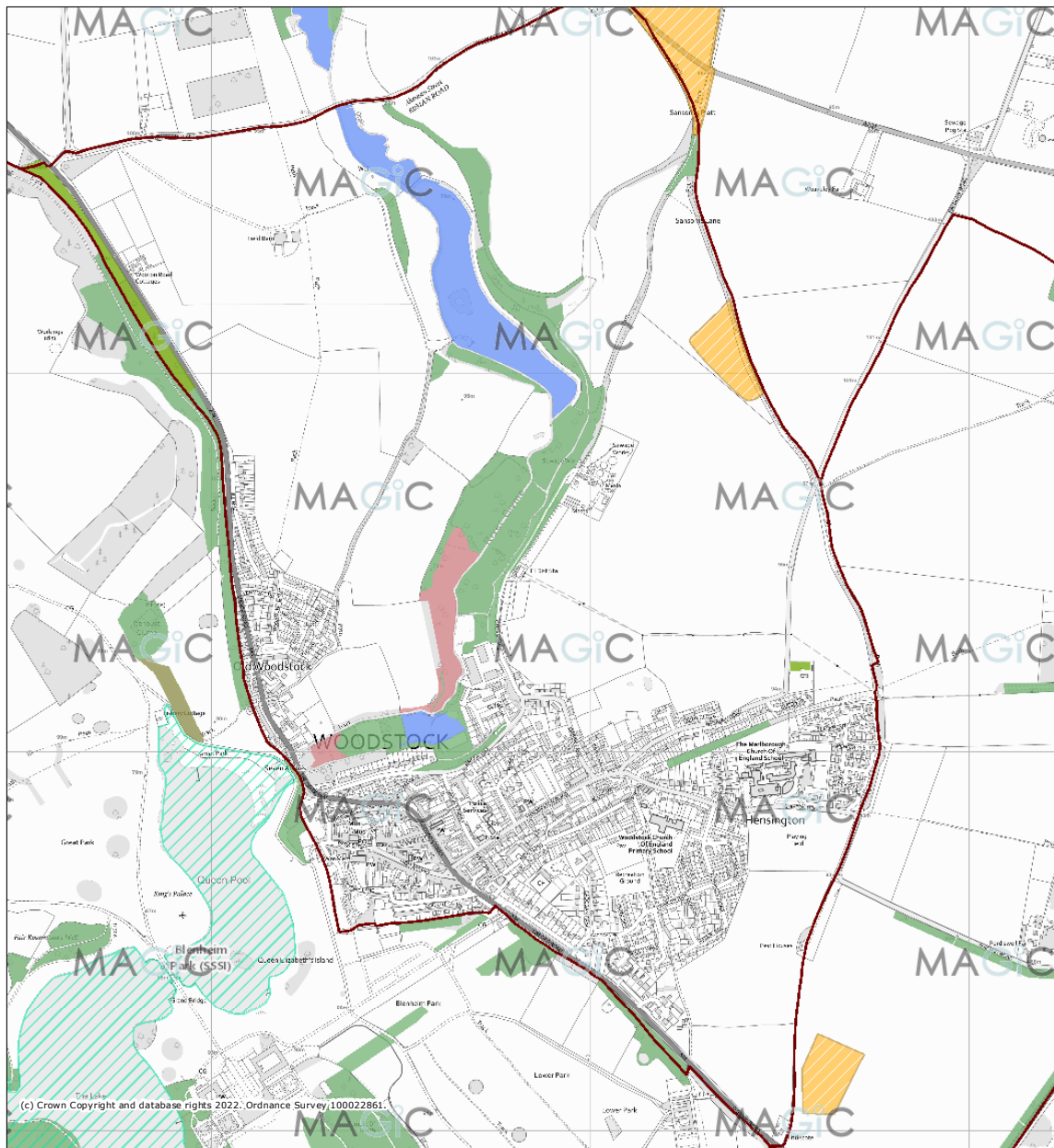
*Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306*

Revision date: 06 03 2014

Published 6 March 2014

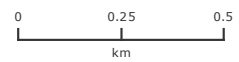
## Appendix 2: Habitats and policy designations

This appendix includes mapping of policy designations and priority habitats with Woodstock, sourced via the Defra Magic Map application. In addition to the layers shown, the Blenheim Estate immediately to the west of the Parish is a World Heritage Site and Registered Park and Garden. There are also a number of listed buildings within the Parish, particularly in and around the town centre.



**Legend**

- Parishes (GB)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
- Scheduled Monuments (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Calcareous Grassland (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Lowland Fens (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Deciduous Woodland (England)
- Priority Habitat Inventory - Traditional Orchards (England)

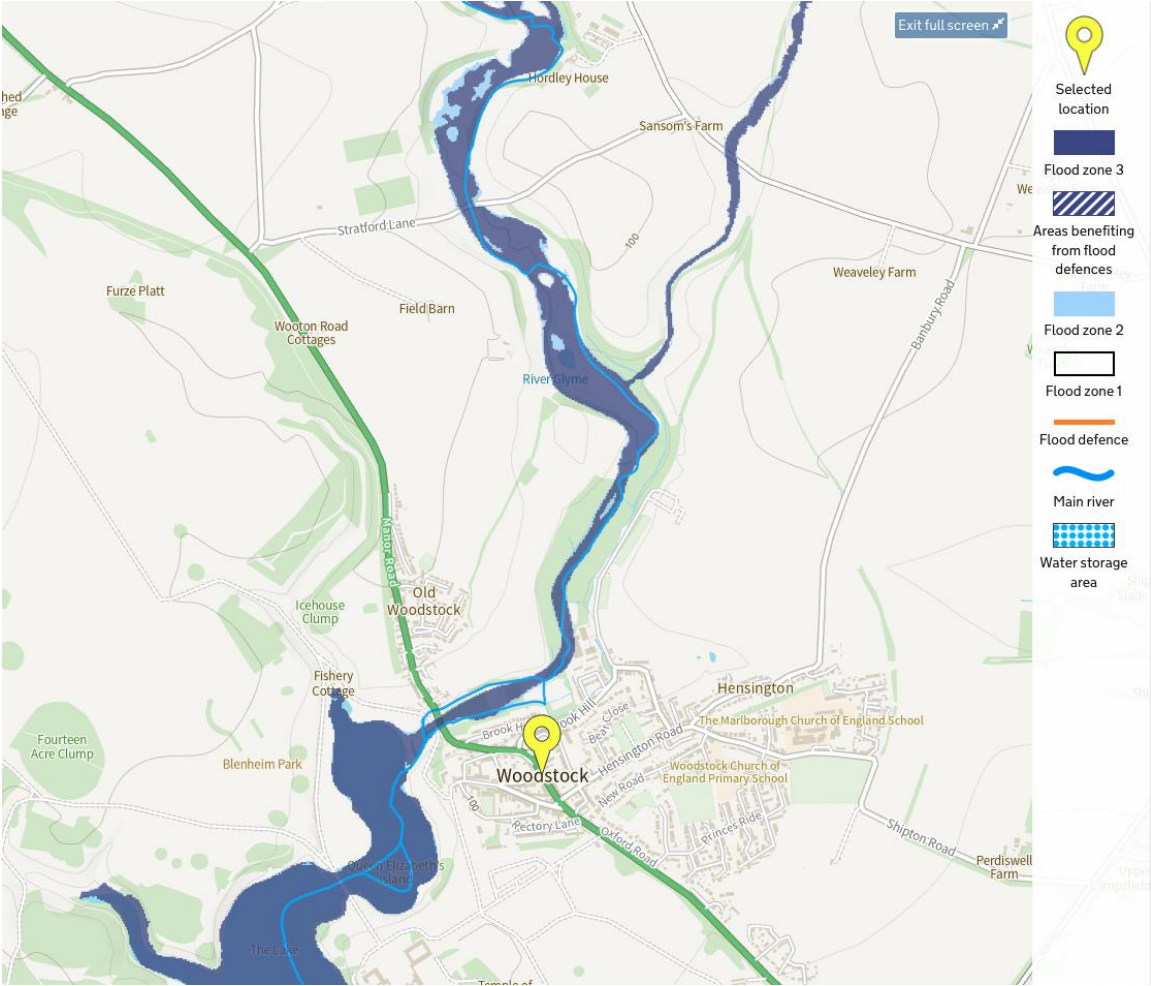


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 Map produced by MAGIC on 28 January, 2022.  
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# Appendix 3: Flood mapping

This appendix includes mapping of areas at risk of flooding in Woodstock, sourced via the Governments online Flood Map for Flooding service.

Woodstock Neighbourhood Plan  
2020-2031



# Glossary

**Adoption** – The final confirmation of a development plan by a local planning authority.

**Brownfield Site** – see Previously Developed Land.

**Conservation Area** - an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is preserved by local planning policies and guidance.

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)** - is the Government department with responsibility for planning, housing, urban regeneration and local government. Previously known as the Ministry for housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and, prior to that, the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

**Development Plan** - Includes the adopted West Oxfordshire Local Plan and any future adopted Local Plan which may replace it, and Neighbourhood Development Plans which are used to determine planning applications.

**Evidence base** - The background information that any Development Plan Document is based on and is made up of studies on specific issues, such as housing need for example.

**Greenfield site** - Land where there has been no previous development, often in agricultural use

**Green-space** - Those parts of an area which are occupied by natural open space, parkland, woodland, sports fields, gardens, allotments and the like.

**Heritage Asset** – A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated assets (e.g.: listed buildings) and assets identified by the local planning authority, which may include a local list of assets.

**Independent Examination** - An assessment of a proposed Neighbourhood Plan carried out by an independent person to consider whether a Neighbourhood Development Plan conforms with the relevant legal requirements.

**Infill Development** – small scale development filling a gap within an otherwise built up frontage.

**Infrastructure** – Basic services necessary for development to take place, for example, roads, electricity, sewerage, water, education and health facilities.

**Listed Building** – building of special architectural or historic interest. Listed buildings are graded I, II or II\*, with grade I being the highest. Listing includes the interior as well as the exterior of the building.

**Local Plan** – the Plan for future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority. This forms part of the Development Plan.

**Local Planning Authority** - Local government body responsible for formulating planning policies and controlling development; a district council, metropolitan council, county council, a unitary authority or national park authority. For Woodstock this is West Oxfordshire Council

**Made** – terminology used in neighbourhood planning to indicate a Plan has been adopted.

**National Planning Policy Framework** – sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The current version of the NPPF was published in February 2019.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan** – A local plan prepared by a Town or Parish Council (or Forum) for a particular Neighbourhood Area, which includes land use topics. Once made this forms part of the Development Plan.

**Outline Application** – a general application for planning permission to establish that a development is acceptable in principle, subject to subsequent approval of detailed matters. Does not apply to changes of use.

**Permitted Development** – comprises certain categories of minor development as specified in the General Permitted Development Order, which can be carried out without having first to obtain specific planning permission.

**Planning Permission** - Formal approval granted by a council (e.g. West Oxfordshire Council) in allowing a proposed development to proceed.

**Previously Developed Land** - Land which is or was occupied by a permanent structure, including the curtilage of the developed land (although it should not be assumed that the whole of the curtilage should be developed) and any associated fixed surface infrastructure. This excludes: land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings; land that has been developed for minerals extraction or waste disposal by landfill purposes where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures; land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments; and land that was previously-developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape in the process of time.

**Public Open Space** - Open space to which the public has free access and which fulfils, or can fulfil, a recreational or non-recreational role (for example, amenity, ecological, educational, social or cultural uses).

**Public Realm** – Those parts of a city, town or village, whether publicly or privately owned, which are available for everyone to use. This includes streets, square and parks.

**Public Right of Way** – Paths on which the public has a legally protected right to pass and re-pass.



**Section 106 Agreement** – Planning obligation under Section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, secured by a local planning authority through negotiations with a developer to offset the public cost of permitting a development proposal.

**Soundness** – The soundness of a statutory local planning document is determined by the planning inspector against three criteria: whether the plan is justified (founded on robust and credible evidence and be the most appropriate strategy), whether the plan is effective (deliverable, flexible and able to be monitored), and whether it is consistent with national and local planning policy.

**Stakeholder** – People who have an interest in an organisation or process including residents, business owners and national organisations and government departments

**Sustainable Communities** – Places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.

**Sustainable Development** – An approach to development that aims to allow economic growth without damaging the environment or natural resources. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

**Sustainability Appraisal** – An appraisal of the economic, environment and social effects of a Plan to allow decisions to be made that accord with sustainable development.

**Urban Design** – The art of making places. It involves the design of buildings, groups of buildings, spaces and landscapes, in villages, towns and cities, to create successful development.

# Acknowledgements

Woodstock Town Council would like to thank everyone who participated in consultation and engagement events to help shape and inform the Neighbourhood Plan.

We are also grateful to members of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group, who have committed their time, energy and passion to preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and helping to shape a better future for Woodstock.

We would also like to thank consultancy Troy Planning + Design for their help in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan ([www.troyplanning.com](http://www.troyplanning.com)).

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

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Referendum Version January 2023

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