

Broomhaugh and Riding Neighbourhood Plan

Local Green Space Background Paper

January 2022

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The local green space (LGS) designation is a way to protect green areas or open spaces against development where they are of particular importance to local communities. LGS designations are made for use in local plans or neighbourhood plans. These plans can identify on a map ('designate') green area for special protection. Once designated, areas of LGS receive protection consistent with national Green Belt policy.
- 1.2 Protected open space (POS) designation is a way to protect other areas of open space which are valued for their local amenity and for informal or formal recreational purposes, but which do not meet the full LGS criteria. Once designated, they should be safeguarded and only lost where detailed criteria are met.
- 1.3 The purpose of this background paper is to explain the process which has led to the proposed designation of areas of LGS and POS in the Broomhaugh and Riding Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out the national and local backgrounds to LGS and POS and explains the methodology used in the assessments.
- 1.4 As part of the consultation on the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan, Broomhaugh and Riding Parish Council invited comments on the proposed LGS and POS designations. Comments have informed this updated background paper which accompanies the submission draft neighbourhood plan.

2. Planning policy background

National Planning Policy Framework

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF – 2021) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Section 8 of the NPPF highlights the important role the planning system can play in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.

2.2 Paragraph 98 highlights that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Paragraph 99 states that:

‘Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.’*

2.3 With regard to Local Green Space (LGS) designation, paragraph 101 states:

‘The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.’

2.4 Paragraph 102 explains when the designation should be used:

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

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

2.5 Paragraph 103 identifies that local policy for managing development within a LGS should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. National Green Belt policy requires that inappropriate development, that which is harmful to the allocation, on land designated as LGS will only be permitted where very special circumstances can be demonstrated.

National Planning Practice Guidance

2.6 The NPPF is supported by guidance set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). With regard to LGS, NPPG identifies:

- Designating LGS needs to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. Plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the LGS designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306);

- LGS 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);
- LGS 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);
- If land is already protected by another designation, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as LGS (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 37-010-20140306);
- The LGS will need to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 77 of the NPPF (see paragraph 2.3 above). 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);
- The proximity of a LGS 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);
- There are no hard and fast rules about how big a LGS can be because places are different and a degree of judgment will inevitably be needed. However, paragraph 100 of the NPPF is clear that LGS 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);
- Provided land can meet the criteria at paragraph 77 of the NPPF there is no lower size limit for a LGS. (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306);
- Land can be designated as LGS even if there is no public access e.g. 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 landowners, whose legal rights must be respected (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306);
- Areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may be crossed by public rights of way. There is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306);
- A LGS does not need to be in public ownership. However, the qualifying body should contact landowners at an early stage about proposals to designate any part of their land as LGS. Landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in a draft plan (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306);
- Designating a green area as LGS 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);
- Management of land designated as LGS 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); and

- Land designated as LGS 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. (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306).

3. Local green space methodology

Background

- 3.1 In order to seek to identify areas of LGS which meet the requirements of the NPPF and NPPG, the parish council prepared a methodology to be followed alongside the preparation of the plan. The application of the methodology is described below.



Figure 1: LGS identification process

Step 1: Identification of green spaces, including early engagement

- 3.2 The first step was to identify a list of green areas and open spaces to assess as potential LGS and POS. A variety of sources of information were used to inform this process including:
- Sites allocated in the Northumberland Local Plan;
 - Northumberland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Assessment (2011)¹;
 - Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)²;
 - Review of current information, such as local studies, character appraisal and the historic environment record; and
 - Feedback from early engagement on the neighbourhood plan – this included a residents survey which took place during January and February 2021 and feedback on the results of initial evidence work which took place during November and December 2021.

Step 2: Assessment of green spaces

- 3.3 Once the list of green spaces had been collected from the sources listed in step 1, the parish council assessed their suitability for designation as LGS against the criteria in the NPPF and NPPG as outlined in section 2 of this report.

¹ <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Studies%20and%20Evidence%20Reports/Landscape%20Green%20Spaces%20Studies/5.%20Open%20Space%20Recreation/Openspace-Sport-Recreation-Assessment-May-2011.pdf>

² <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/planning%20policy/Studies%20and%20Evidence%20Reports/Landscape%20Green%20Spaces%20Studies/3.%20Green%20Infrastructure/Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-October-2011.pdf>

- 3.4 In order to be identified as LGS all of the following criteria, identified in figure 2 below were required to be met:

Criteria	Explanation
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	LGS designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the designation would be compatible with the planning permission or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented. (NPPG Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306) Q: Does the space have planning permission?
Land is not allocated or proposed for development in the local or neighbourhood plan. Unless it can be shown that the LGS could be incorporated within the site as part of the allocated development.	LGS should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services (NPPF Paragraph 99) Designating any LGS 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 LGS designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making (NPPG Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306) The space should be capable of enduring beyond the plan Period (NPPF Paragraph 99) Q: Is the space allocated or proposed to be allocated in a Development Plan?
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	LGS designation should only be used where the green area is not an extensive tract of land. Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. (NPPG Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306) Q: How close is the space to the community it serves? Q: Where are the nearest centres of population?
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	LGS may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or a neighbourhood in a town. (NPPG Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306) The space must be demonstrably special by meeting at least one of criterion in the following table. Q: Is the proposal to designate supported by any of the following: A friends group, local community groups, a parish plan, the town council, ward member(s)?

Figure 2: LGS criteria required to be met by all potential sites

- 3.5 The criteria in figure 3 below then seeks to draw out what it is about the space that makes it 'demonstrably special to the local community'. A LGS should meet at least one of the criteria in the table below, although some spaces met more than one of the criteria:

Criteria	Explanation
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its beauty? Does the space contribute to the visual attractiveness of

Criteria	Explanation
	<p>the townscape or character / setting of the settlement?</p> <p>Is the space covered by other landscape or townscape designations? (e.g. conservation area)</p>
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its historic significance?</p> <p>Does the proposed space or elements of the space have local historical significance? (e.g. conservation area)</p> <p>Are there any historic buildings or structures in the space? (e.g. listed building or scheduled monument)</p> <p>Are there any important historic landscape features on the space? (e.g. veteran trees or old hedgerows)</p> <p>Does the space have a historic literature or art connection?</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its recreational value?</p> <p>There is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation. (NPPG Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306)</p> <p>What variety of recreational activities does the space support? (e.g. the space is used for playing sport and for informal recreation)</p> <p>Is the space already identified in the Northumberland Open Space study?</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its tranquillity?</p> <p>Why is the space considered to be tranquil?</p> <p>Is the space used for quiet reflection?</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its richness of wildlife?</p> <p>Is the proposed space formally designated for its wildlife value? (e.g. is it a SSSI, SNCI or local nature reserve).</p> <p>Are any important habitats or species found in the space?</p> <p>Does the proposed space support species of fauna or flora? (e.g. protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 or Habitat Regulations 2010, Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006)</p> <p>Does the proposed space support species of birds listed on the red, amber or green lists of species of conservation concern or notable assemblage of invertebrates?</p> <p>Does the proposed space support irreplaceable habitats such as ancient semi-natural woodland and veteran trees?</p> <p>Does the proposed space function as part of a wildlife corridor or green infrastructure enabling the dispersal of species of flora and fauna?</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance	Are there any other reasons why the proposed space has a particular local significance for the local community?

Criteria	Explanation
because of another reason not covered by criteria above	

Figure 3: Criteria that identify why the space is demonstrably special to the local community

- 3.6 For sites that were not considered to meet the required criteria, consideration was then given to whether they should be allocated as protected open space. This considered whether the space was valued for its local amenity and/ or informal recreation. In addition, consideration was given to whether another, alternative allocation would be more appropriate such as allotment or open countryside designation. Sites that were already protected in other ways, for example graveyards owned and protected by the Anglican Church and designated wildlife sites/ nature reserves, were not proposed for further protection.
- 3.7 The assessment then concluded whether all the nationally required criteria have been met and listed the relevant local criteria and whether the space was considered to be suitable as LGS. For sites that were not considered to meet the required LGS criteria, consideration was then given to whether they should be allocated as protected open space. This process considered whether the space was valued for its local amenity and/ or informal recreation. Prior to formal consultation on proposed areas for LGS designation, contact was made with the owners of the sites where possible.
- 3.8 Following the completion of steps 1 and 2 the next stage is to obtain feedback on the proposed sites through the engagement on the Pre-Submission Plan, described below.

Step 3: Feedback - Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.9 The pre-submission neighbourhood plan proposed to designate 10 LGS sites. Through consultation on the plan the parish council sought feedback on the proposed designations.

Step 4: Submission Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.10 Responses received to the consultation on the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan were be considered and have informed the preparation of the submission plan, which will be subject to a further six-week public consultation organised by Northumberland County Council.

Step 5: Examination/ referendum/ adoption

- 3.11 Following the submission of the neighbourhood plan, it will then be examined by an independent examiner. The examiner will review the evidence base for the plan – including whether there is evidence to justify the allocation of LGS. Once the plan passes Examination it will then go to referendum and will be formally ‘made’ by Northumberland County Council.

4. Conclusion and next steps

- 4.1 This background paper has explained the process which has led to the proposed designation of areas of LGS in the Broomhaugh and Riding Neighbourhood Plan. It has summarised the national and local background to LGS and explained the methodology used in the assessments.
- 4.2 All of the sites that have been assessed for LGS designation are included in Appendix 1 – this provides a brief explanation of the reasons why a site has or has not been included in the submission draft neighbourhood plan. Further details on those that have proposed to be allocated is included within Appendix 2 and site maps included within Appendix 3.
- 4.3 Responses received to the consultation on the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan informed the preparation of the submission plan that has been submitted to Northumberland County Council for a further six-week public consultation and then subject to examination.

Appendix 1: Local Green Space Assessment

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquility	Richness of wildlife		
1	The Spinney	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	A wooded site used by the local community, including children on their way home from school. Children enjoy climbing in the trees and the school use it for educational purposes. It is a tranquil site and includes a diverse mix of trees and shrubs, providing an important habitat. The site therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.
2	Land to the west and east of Wentworth Grange	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A site which is important to the character of the settlement, giving extensive scenic views over the village and beyond towards Hadrian's Wall. Two well used footpaths cross the field linking the village to the wider countryside. The western slope is a much loved tobogganing site. A peaceful site. Rich in biodiversity, with over 40 species of fungi found on the site. The site therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.
3	Land to the east of East	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	Long established hay meadow. Important to the character of the area

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Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquility	Richness of wildlife		
	View										and supports wildlife. The site therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.
4	Old trackway off Long Rigg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The site comprises the route of an old Drove Road which is well used by the local community. Bounded by wide natural verges, drystone walling and trees, it is an important part of the character of the area. The site provides an important habitat. The site therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.
5	Woodland to the south of playpark	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	A small woodland strip which lies to the south of a playpark. It is important to the character of the area and well used by children who use the park. Part of the March Burn corridor, which is one of the most important wildlife sites in the parish. The site therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.
6	Land to the north of Riding Grange and to the south of the railway line	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	The site is an important part of the character of the village and provides a diverse and important habitat. However, the site extends to approximately 7 ha, it is therefore

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Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											considered an extensive tract of land. Furthermore, it is already protected as it is within the Green Belt.
7	River Tyne Walk, Broomhaugh to parish boundary at Farnley	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	The site is demonstrably special to the local community. It is a beautiful and tranquil site that it is important to the character of the local area. The local community use it for recreation, walking, wildlife watching and fishing. The mature woodland provides a wealth of feeding, nesting and roosting habitats, it is also an important wildlife corridor. However, at 5ha in size, it is considered to be an extensive tract of land. As it is located within the Green Belt and forms part of the Tyne River, Corbridge – Stocksfield Local Wildlife and Geological Site, it is already protected.
8	A695 road verge to Broomhaugh roundabout	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	The site comprises a road verge and path on the southern side of the A695. The path is well used by residents of the village, it is an important accessible walking and cycling route. It includes a



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Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											flower rich strip of grassland, backed by hedgerows and scattered trees, which provides an attractive entrance to the village as well as being an important habitat. The site therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.
9	Grass and woodland adjacent to tennis courts and clubhouse	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	An area of grassland and woodland located within the village. The site is important to the character of this part of the village. It forms part of a short walking loop and is well used by the local community. The site also provides an important habitat. It therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.
10	Woodlands on Whiteside bank	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	Whilst the woodland is important to the character of the local area and rich in wildlife, it is in private ownership and there is no public access.
11	St James' Church Old Graveyard	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	Whilst the site has historic significance, is tranquil and is one of the most species-rich grasslands in the parish, it is protected by the church and therefore does not need additional protection.





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Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
12	Marchburn Woods/ Mill Pond	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A mature and tranquil woodland which is one of the most visited greenspaces and wildlife sites in the parish. The site therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.
13	Parish Hall Grassland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	Well used by the local community in connection with events at the parish hall. The seating provides a place to rest and relax. The site therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.
14	Grassed area off Marchburn Lane	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	A small area of grassland with scattered mature trees. Important to the character of this part of the village. Includes part of a well used walking route. Children play in the area. The site therefore meets the LGS designation criteria.



Appendix 2 Detailed Assessment of proposed LGS

Site Ref	LGS01	
Site Name	The Spinney	
Ownership	Broomhaugh and Riding Parish Council	
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All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	White land within the village – no allocation.
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	A small site – approximately 0.14ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Located within the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	Important to the character and setting of the area, complementing the adjacent graveyard.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	Children regularly play in the Spinney, in particular Broomhaugh First School children on their way home at the end of the school day. The old Yews are great for climbing. The Spinney is also used by Middle School and High School children waiting for their school buses in the morning. The primary schools also use it for educational purposes.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The Spinney provides a quiet area to rest and reflect with a bench, a short path and access into the adjoining graveyard.


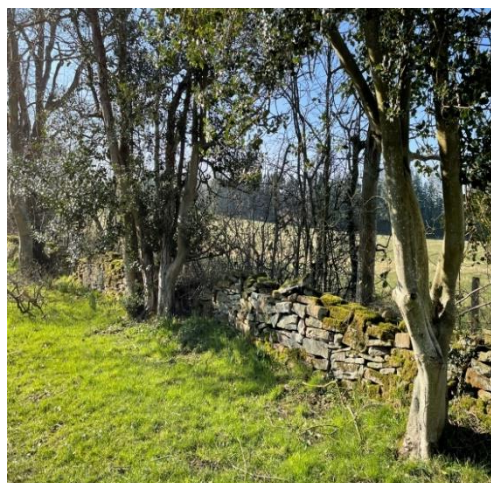

<p>The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The Spinney is a plantation with a diverse mix of tree and shrub species, most of them planted (Oak, Cherry-laurel, Holly, Mahonia, Silver Birch, Wild Cherry, Scot's Pine, Alder, Hazel, Elm, Elder, Hawthorn, Sycamore, Yew, Ivy). The ground flora is developing, including a number of planted species (Bramble, Male Fern, Green Alkanet, Jack-by-the-hedge, Broad-buckler Fern, Dog's Mercury, Foxglove, Herb Robert, Woodruff, Cleavers, Red Campion). The trees supply a range of seeds and berries for birds including Siskin, Redpoll and thrushes.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>		
<p>A site which is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of wildlife. It therefore meets the requirements to be allocated as local green space.</p>		

Site Ref	LGS02		
Site Name	Land to the west and east of Wentworth Grange		
Ownership	Riding Farm Estate		
<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>			
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments	
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓		
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Green Belt	
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Local in character when compared to size of the village – approximately 3.6ha	
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Located on the edge of the village	



The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	This green hillside, forming one large field, is unimproved pasture for seasonal grazing by sheep and cattle. It is bounded by hedges and trees with scattered mature trees including large oaks. It gives extensive scenic views over the village and beyond towards Hadrian's Wall.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	An old property, Wentworth Grange now a Care Home, sits in the centre of the greenspace.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	Two well used public footpaths cross the field linking the village to a more extensive network of walking routes in the wider countryside. The western slope is a much loved tobogganing site where the village children have hours of outdoor fun whenever it snows.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	At other times the field is a peaceful area of pasture often with grazing livestock. It is also a beautiful view for the residents of Wentworth Grange Residential Care Centre.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	This unimproved pasture has a very important community of over 40 species of fungi found over the lower slopes. Most notable is the golden bootleg toadstool which is of national significance and is the only verified record for the north east. Attractive clumps of snowdrop, aconite and crocus are probably garden escapes but there is a remnant population of wild native bluebells on the eastern edge. The western footpath links with the splendid bluebell wood on Whiteside Bank. Birds of prey are often seen hunting small mammals over the field. The creeping thistle flowers attract bees and butterflies.
Conclusion		
A site which is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of wildlife. It therefore meets the requirements to be allocated as local green space.		

Site Ref	LGS03	
Site Name	Land to the east of East View	
Ownership	Mr Cooper	
<div></div>		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Within the Green Belt
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	A small site – approximately 0.95ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	On the edge of the village.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	This long established hay meadow is a particularly attractive in summer. Grazing horses add to the interest. An important part of the character of the village.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	Hay meadows are part of the region's farming tradition which are becoming increasingly rare.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	Looking over the field gate at haymaking time or simply watching the horses appeals to many. Others stop to birdwatch. A tranquil site.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.		Hay meadows are a rapidly disappearing habitat for wildlife. Important hay meadow plants such as yellow rattle are present.

		The area is noted for a wide range of visiting birds indicating a rich invertebrate fauna and abundant small mammals. Kestrel, buzzard, sparrowhawk and tawny owls hunt over the field. Seasonal flocks of lapwing, oystercatchers, fieldfare and redwing feed here along with mistlethrush, songthrush and blackbirds. Rooks, crows and jackdaws are seen daily.
Conclusion		
Whilst the site is already protected as a result of Green Belt designation, it is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historic significance, tranquillity and richness of wildlife. Therefore, is proposed to be allocated as local green space.		

Site Ref	LGS04	
Site Name	Old trackway off Long Rigg	
Ownership	Unregistered	
<div></div>		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Within the Green Belt
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	A small site - approximately 0.04ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	On the edge of the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	The track is bounded by wide natural verges with some old drystone walling, trees and shrubs providing a variety of habitats for wildlife and framing views to the grazing pasture beyond.
The proposed space is of particular	✓	Believed to be an old drove road.

local historic significance.		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	The track provides a very pleasant local walk with 2 public footpaths off to the south, allowing circular walks or longer hikes into the wider countryside.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	This ancient track narrowing to a smaller footpath, bordered by a rich diversity of flora and fauna with views across sheep pasture to woodland, provides a very peaceful walk away from the sound of traffic.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	A variety of natural habitats exist along the track with mature trees (oak, ash, beech, birch, sycamore) with a rich shrubby undergrowth of elder, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, dog rose, yew wild currant bushes and a seasonal succession of wild flowers, grasses and fungi plus mosses and liverworts. These provide roosting and nesting sites for birds and bats and habitat for small mammals and invertebrate fauna. Kestrel, sparrowhawk and buzzard have been seen in the trees along with a wide variety of smaller birds emphasizing that this is an important wildlife corridor linking woodlands at either end of the track. A wildflower species list is available which includes attractive species such as wood sorrel, water avens, meadow sweet, primrose, barren strawberry - several indicative of the historic nature of the route.
Conclusion		
Whilst the site is already protected as a result of Green Belt designation, it is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of wildlife. Therefore, is proposed to be allocated as local green space.		

Site Ref	LGS05	
Site Name	Woodland to the south of playpark	
Ownership	Broomhaugh and Riding Parish Council	
<div></div>		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	White land within the village – no allocation.
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	A small site – approximately 0.06ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Within the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	The strip along the March Burn provides a mature woodland setting for the playpark and tennis court. Important to the character of the local area.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	The woodland is well-used by children playing in the playpark, providing a ‘wilder’ extension to the formal play area e.g. for hide and seek and paddling.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	The March Burn corridor is one of the most important wildlife sites in the Parish. This site links the River Tyne and its woodlands to the Weir Woodlands and beyond. Dipper, Kingfisher,



		<p>Goosander and Otter all regularly use the stretch and it supports Brown Trout.</p> <p>The woodland is predominantly mature Ash and Alder with some large Wych Elm trees. The understorey includes Elder, Holly, Bramble and some big patches of Snowberry. The field layer can broadly be divided into two communities: (1) species-rich areas with a number of ancient woodland indicators such as Moschatel, Dog's Mercury, Remote Sedge, Herb Robert, Great Hairy Wood-rush and (2) More disturbed areas with a significant component of ruderal species including Green Alkanet, Nettle and Cleavers.</p> <p>The riparian strip provides habitat for a number of breeding birds such as Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Dunnock, and various Tits. The mature Alders provide abundant seeds for Siskin and Redpoll.</p>
Conclusion		
<p>The site is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, recreational value and richness of wildlife. Therefore, is proposed to be allocated as local green space.</p>		

Site Ref	LGS06
Site Name	A695 road verge to Broomhaugh roundabout
Ownership	Northumberland County Council





All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Green Belt
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	A thin strip of land – approximately 0.7ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Connects the village to the surrounding countryside
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	The flower-rich strip of grassland, backed by hedgerows and scattered trees provides an attractive entrance to the village and walking/cycling route. In late spring the blossom of a number of mature Horse Chestnuts at the west end of the site is very striking.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its	✓	The surfaced path provides an accessible pedestrian and cycle route through countryside. It

recreational value.		is well used by residents of the village. The route can be extended onwards to Low Shilford and Stocksfield and it links up to a footpath leading south to Shildford West Wood. There is a bench by the roundabout.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	<p>The strip of species-rich grassland is one of the last fragments of unimproved grassland in the Parish. It supports a rich community of species characteristic of hay meadows, maintained by occasional cutting for highway maintenance (and a lack of fertiliser or pesticide application). Important plant species that are very rare in the Parish are Wood Crane's-bill, Great Burnet, Bladder Campion, Lady's Mantle (not the garden varieties) and Field Scabious. Some parts of the verge have been disturbed (e.g. from laying services) and the grassland includes a number of ruderal species, such as thistles.</p> <p>Whitethroat (Amber-listed) breed in the hedgerow and Kestrel (Amber-listed) hunt from the trees. The flower-rich grassland provides an important nectar and pollen supply.</p>
Conclusion		
<p>Whilst the site is already protected as a result of Green Belt designation, it is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, recreational value, and richness of wildlife. Therefore, is proposed to be allocated as local green space.</p>		



Site Ref	LGS07		
Site Name	Grass and woodland adjacent to tennis courts and clubhouse		
Ownership	Broomhaugh and Riding Parish Council		
<div></div>			
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments	
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓		
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	White land within the village – no allocation.	
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	A small site – approximately 0.6ha	
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Within the village	
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.	
At least one criterion must be met		Comments	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	Provides a mature woodland setting for the tennis courts.	
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x		
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	<p>The area is used as a short walking ‘loop’ off Millfield Road, providing access to woodland and grassland.</p> <p>The open grass area is used by tennis players waiting for the court to become available.</p> <p>A large gravel beach on the March Burn (next to the footbridge) is used by children for paddling.</p>	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The woodland and burn provide a tranquil location.	

<p>The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The March Burn corridor is one of the most important wildlife sites in the Parish. This site is part of a chain that links the River Tyne and its woodlands to the Weir Woodlands and beyond. Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Kingfisher, Goosander and Otter all regularly use the stretch and it supports Brown Trout.</p> <p>The woodland surrounding the tennis courts is very species rich. Alder, Sycamore, Elm, Sallow and Ash line the March Burn while the slopes above the courts support a big population of mature Elms, together with Ash, Cherry, Oak and Sallow. The understorey comprises mostly Hazel and Holly while the ground flora is rich with large stands of Bluebell, Wild Garlic and Dog's Mercury, together with a number of other species such as Bramble, Red Campion, Great Hairy Wood-rush, Male Fern and False Brome. The woodland is not mapped as Ancient Woodland on the current Ancient Woodland Inventory (Natural England 2021), but various members of the ground flora are indicative of a long continuity of woodland cover.</p> <p>The occasional Willows/Sallows provide an abundant source of forage for emerging bumblebee queens in early spring (the 'pussy willow' catkins). Later in summer the open glade is backed by tall herbs such as Green Alkanet and Red Campion which provide pollen and nectar for invertebrates, such as butterflies.</p> <p>The open glade and streamside corridor are used by foraging bats throughout the summer and there is a Badger sett on the bank above the tennis courts.</p> <p>The woods support a number of breeding birds including Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Nuthatch.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>		
<p>The site is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of wildlife. Therefore, is proposed to be allocated as local green space.</p>		

Site Ref	LGS08		
Site Name	Marchburn woods/Mill Pond		
Ownership	Broomhaugh and Riding Parish Council		
<div></div>			
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments	
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓		
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Ancient woodland	
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Local in character – approximately 3ha	
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Within the village	
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.	
At least one criterion must be met		Comments	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	The mature woodland, cascading March Burn and historic weir and millpond provide a beautiful area to enjoy nature.	
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	The weir, millpond and associated leats formerly fed the watermill in the centre of the village (the 'Mill' in Riding Mill).	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	<p>The site is one of the most visited greenspaces in the Parish. It is a very well used walking route, with one short and one longer loop. The site is also used by young children as a safe off-road bicycle route. There is a bench overlooking the weir.</p> <p>The large gravel beach and shallow stretch of the March Burn at the west end of the site are a popular paddling site for children in summer, with</p>	



		<p>boulders and small pools providing areas to hunt for fish and aquatic 'minibeasts' like caddisfly larvae.</p> <p>There is a large rope swing on the steep southern bank of the site. The footbridge across the March Burn is a regular venue for 'pooh sticks'. The weir formerly provided a spectacle of leaping Salmon when the March Burn was in spate, but recent works to enhance fish passage have made it easier for Salmon to get upstream, so they no longer need to leap.</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The site, well away from busy roads provides a very tranquil setting. There is a bench overlooking the weir.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	<p>The Weir Woodlands is one of the most important wildlife sites in the Parish. It forms a critical site in the chain of woodlands that extend from the River Tyne all the way up the March Burn. Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Kingfisher, Goosander and Otter all regularly use the stretch. Salmon and Trout spawn in the shallows at the west end of the site and Eels use the pool beneath the weir.</p> <p>The woodland is mapped as Ancient Woodland on the current Ancient Woodland Inventory (Natural England 2021). It has a very rich ground flora, with abundant Wood Anemone and scarce species such as Moshatel and a big population of Goldilocks Buttercup. The springtime flowering of Wild Garlic is spectacular. The mature canopy is also diverse, with Silver Birch, Oak, Ash, Sycamore, Elm, Alder and Sallow all forming prominent components with some Beech on the southern slope. Hazel, Holly and Elder are present in the understorey. The long continuity of woodland cover at the site has resulted in it retaining an abundant and diverse community of mosses and liverworts, with species such as Greater Featherwort.</p> <p>Islands within the March Burn, flushed areas on the steep slopes and the Mill Pond (currently being restored) provide a range of additional wetland habitats adding further diversity to the site, with species such as Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage and Water Forget-me-not.</p> <p>The site supports a good population of woodland birds, including Nuthatch and Great Spotted Woodpecker. Marsh Tit used to regularly breed, but sadly haven't in recent years. Pied Flycatcher once nested at the west end, presumably exploring</p>

		<p>from nearby populations further upstream.</p> <p>The March Burn Woodlands, including the Weir Woodlands, support the only known population of a small brown and buff moth (<i>Pseudaemelia flavifrontella</i>) in Northumberland.</p> <p>The woodland, rides and streamside corridor are used by foraging bats throughout the summer.</p>
Conclusion		
<p>The site is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historic significance, recreation value, tranquillity, and richness of wildlife. Therefore, is proposed to be allocated as local green space.</p>		

Site Ref	LGS09	
Site Name	Parish Hall Grassland	
Ownership	Broomhaugh and Riding Parish Council	
<div></div>		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	No designation – white land
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Small site – 0.1ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Within the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	Important to the character of this part of the village.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	The Mill race runs through the site.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	The small grassland provides an important flat, open area for users of the Parish Hall, e.g. providing an area for marquees at village events or picnic benches for ‘Coffee at the Foyer’. At other times the seating provides a place to rest and relax.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The garden and wooded area on the opposite side of the Parish Hall provides an area for quiet contemplation throughout the year set amongst very attractive flower beds and shrubs.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	

Conclusion

<p>The site is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historic significance, recreation value and tranquillity. Therefore, is proposed to be allocated as local green space.</p>
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Site Ref	LGS10	
Site Name	Grassed area off Marchburn Lane	
Ownership	Broomhaugh and Riding Parish Council	
<div></div>		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	No designation – white land
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Small site – 0.1ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Within the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	The small area of grassland and scattered mature trees provides an attractive setting for the well-used walking route to the Weir Woodlands, as well as a number of residential properties.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	The steep grassy bank has been used by generations of children for playing, be it rollie-pollies in the summer or sledging in the winter. Memorial apple trees have recently been planted, and there is a possibility of turning this into an orchard.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its	x	

richness of wildlife.		
Conclusion		
The site is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historic significance and recreation value. Therefore, is proposed to be allocated as local green space.		

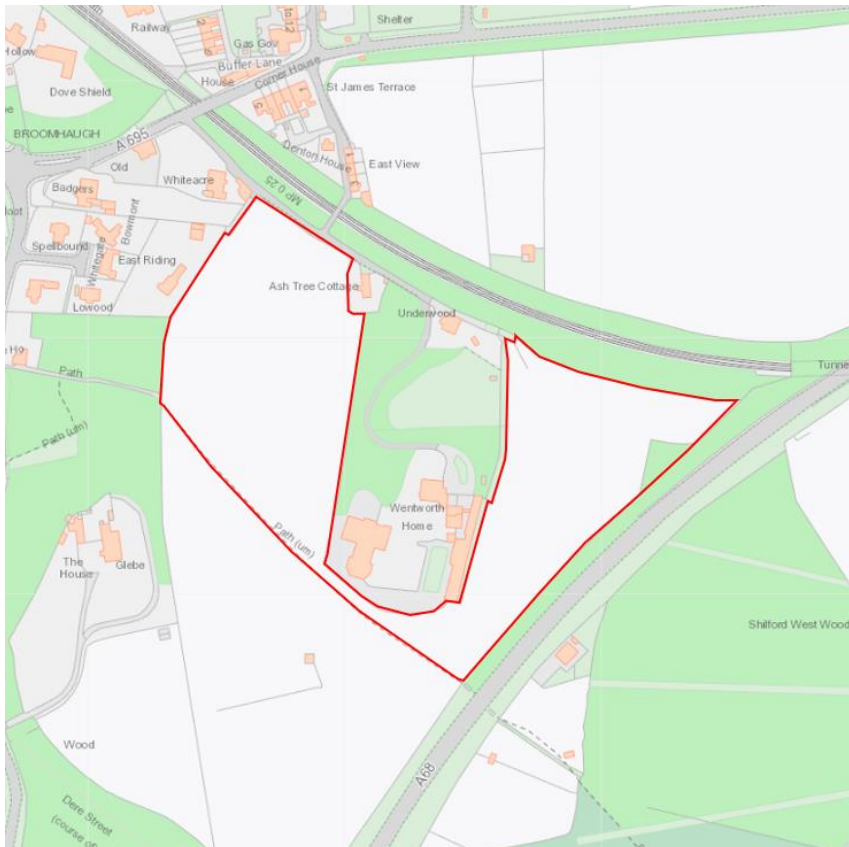
Appendix 3 Maps of proposed LGS designations

Please note: the incorrect position of Broomhaugh and other errors on the map are as a result of inaccurate base mapping we are trying to address this issue with NCC/ Ordnance Survey.

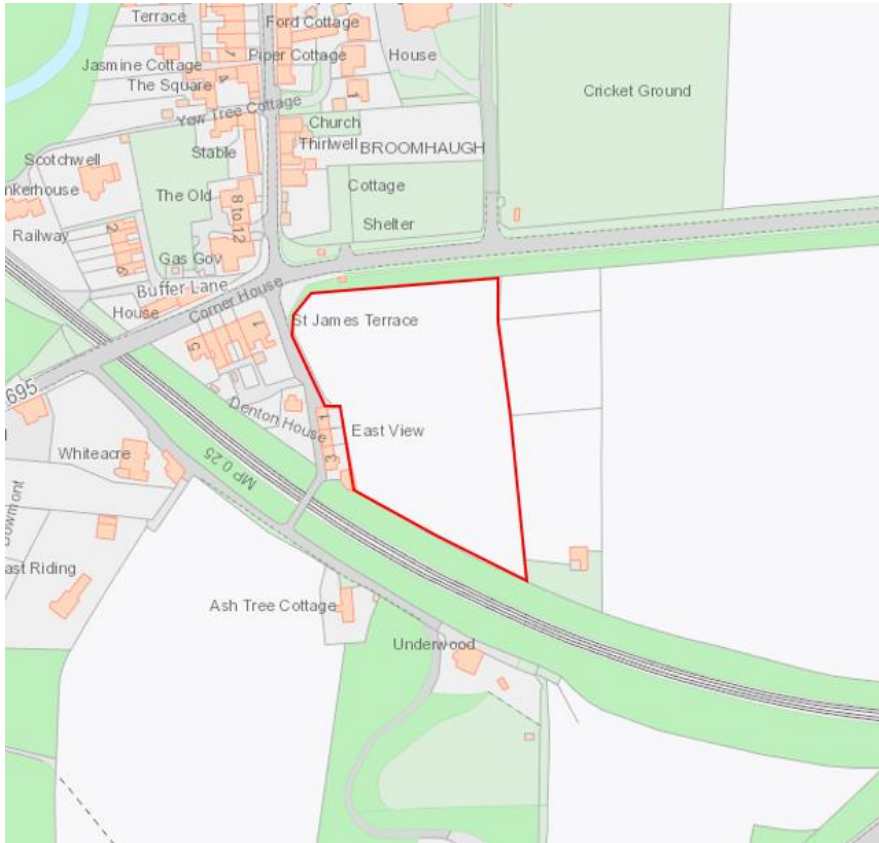
LGS01 The Spinney



LGS02 Land to the west and east of Wentworth Grange



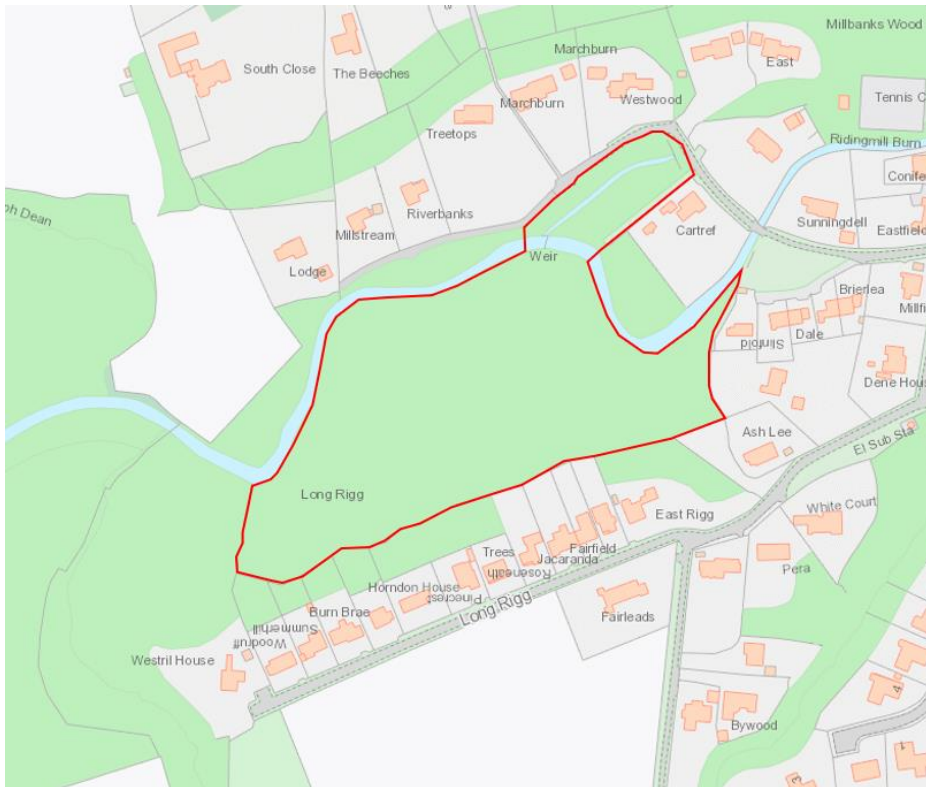
LGS03 Land to the east of East View



LGS04 Old trackway off Long Rigg



LGS08 Marchburn woods/Mill Pond



LGS09 Parish Hall Grassland



LGS10 Grassed area off Marchburn Lane

