

Updated Application for **Local Green Space** designation
for
OALSNSP003 known as **Great Orchard**

On behalf of the Great Orchard Preservation Group

12th December 2015

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planning application

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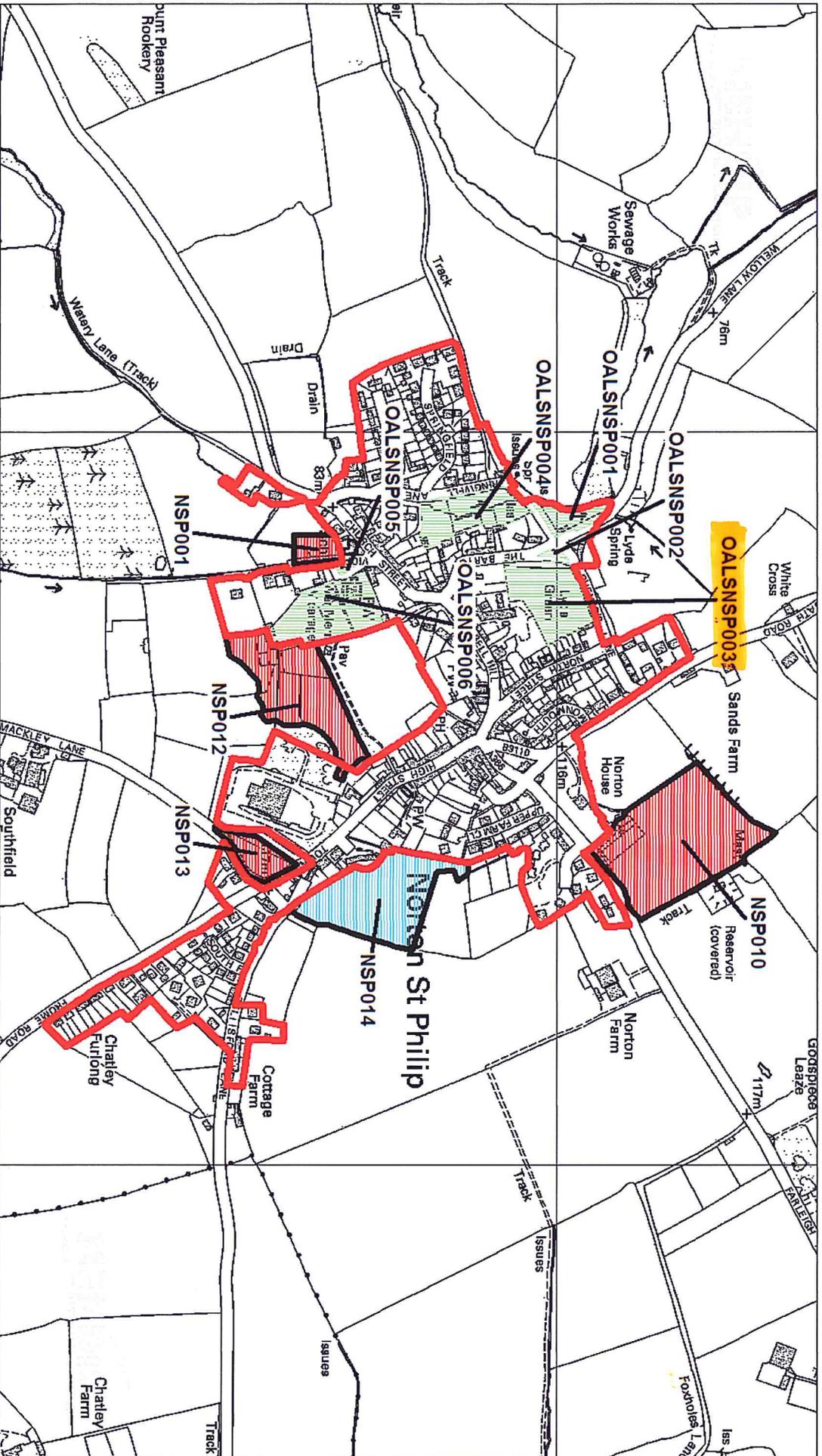
Boundaries of existing Development Limits, Open Areas of Local Significance and Development Site Options - Norton St Philip

Notes:

Scale 1:7500

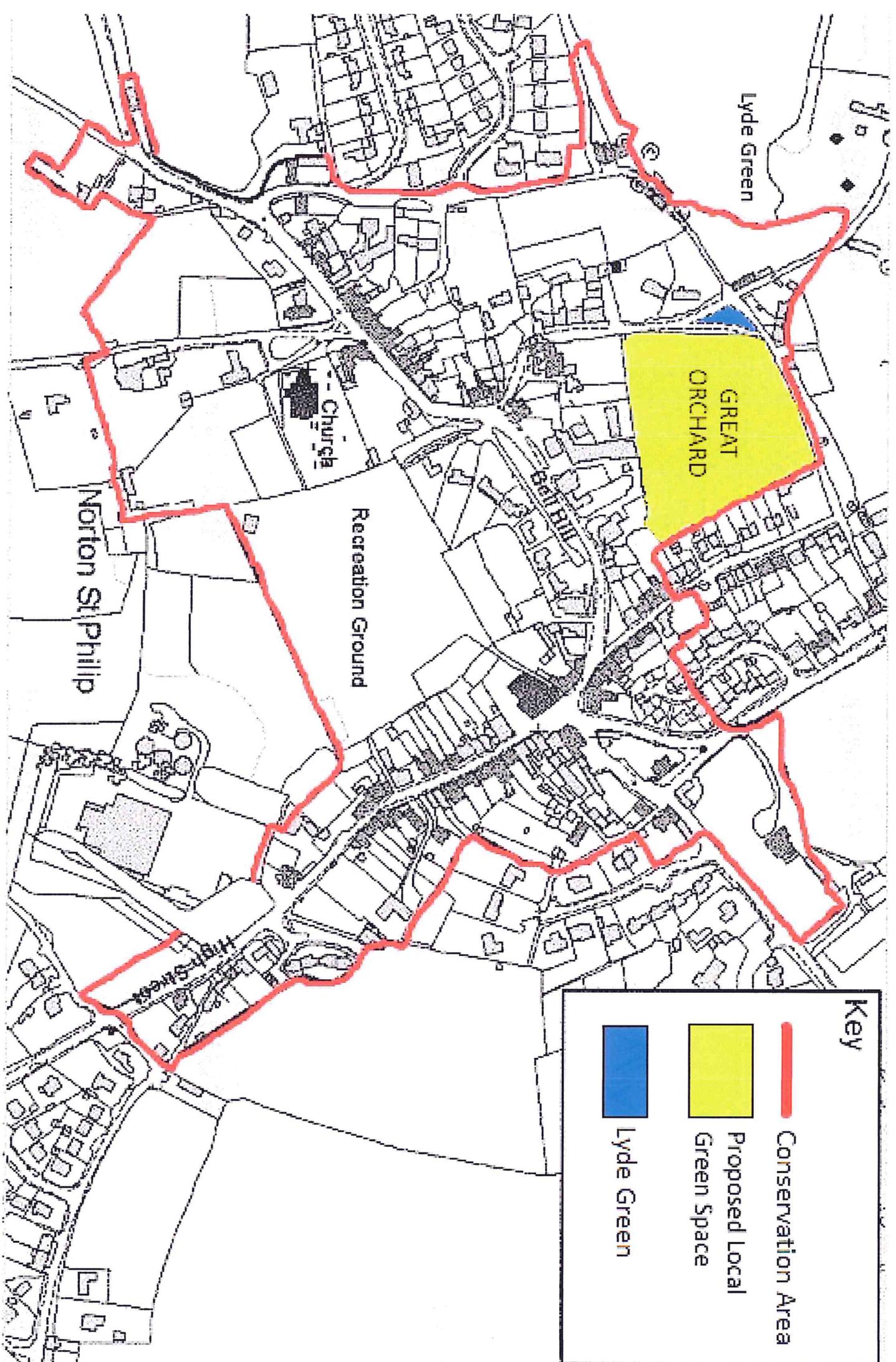
Compiled by on 10 August 2015

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Key

— Conservation Area

■ Proposed Local Green Space

■ Lyde Green

Lyde Green

GREAT ORCHARD

Church

Recreation Ground

Norton St. Phillip

Hill Street

Norton St Philip Checklist and Criteria for Local Green Space Designation

Great Orchard OALSNSP003

| 1. | General Information Great Orchard: Application for Designation as Local Green Space | Tick where evidence is attached |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|
| 1.1 | Name and address of site – including all known names <i>Great Orchard (field behind Bell Hill Garage) bounded by The Barton, Lyde Green, Chevers Lane and North St, Norton St Philip. Sometimes referred to as Lyde Green, but this is not nowadays the recognised name for the site.</i> | |
| 1.2 | Site Location Plan – showing locality and boundaries of the site and map scale <i>As attached (GO map.doc)</i> | Y |
| 1.3 | Organisation or individual proposing site for designation – normally Parish Council or recognised community group <i>Great Orchard Preservation Group as supported by Norton St Philip Parish Council</i> | |
| 1.4 | Ownership of site, where known Mr and Mrs P Rose | |
| 1.5 | Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? <i>Yes; degree of support unknown</i> | |
| 1.6 | Photographs of site <i>As attached (GO photos.doc)</i> | Y |
| 1.7 | Community served by the potential Local Green Space – does it serve the whole village or a particular group? <i>Whole village</i> | |
| 2.0 | Planning History | |
| 2.1 | Is there a current planning application for this site? If permitted/allocated could part of the overall site still be used as a Local Green Space? <i>Unknown; last known application refused by MDC Planning Board in December 2014</i> | |

Norton St Philip Checklist and Criteria for Local Green Space Designation

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 2.2 | <p>Is this site allocated for development in the Local Plan Part 2? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?</p> <p><i>No</i></p> | |
| 3.0 | <p>Size, scale and 'local nature' of proposed Local Green Space</p> <p><i>See full application</i></p> | Y |
| 3.1 | <p>Area of proposed site</p> <p>It is unlikely that a site over 50 acres would be considered suitable for designation</p> <p><i>Small enclosed site of circa 3 acres as defined by OALSNSP003</i></p> | |
| 3.2 | <p>Is the site an extensive tract of land? Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as LGS and how does it relate in size to other fields/areas of land in the vicinity?</p> <p><i>No - for full details see application</i></p> | Y |
| 3.3 | <p>Is the proposed site 'local in character'? Does it feel part of the local area and why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What evidence can you provide?</p> <p><i>As 3.2 above</i></p> | |
| 4.0 | <p>Need for Local Green Space</p> | |
| 4.1 | <p>Is there a need for a local green space in this location? Is there a shortage of accessible green space in the area?</p> <p><i>See full application</i></p> | Y |
| 5.0 | <p>Evidence to show that 'the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves'.</p> | |
| 5.1 | <p>How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community?</p> <p><i>Yes: for details see full application</i></p> | Y |
| 5.2 | <p>Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? Include main roads and possible evidence along with potential solutions</p> <p><i>Private land but visible all around the site - see photos attached</i></p> | Y |
| 6.0 | <p>Evidence to show that the green area is 'demonstrably special to a local community'.</p> | |
| 6.1 | <p>Evidence of support from Parish Council – such as letter of support or minutes of meetings</p> <p><i>Approved by Norton St Philip Parish Council meeting on 4.11.15</i></p> | |

Norton St Philip Checklist and Criteria for Local Green Space Designation

| | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 6.3 | <p>Evidence of support from community leaders such as ward members, district councillors etc.</p> <p><i>See 6.1.</i></p> | |
| 6.4 | <p>Evidence of support from other groups – such as conservation groups, wildlife trusts, local amenity societies, local schools etc.</p> <p><i>Widespread support during GOPG- led campaign against development and in favour of LGS designation. At Parish Council meeting 04.11.15 there was a vote in favour of LGS designation of this site where 98% of the 103 attendees gave approval. See also attached internet survey results.</i></p> | |
| 7.0 | <p>Evidence to show that the green area ‘holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty’ Indicate what evidence you are providing against each point.</p> | |
| 7.1 | <p>Is this criterion relevant to this site? Yes/No = Yes</p> | |
| 7.2 | <p>Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.</p> <p><i>See main application</i></p> | Y |
| 7.3 | <p>Site visibility – Is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there any long distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</p> <p><i>See main application - This green space is prominent in views from the north-west of the village and helps to form a rural environment which connects the village with its wider agricultural surroundings and historic development.</i></p> | Y |
| 7.4 | <p>Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? Such as conservation area, special landscape area, area of outstanding natural beauty?</p> <p><i>Yes – within Norton St Philip conservation area.</i></p> | |
| 7.5 | <p>Is the site specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or historical documents?</p> <p><i>Yes - Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA) in 2007 and many historical documents, books and maps going back to the Domesday Book.</i></p> | |
| 7.6 | <p>Does the site contribute to the setting of a historical building or other special feature?</p> <p><i>Yes - The site is adjacent to Manor Farm House (Grade 2), A Grade 1* Ancient Monument and several listed cottages in North Street. It is bounded by a listed dry-stone wall, one of the finest in the area.</i></p> | |
| 7.7 | <p>Is the site highlighted in literature or art? i.e. famous book or painting.</p> | |

Norton St Philip Checklist and Criteria for Local Green Space Designation

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| | <i>Yes – numerous historical books from Domesday book to present day</i> | |
| 8.0 | Evidence to show that the green area ‘holds a particular local significance for example because of its historical significance’? | |
| 8.1 | Is this criterion relevant to this site? Yes/No = Yes | |
| 8.2 | Are there any historical buildings or remains on the site? Including listed buildings, ancient monuments, memorials etc. <i>Yes – historic and listed impressive dry stone wall.</i> | |
| 8.3 | Are there any important landscape features on the site? Including old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds; or historic garden features. <i>Yes – impressive listed dry stone wall and ancient walnut tree (covered by TPO)</i> | |
| 8.4 | Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village? <i>Yes – it is an ancient enclosure and orchard and site of a major skirmish in the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685</i> | |
| 8.5 | Did any historic events take place on the site? <i>Yes – as 8.4</i> | |
| 8.6 | Do any historic rituals take place on the site? Such as maypole dancing etc. <i>No</i> | |
| 9.0 | Evidence to show that the green area ‘holds a particular local significance, for example because of its recreational value including as a playing field (if appropriate). | |
| 9.1 | Is this criterion relevant to this site? Yes/No = No | |
| 9.2 | Is the site used for playing sport? If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports and is the provision free or club membership required? <i>No</i> | |
| 9.3 | Are the public able to physically access the site? Are there any public rights of way across the site or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole or only part of the site? Is there good disabled access to the site? <i>No</i> | |
| 9.4 | Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? E.g. dog walking, sledging, ball games etc. <i>No</i> | |
| 10.0 | Evidence to show that the green area ‘holds a particular local significance, for example because of its tranquillity’? | |

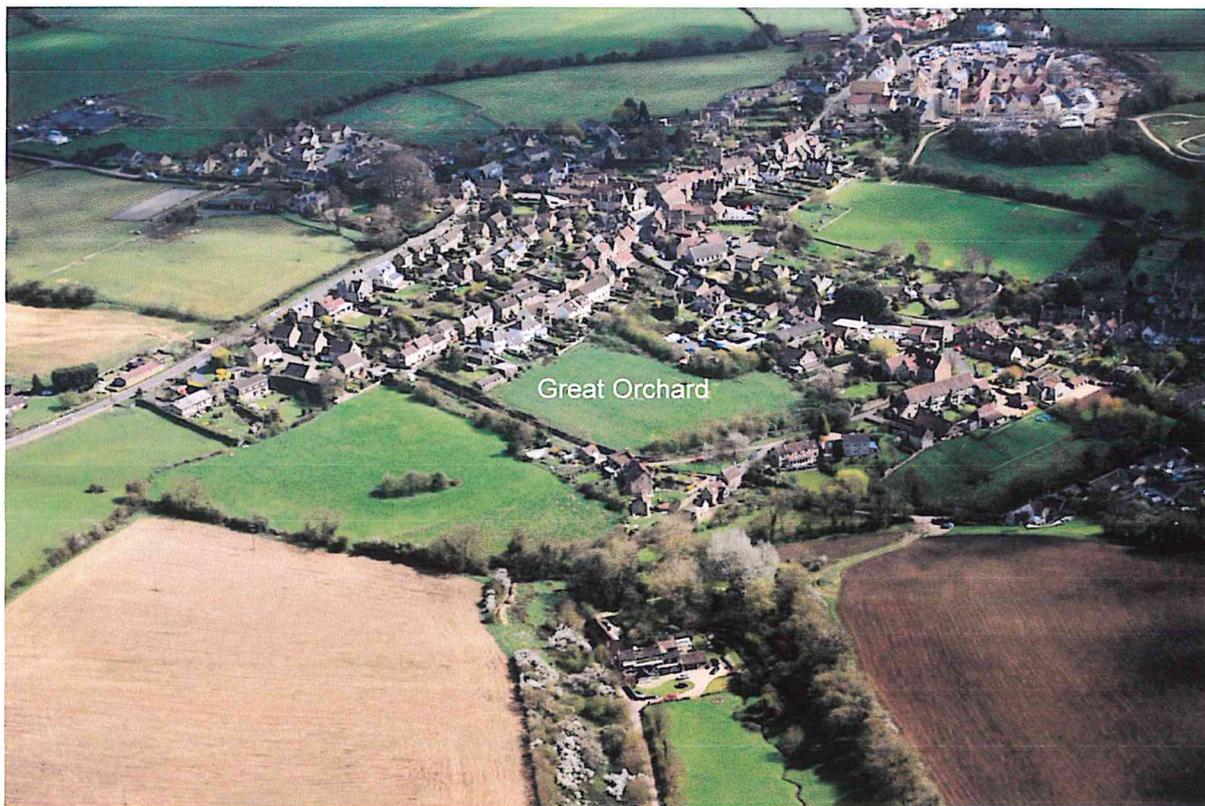
Norton St Philip Checklist and Criteria for Local Green Space Designation

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| 10.1 | Is this criterion relevant to this site? Yes/No = Yes | |
| 10.2 | <p>Do you consider the site to be tranquil? Are there any busy areas nearby?</p> <p><i>Yes – it provides the tranquil break between the more densely developed and busy areas of North Street and Bell Hill and the open characteristic of the surrounding less densely developed area of the village stretching out towards and blending with the open countryside.</i></p> | |
| 10.3 | <p>Is the site within a recognised tranquil area?</p> <p><i>Yes – it is part of the open characteristic and low density development of this part of the village providing an essential open and tranquil area.</i></p> | |
| 11.0 | Evidence to show that the green area 'holds a particular significance for example because of its richness of its wildlife'? | |
| 11.1 | Is this criterion relevant to this site? Yes/No = Yes | |
| 11.2 | <p>Is this site formally designated for its wildlife value? E.g. as a site of specific scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc.</p> <p><i>Yes – see main application and Supporting Statement document</i></p> | Y |
| 11.3 | <p>Are any habitats or species found on this site? Plans or protected species or on the red/amber lists of birds of conservation concern etc.</p> <p><i>Yes – see main application</i></p> | Y |
| 11.4 | <p>What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site?</p> <p><i>No</i></p> | |
| 11.5 | <p>Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? Including the long term monitoring of breeding birds etc.</p> <p><i>No</i></p> | |
| 12.0 | Evidence to show that the green area 'holds a particular significance for any other reason'? | |
| 12.1 | Is this criterion relevant to this site? Yes/No = Yes | |
| 12.2 | <p>Are there any other reasons why this site has a particular local significance for the local community?</p> <p><i>Yes – see main application....historic and heritage setting.</i></p> | Y |

Completed by: Will Martin

Date: 12/12/15

Annex 2 Photographs of the Site



The site is fully enclosed and in the heart of the village





The view across the site from North Street, looking north-west



Looking north from a house in The Barton; the tussocky habitat is valuable to wildlife



The site is enclosed by unusually well preserved dry-stone walls



Owl in ancient Walnut Tree in Great Orchard



Mendip Local Plan Part 2: Local Green Spaces

An application was made to Mendip District Council for Local Green Space designation for Great Orchard in April, 2014. The site fully meets Mendip's criteria for such designation under LP2 as developed from the policies set out in the NPPF/PPG upon which our application was based. MDC's criteria require that Local Green Spaces:

- are located in reasonably close proximity to the community they serve;
- do not represent an extensive tract of land;
- are not already (adequately) protected through other policies or designations;
- are demonstrably special and warrant special protection as a result of fulfilling at least one of the following roles:
 - i. Protecting an important public view towards or out from a significant local feature, for example a church or manor house, which aren't already protected by other designations;
 - ii. A park, play area or recreation facility which makes a significant visual contribution to the street scene or character of the settlement;
 - iii. An important part of the street scene or character of the settlement, for example spaces such as orchards or gardens within a village characterised by its open layout or sectioned form;
 - iv. Contributing to an important public view into or out of an otherwise built up street scene;
 - v. Offering informal recreation space (i.e. not a park or formal recreation facility) and/or tranquillity within a settlement, for example seating areas and riverbanks;
 - vi. Being of local historical or cultural value to a settlement, for example land surrounding a memorial, cemeteries or allotments which aren't already protected by other designations.
 - vii. Being valuable for the richness of its wildlife.

Great Orchard is now examined against each of these criteria, as follows.

1. They are located in reasonably close proximity to the community they serve

The site is in the heart of the NSP conservation area, about two minutes walk from the church.

2. They do not represent an extensive tract of land

Great Orchard is a small, enclosed area. It is bounded by North Street, Lyde Green, The Barton and Chevers ('Bloody') Lane.

3. Their contribution to the settlement is not already protected through other policies or designations

Under policy Q2 in the adopted Mendip Local Plan, Great Orchard was designated as an 'Open Area of Visual Significance'. Under policy DP2 in Part 1 of the emerging Local Plan the has become an

'Open Area of Local Significance'. In both Plans the site was placed in Category D (land least suitable for development) in Mendip's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

Such protections have manifestly failed to prevent a developer from persistently seeking to develop the site and he is likely to attempt this again in the future. Under LP2 the site has become eligible for LGS designation, and this is now essential.

4. They are demonstrably special and warrant special protection as a result of fulfilling at least one of the following roles:

i. Protecting an important public view towards or out from a significant local feature, for example a church or manor house, which aren't already protected by other designations;

ii. A park, play area or recreation facility which makes a significant visual contribution to the street scene or character of the settlement;

iii. An important part of the street scene or character of the settlement, for example spaces such as orchards or gardens within a village characterised by its open layout or sectioned form;

iv. Contributing to an important public view into or out of an otherwise built up street scene;

Apart from its long-established status as an 'Open Area of Visual Significance' Great Orchard and the listed buildings which surround it were given prominent coverage in a comprehensive analysis of the qualities of the NSP conservation area which was published by MDC as a Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA) in 2007. The site is adjacent to Manor Farm House (Grade 2), A Grade 1* Ancient Monument and several listed cottages in North Street. It is bounded by a listed dry-stone wall, one of the finest in the area.

A plan of the site was included in the LGS application. Photographs were also provided, identifying the vantage points from which they were taken. One in particular (of Great Orchard from North St) is reproduced here.



As can be seen from this the site makes a major contribution to the visual appeal of the conservation area, blending harmoniously with the surrounding contours. This applies also when looking back

towards the village from the north-west. It provides an ideal setting for the surrounding listed buildings: Manor Farm House is arguably the third most important building in the village after the Church and The George. It also complements the loose-grained residential character of this corner of the village. The site will be further enhanced if and when the garage buildings are demolished and the garage brown-field site is developed, as previously proposed, with new housing which blends into the existing buildings in North St, The Barton and Bell Hill.

v. Offering informal recreation space (i.e. not a park or formal recreation facility) and/or tranquillity within a settlement, for example seating areas and riverbanks

Whilst Great Orchard is not (yet) a publicly available recreation space it would become an important element in the proposed NSP Heritage Trail to commemorate the Battle of Sedgemoor - see below.

Its tranquillity is self-evident from the photograph.

vi. Being of local historical or cultural value to a settlement, for example land surrounding a memorial, cemeteries or allotments which aren't already protected by other designations

The site is of national historical significance and deserves full protection under paragraph 77 of the NPPF for this reason alone. In June 1685 the Monmouth Rebellion could have changed the course of English history. In his attempt to wrest the Crown from his Catholic uncle, James II, the Protestant Duke of Monmouth landed an army from France at Lyme Regis and travelled through Dorset and Somerset, gathering armed support from rural communities. Amongst the skirmishes which preceded the Battle of Sedgemoor, at which the rebels were finally defeated, the 'Phillips Norton' skirmish was one of the most important, with around 100 fatalities. Many historians believe that if Monmouth had maintained momentum from his victory in NSP his rebel force could have gained the support they needed for overall success. In this event the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688 would not have happened, with fascinating consequences.

The focus of the battle at NSP was at the intersection of North St and Chevers ('Bloody') Lane; the latter took its local name from the blood which flowed down the hill during a very wet day. Great Orchard was used by the rebels to muster their troops who fired from the protection of the walls. Musket balls have been found nearby. The Battlefields Trust maintains a strong interest in the site, and is present, with English Heritage, at regular commemorations of the battle. Following its designation as village heritage trail as mentioned further below.

vii. Being valuable for the richness of its wildlife

The richness of the wildlife supported by the site also justifies its LGS status – see paragraph 77 of the NPPF. The field consists primarily of tussocky grassland, an uncommon habitat within the local area, most local land being managed grassland or arable fields. It provides a suitable habitat for small mammals (voles and mice), which are the main prey for barn owls, which are regularly seen and heard hunting over this field and along the surrounding lanes. Apart from being a feeding ground for species such as barn owls (based on the available ecology report; Bat and Reptile Report, Nicholas Pearson Associates, 2013) the boundary wall provides good opportunities for bats to use cracks and crevices, with ivy cover offering suitable summer roosting habitat. The wall also offers

commuting habitat, and various bat species have been surveyed on the site, with greater horseshoe bats recorded within an hour of sunrise, which suggests a roost in the boundary walls.

Potential Nomination of the Site as an Asset of Community Value

In a non-statutory advice note for local authorities in 2012 the DCLG set out the arrangements for the potential nomination of ACVs under the terms of Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Regulations 2012.

In brief, land (or other assets) meeting the requirements for classification as ACV may be nominated by Parish Councils, by unincorporated groups of at least 21 local people who appear on the electoral roll, by neighbourhood forums as defined by legislation or simply by community interest groups with a local connection.

Within the definition of ACV, Land of Community Value (LCV) is defined as land whose use furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, or has recently done so, and is likely to do so in the future.

Once its designation as an LGS has been approved under LP2, it may be appropriate to propose its nomination as LCV, subject to negotiation with the landowner. The village may be willing to purchase the site, at a fair market price, and to place it in trust for the benefit of future generations.

The purpose of this further step would be not only to provide absolute protection for the site against future development but more immediately to make it available to residents and visitors as a place for quiet contemplation and in commemoration of the Battle of Sedgemoor.

The site could become 'Rebellion Field', to commemorate the Phillips Norton skirmish. It would be sensitively managed to preserve existing habitat. There could be a wildflower meadow and perhaps some apple trees again. There could be a simple mown path and one or two seats. There could be plaques which explain the route of the rebels from Lyme Regis to Philips Norton and how the battle was fought in the village, along with the background to the conflict. Local schools could benefit, as could visitors. Local residents could enjoy it as a quiet space on summer evenings. There would be a volunteer rota to keep it all in good condition.

Conclusions

It will be seen from the above that Great Orchard fully meets Mendip's LP2 criteria for the designation of a site as a Local Green Space. It is a compact, well defined, space in the centre of the conservation area. It is demonstrably special, with very high landscape value and national historical significance. It has also rich wildlife. Its contribution to NSP has been recognised in the Conservation Area Character Appraisal, and under Mendip policies Q2/DP2.

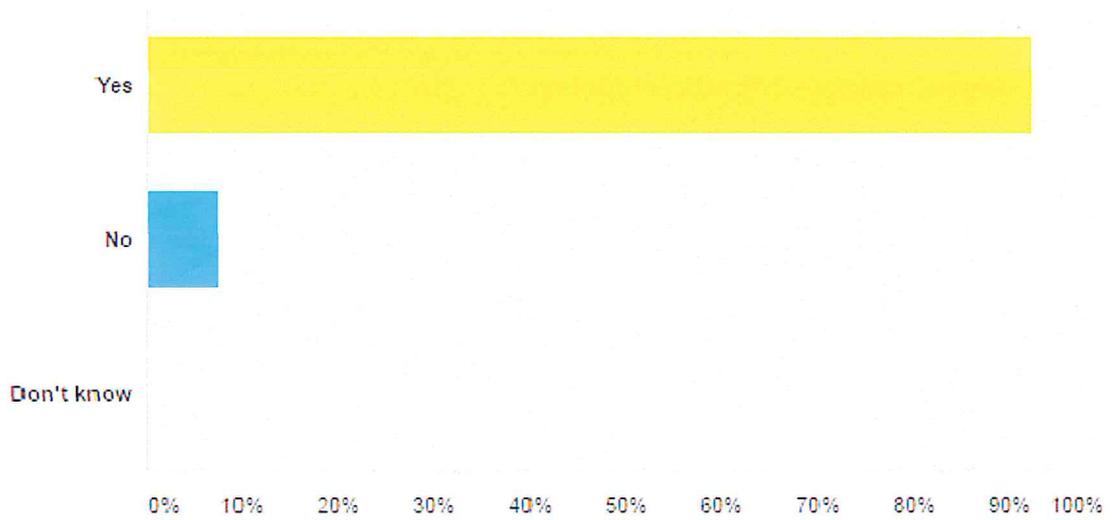
It thus fully satisfies the requirements of the NPPF/PPG for the creation of new Local Green Spaces from which Mendip has developed its LP2 criteria. The policies in paragraphs 76 and 77 of the NPPF are also met in full.

It is essential that the site should now be given LGS designation under LP2 to prevent any further attempts to destroy it.

Q1

Would you be in favour of Great Orchard being designated as a Local Green Space?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-----------|
| Yes | 92.45% 49 |
| No | 7.55% 4 |
| Don't know | 0.00% 0 |
| Total | 53 |

Q2

Please let us know whether you think there is anything that we might need to consider in preparing our submission, for example, what is special about Great Orchard?

- Answered: 31
- Skipped: 22

It is of historical importance. A wildlife habitat.

12/2/2015 11:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Preserving it's history.

12/1/2015 3:08 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Great Orchard is within the conservation area, and is an open green space surrounded by dry stone walling - an important feature of Norton St Philip. It is also in an area of historic interest.

12/1/2015 12:52 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Great Orchard has a beautiful dry stone wall encircling the field. This should be maintained and preserved for future generations.

11/30/2015 4:32 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

What remains is in the conservation area; not of any huge extent; but historically and culturally an important part of the village.

11/30/2015 11:40 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

It is an area of significant historical importance and provides a needed area of space inside the boundaries of the village and provides shelter for much wildlife.

11/30/2015 11:38 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

it's special as in the listed dry stonewalling, wildlife, essential open space in heart of village, skirmish history going back to 1685

11/29/2015 7:56 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

ALL GREEN SPACES ARE SPECIAL, PARTICULARLY WHEN NOT NEEDED FOR HOUSE BUILDING, WHICH THIS ONE MOST DEFINITELY IS NOT.

11/29/2015 6:57 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Current over-development of the village

11/29/2015 6:00 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

It is a good place for wild life to thrive and a nice place for the locals to go with there children

11/29/2015 7:10 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

site of major historical interest- from civil war; treasured open space within village,

11/28/2015 11:29 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

It preserves the setting of the listed stone wall, Manor Farm House and North Street cottages; provides a vital contribution to the current feeling of openness within this part of the Conservation Area.

11/28/2015 6:11 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Important green space in the heart of the village

11/28/2015 4:36 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

I think you have already done a great job highlighting this historical site

11/28/2015 2:36 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Coming down the hill from Faulkland gives a beautiful view of the village with the 2 green spaces of Great Orchard and the Mead, infill would make it a small town, less visually pleasing and remove the feeling of countryside in the village

11/28/2015 2:30 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

An historic battle site within the conservation area of the village and absolutely critical to maintaining the loose grain characteristic, open views and low development intensity of that area of the village and special setting for listed buildings and magnificent listed stone wall.

11/28/2015 10:08 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

It is a wild life and flower meadow' green space in the heart of the village and has been used for many years by generations of village residents as an informal leisure facility.

11/28/2015 9:58 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Within a conservation area. Great contribution to open environment. Retains the historic links of the village, and maintains the aspect of Manor House,, North Street Cottages and the listed wall for residents and visitors.

11/28/2015 9:50 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

It would make an ideal community orchard, to be used for recreation and fruit trees. The alternative, of having the field built on by executive homes, would destroy the heritage of that part of the village for ever.

11/28/2015 9:47 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

This area is for the benefit of the whole community

11/28/2015 8:59 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

Always been a green space....vital element in food webs....maintaining wild species which are constantly under threat...eg hedgehogs ,voles,Arthropods and many songbirds.

11/28/2015 7:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

This application has real merit but must be considered alongside other LGS applications, as part of a 'one village approach'.

11/28/2015 7:25 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

What's a village without its green spaces or surrounding fields?

11/28/2015 6:24 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

It's the green heart of the village, not a recreational space like the Mead, but a natural breathing space which is filled with a wide array of flora and fauna. Barn owls, bats and more. And bounded by the original dry stone wall which has stood for hundreds of years. It is Norton St Philip in essence.

11/28/2015 12:46 AM [View respondent's answers](#)

It's not a housing estate – yet!

11/27/2015 10:25 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Great Orchard has been used as green space by the village for generations and would be a great loss.

11/27/2015 8:05 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Wild life space

11/27/2015 7:26 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Tranquillity, history, natural habitat, views from North St, proximity to many listed buildings. Deserves further protection

11/27/2015 6:45 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

A rare species of bat (greater horseshoe bat) is known to use the boundaries of Great Orchard for commuting and foraging. Great Orchard is a rare habitat in the local area being rough tussocky grassland, good for small mammals and subsequently good foraging for owls and raptors. As I understand, Great Orchard lies within the old curtilage of Manor Farm, which is a listed building, and there are other historic buildings in the vicinity (Tudor dovecote eg). Great Orchard as a Local Green Space would help protect local wildlife and the historic value of the site and local area.

11/27/2015 6:34 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

This site has been used by the community for many many years and everyone is well aware of the various public footpath which cross this green space.

11/27/2015 6:22 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

A tranquil and treasured space that should be given every protection

11/27/2015 6:18 PM [View respondent's answers](#)

Extracts from Mendip District Council Planning Application Refusal for 2013/2217/FUL 29th December 2014

This document, available from the Mendip District Council records in its full format, clearly identifies reasons why the Great Orchard site OALSNSP003 is special and therefore meets the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space. The Key extracts are:

...this important open space within the Norton St Philip Conservation Area and plays a significant part in creating the rural character that dominates this part of the village. The significance of this area was recognised when the land was given its Q2 status.

DP2 Open Areas of Local significance (Formerly Q2)

The lack of public access to the Great Orchard site access does not detract from the fact that it is designated as an Open Area of Local Significance (Q2 land in the previous Plan), providing important views between the existing street scenes and plays an important role in creating the rural character that dominates this part of the village.

There are at least 10 designated heritage assets that are immediately adjacent to the site.

It is the open and undeveloped nature of the land and the contribution this makes to the character of the conservation area and surrounding environment that is being sought to be protected. It is an important green space within the conservation area and makes a significant contribution to the rural character of this part of the village. It is a prominent site in surrounding views and provides a clear connection between the village, its historic development and wider agricultural surroundings.

Within the Norton St Philip Conservation Area Character Appraisal the site is identified as an Area of Landscape Value. The definition of the site as being an Area of Landscape Value was undertaken through the appraisal process and takes landscape in its broadest sense - using the definition from the 2002 Guidance on LCA.

The area named Great Orchard provides an important green space within the Norton St Philip Conservation Area and plays an important part in creating the rural character that dominates this part of the village. This green space is prominent in views from the north-west of the village and helps to form a rural environment which connects the village with its wider agricultural surroundings and historic development (and)....the important contribution that open, green spaces can provide within a conservation area or the historic importance of the site as a surviving open site dating from the c13.

It should also be noted that the field in question is claimed to be the site of a major skirmish in the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685. While this information has not been verified by English Heritage and the site did not meet the relevant criteria to be designated a national heritage asset, this information suggests that it holds significance as a local heritage asset.

The site consists of tussocky grassland, an uncommon habitat within the local area, with most other land being managed grassland or arable fields. It provides a suitable habitat for small mammals (voles and mice), which are the main prey for barn owls, which regularly hunt over the site and the surrounding lanes. No consideration has been given to the site as a habitat in its own right, nor as a feeding ground for species such as barn owls. The proposal will also sever connectivity between bat roosts in the boundary wall and their feeding grounds, the entire grassland being lost.

English Heritage confirm that the area named Great Orchard provides an important green space within the Norton St Philip Conservation Area and plays an important part in creating the rural character that dominates this part of the village. This green space is prominent in views from the north-west of the village and helps to form a rural environment which connects the village with its wider agricultural surroundings and historic development. Local references have been made to the historical significance of the site as The Great Orchard is claimed to be the site of a major skirmish in the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685. This has not been verified by English Heritage, and it has not been designated as a national heritage asset, although these local references, supported by a representation made by the Battlefields Trust, confirm that it holds significance as a local heritage asset.