



**LOCAL GREEN SPACE APPLICATION
SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL**



Opening Quotations

Martin Horwood, MP: I strongly support this Local Green Space application ... I take a keen interest in this as I was responsible for drafting the original Liberal Democrat policy in opposition which became the LGS designation...I know from personal experience how special this area is to local people. I have enjoyed walking through these fields many times with my own family and seen many others do so...it is particularly striking to have seen it enjoyed by so many people of different ages from young people to much older residents.

Laurence Robertson, MP: I am fully supportive of the Green Space Application. This application, if granted, will preserve the rural nature of the Swindon Village Parish area, and will ensure that the feel of the village is maintained.

Cllr Dr Flo Clucas, OBE, Cheltenham Borough Council: The application is a tremendous piece of work...The land that is proposed as local green space...is essential to the wellbeing of the Village and its residents...The application has my full and wholehearted support.

Cllr Bernard Fisher, Cheltenham Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council: As both County and Borough Councillor for Swindon Village, I wholeheartedly support your application for Local Green Space around Swindon Village to soften the blow of the JCS should it come to fruition.

Cllr Chris Nelson, Cheltenham Borough Council: I fully support Swindon Parish Council's application for Local Green Space designation of the historic fields immediately surrounding Swindon Village. It is clear that these fields are very special and valuable to the local community. What is proposed appears very modest and eminently sensible, given the need to maintain the integrity of this 10th Century Village...

Rachel Smith, leader of Swindon Village Scout Group: We hike [in this Green Space] in both the summer and winter months ... Most of all we can enjoy being able to have the freedom to explore our natural world as it is meant to be, to see nature and to experience the great outdoors. To run, play and to use energy and our imaginations – something that is sadly lacking in today's society and that needs encouraging more than ever before.

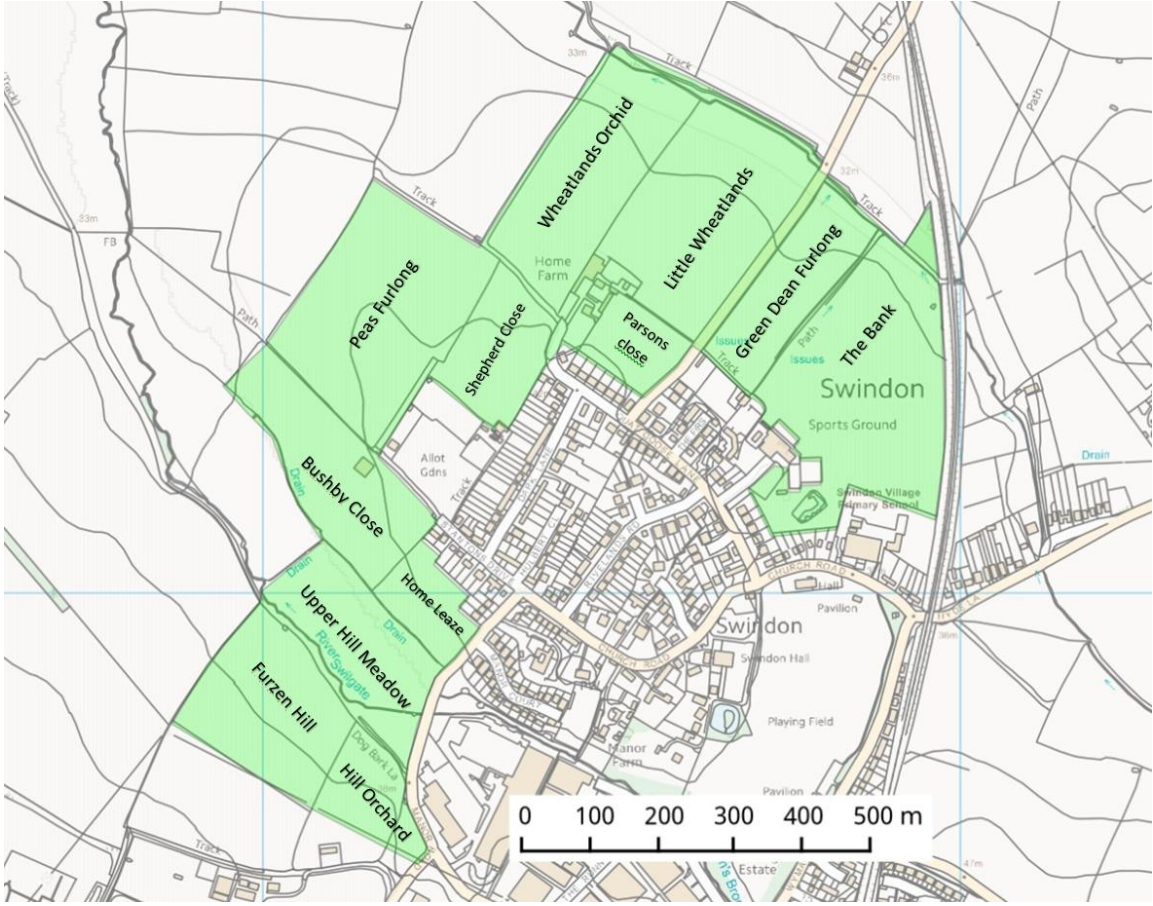
Children at Swindon Village Primary School: 'We children need space to run and get exercise and wildlife need a place to live', 'I love the wildlife and I would be distraught if they go', 'We love walking and picking sloes', 'we love to play in the fields', 'I go walking with gran', 'I love going on nature walks with my mummy in these fields', 'I love seeing horses', 'I've seen a deer!', 'I love mucking about', 'I love walking Sam – he has a swim in the stream'

Cover photos: Upper Hill Meadow and Bushy Close, Swindon Village.

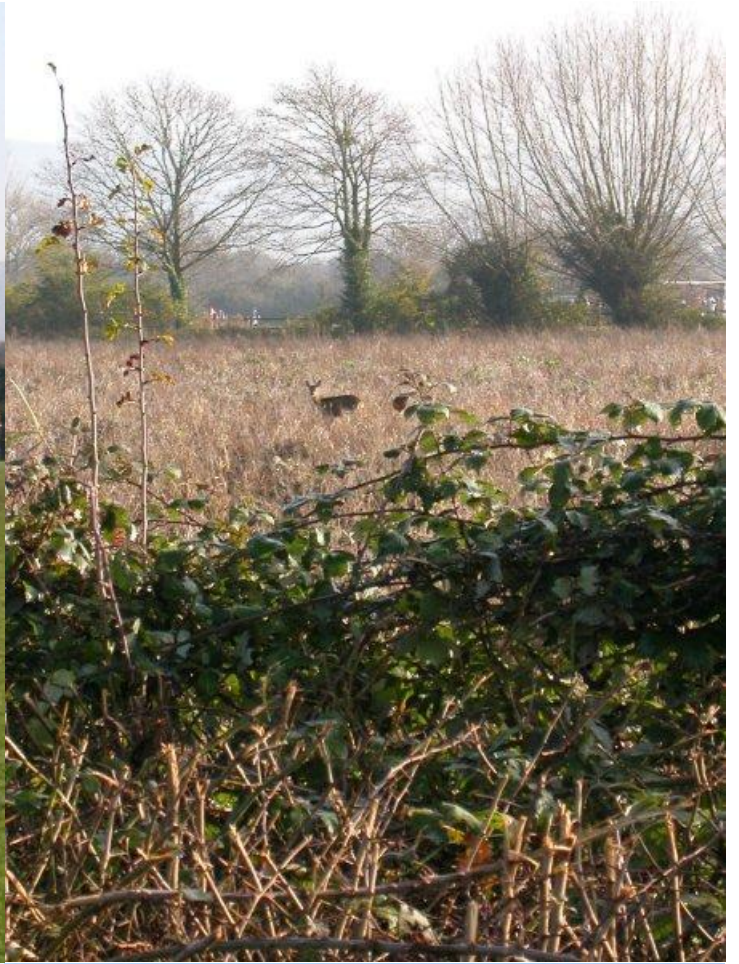
Contents

The Application	4
Appendix 1: The Green Space Survey	24
Appendix 2: Letters and emails of support from MPs, CBC and County councillors.....	29
Appendix 3: Swindon Village Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan	33
Appendix 4: Cheltenham Circular Challenge Signatures	35
Appendix 5: Responses from school children and parents.....	36
Appendix 6: Letter of support from Swindon Village Society.....	39
Appendix 7: Letter of support from Gloucestershire Hash House Harriers (a running group)	41
Appendix 8: Letter of support from Swindon Village Art Club	42
Appendix 9: Letter of support from Bishops Cleeve District Rangers.....	43
Appendix 10: Letter of support from 1 st Swindon Village Scout Group.....	44
Appendix 11: Letter of support from the Terrapins After School Club.....	45
Appendix 12: Letter of support from the Campaign to Protect Rural England	46
Appendix 13: Letter of support from Swindon Village Rainbows.....	47
Appendix 14: Email from English Heritage on the subject of ridge and furrow fields.....	48
Appendix 15: Information on local earthworks from Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record	49
Appendix 16: Letter of support from Save the Countryside.....	51
Appendix 17: Relevant minutes from Swindon Parish Council.....	52

The Application

1	General Information	Tick if relevant evidence provided
1.1	Name and address of site	
	<p>The proposed Green Space consists of the Cheltenham Town FC playing field and eleven fields around Swindon Village. The historic names of the fields are: Parson's Close, The Bank, Green Dean Furlong, Wheatlands Orchard, Little Wheatlands, Peas Furlong, Shepherd Close, Bushby Close, Upper Hill Meadow, Home Leaze, Furzen Hill, and Hill Orchard.</p>	
1.2	Site location plan	
	<p>The shaded green area is the proposed area that we are requesting Local Green Space designation for. In this document it will be referred to as the 'proposed Green Space'.</p> 	

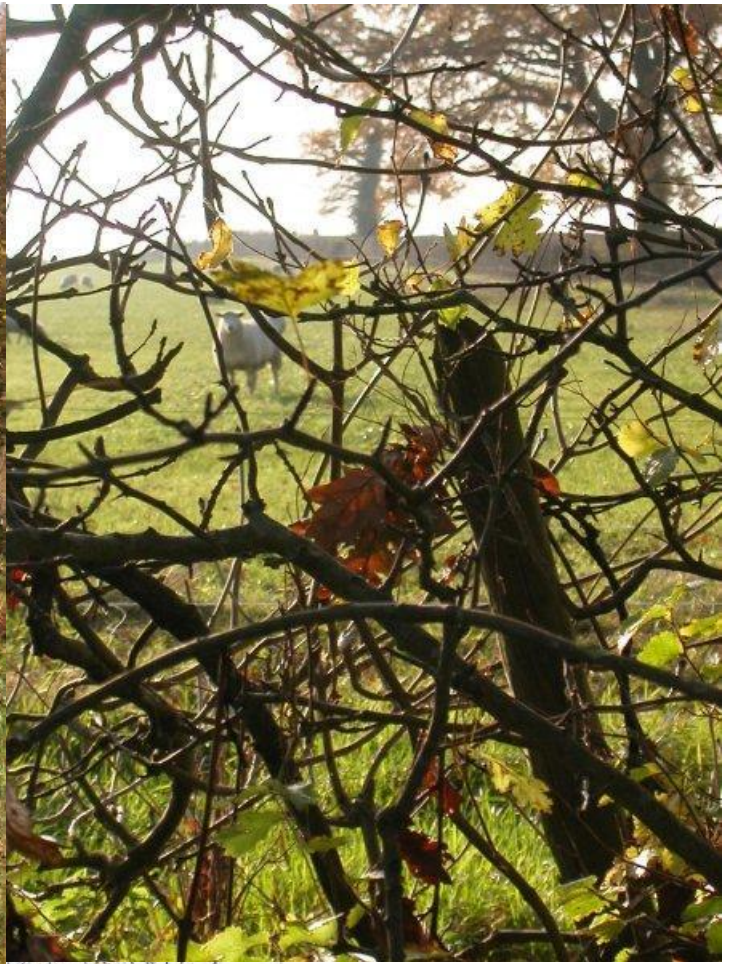
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation	
	Swindon Parish Council	
1.4	Ownership of site if known	
	<p>According to the Land Registry, the land belongs to the following four organisations:</p> <p>Home Farm Quat Goose Ln Swindon Village Cheltenham GL51 9RP</p> <p>Manor Farm Church Rd Swindon Village Cheltenham GL51 9RB</p> <p>Swindon Farm Manor Road Swindon Village Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51 9SQ</p> <p>Cheltenham Town FC Whaddon Road Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL52 5NA</p> <p>We have recently received information that Green Dean Furlong and Shepherd Close may have been sold to developers (Robert Hitchens and Bloor Homes), so further clarification of ownership will be necessary.</p>	
1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation?	
	Swindon Parish Council sent an earlier draft of this Green Space Application to the four owners mentioned above in writing. So far, we have only received one response – a letter from the owners of Home Farm indicating that they do not support the proposal.	
1.6	Photographs of site	
	<i>See overleaf</i>	



Top left: The Bank (Cheltenham FC football training ground). Top right: Green Dean Furlong.
Bottom left: Little Wheatlands and Parsons Close, with Home Farm in the background.
Bottom Right: Wheatlands Orchard and Home Farm



Top left: Shepherd Close, Top right: Peas Furlong.
Bottom left: Bushby Close, Bottom Right: Home Leaze



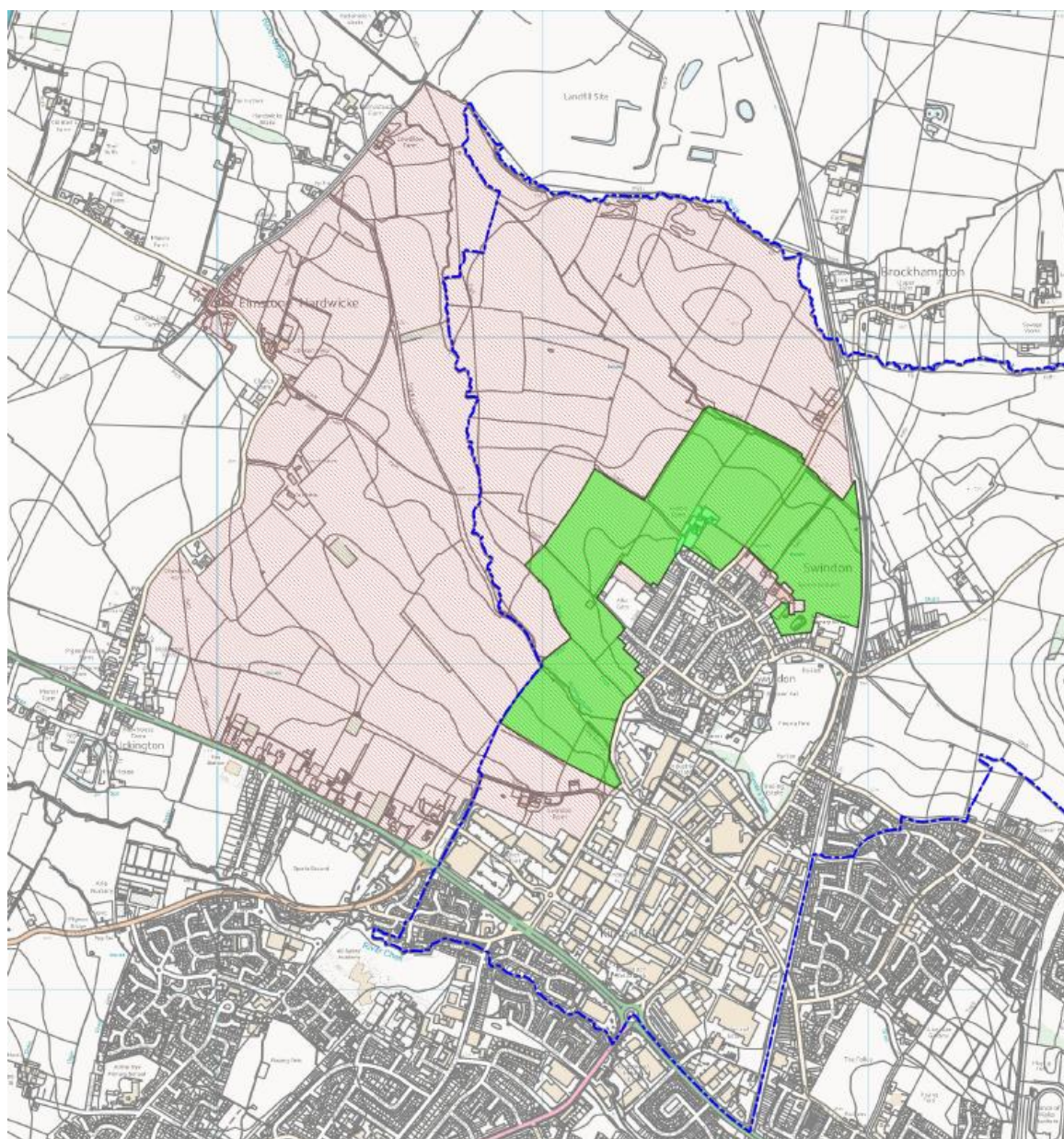
Top left: Upper Hill Meadow with Swindon Manor in the background. Top right: Furzen Hill.
Bottom left: Dog Bark Lane. Bottom Right: Hill Orchard, with woodland area at rear

1.7	Community served by the potential Local Green Space	
	<p>The proposed Green Space directly serves the population of the centre of Swindon Village, which is entirely surrounded by the green area. This central area of the village consists of approximately 364 households and 850 people. For these people the fields are outside or very close to their house and are a direct part of their daily experience. The area also indirectly serves those living within the larger Swindon Village ward (an additional 2177 households and 4850 residents). For these residents, the fields are within a distance of less than about 2 kilometres.</p> <p>Importantly, if the planned JCS housing goes ahead, the site will also serve the new community, which will be up to 4800 households. In that case the proposed Green Space will act as a key social space for integrating the communities in a beneficial way. Dog walkers, runners, mountain bikers, and nature enthusiasts from both sides could come across each other in the fields and could discuss their shared interests and passions. It would be possible for community groups such as the scouts and art club to draw people from both communities together into activities in the fields. In addition, the new community would have the opportunity to visit a historic village surrounded by green fields. On one hand, the Green Space will help preserve the existing sense of community in the village, but on the other offers valuable resources, both natural and social, for the new community.</p>	
2	Planning History	
2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If permitted, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	
	<p>There is no current planning application and the area is Green Belt land (as of 13/1/15). However, we are expecting an application from Bloor and Persimmon shortly and have seen the draft plans. Our proposed Green Space could easily be incorporated into Bloor and Persimmon's draft plan, since it already contains some green space within the proposed Green Space area, including new allotments, a playing field and a river area. Expanding this green space would have minimal impact on the total number of houses to be built and offers significant benefits (both social and natural) for the new community (as detailed in 1.7 above). If the few houses planned for the proposed Green Space area were moved to other parts of the extensive JCS housing area then there would be no impact on housing numbers at all.</p>	
2.2	Is the site allocated for development in the existing Development Plan, emerging Joint Core Strategy, Cheltenham Plan or a Neighbourhood Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	
	<p>The site is allocated for housing in the JCS, but since the area requested is a small fraction (approx. 14%) of the overall housing land, the developers could easily ensure that it remains green space within their planned housing development.</p>	
3	Size, scale and "local nature" of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site	
	47 hectares	

3.2 Is the site an “extensive tract of land”?




The definition of ‘extensive’ is context specific, and in this context the area is far from extensive. This is because an extremely large area of greenbelt, approximately 356 hectares, has been allocated in the JCS for around 4800 houses. Within these 356 hectares, the 47 hectares of proposed Green Space around the village is just 14% of the area. This can easily be accommodated within any proposed development while still leaving ample room for the new housing. Martin Horwood MP, who drafted the LGS legislation, is strongly in favour of the proposal. Cllr Chris Nelson (CBC) describes the application as ‘very modest and eminently sensible’; Cllr Flo Clucas (CBC) refers to the proposed Green Space as ‘a small area’ and ‘a small fraction of the land that is outlined for building in the JCS’; Cllr Roger Whyborn (CBC) confirms that the proposed Green Space ‘seems to fall within the meaning of the three relevant paragraphs 76 to 78 of the NPPF’ (see Appendix 2 for full responses). The diagram below shows the JCS allocation for housing land in red, and the proposed Green Space in green. Swindon Parish Council and many residents would like to protect the *entire* red area so this is a significant compromise, focusing only on the most valued and well-used green space.



Red - land allocated for housing in the JCS. **Green** – the proposed Green Space area

3.3	Is the proposed site “local in character”?	
	<p>This area is very local – in fact, it is contiguous with the central area of Swindon Village. The identity of the village as a village depends on being surrounded by these fields. The evidence we have of this is both geographic (the location of the site) and ethnographic. Swindon Parish Council conducted a survey and a series of individual discussions with residents in November and December 2014, which revealed the importance of these fields as essential to the character of the village (see <i>The Green Space Survey</i>, Appendix 1). In total 104 people filled in the survey, consisting primarily of residents of the historic area of Swindon Village, and also some who have an intimate connection with the village such as parents of children who go to school here. Of key concern for this question (<i>Is the proposed site “local in character”?</i>) is the following statement from the survey: “The green fields surrounding the historic Swindon Village are what make it a village, and are essential for its identity, the cohesiveness of the community, and a sense of belonging.” In total, 99 of 104 respondents indicated agreement with this statement (see Appendix 1). Specific comments from residents who filled out the form include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The green fields around the village are an essential part of life. • We feel the integrity of the village should be maintained. • The village must remain as a village. • To protect the unique, valued, village nature of the area. • This is an exceptionally good move and will enhance the chance to maintain the character of the village as a separate identity for all residents and future generations. • If the green space was filled in with houses we would no longer be a separate village community. Vitally important to all who live here. • The primary aim must be to hold onto all those aspects which make Swindon Village worthy of the name ‘village’ • These area are integral to maintaining the identity of the village • The shaded areas defined on the map [the proposed Green Space] will greatly help to preserve our village statues <p>It is not just the villagers who would benefit from the Green Space – it would also become ‘local’ to the new community in the proposed housing estate, giving them the chance to enjoy the natural areas and visit a historic village surrounded by green fields.</p>	✓
4	Need for Local Green Space	
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location?	
	<p>Yes, there is a clear need considering the historical nature and rural character of the village and the other available green spaces for local residents. Swindon Village is served by a playing field area to the south west which is valuable for sport and has a modest children’s playground. However it lacks the natural features, wildlife areas, biodiversity, and the feeling of being in open countryside that are provided by the proposed Green Space. There are fields to the north east, but access to these is limited by the need to cross the railway line. There are only four places to cross the line, two controlled by slow level crossings, one accessible only by an overgrown footpath and one requiring crossing at a busy road with limited visibility. The other currently accessible green areas to the north and west are all scheduled for housing in the JCS.</p>	
5	Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves”	

5.1	How far is the site from the community it serves?	
	<p>It is immediately contiguous to the community in the centre area of the village (with a population of 850). Many people have houses which back straight onto these fields and for everyone else they are a walk of less than 1 or 2 minutes. For those in the larger Swindon Village (4850 residents) the green space is less than 2 km. Please see the map above (at start of application) which shows how the proposed area envelopes the centre of Swindon Village.</p>	
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes?	
	<p>No. There are multiple entrance points to the footpaths that traverse the proposed Green Space area from all around the village (including at both ends of Quat Goose Lane, Brockhampton Lane, Stantons Drive, Hyde Lane and two entrances on Manor Road – one to Dog Bark Land and one to Upper Hill meadow). This is an important point because the more convenient the green space is, the more likely residents will use it and gain health and wellbeing benefits. The multiple entrances also make it an ideal area for residents from different parts of the village to meet in a natural setting away from traffic, helping to build social cohesion. If the new housing goes ahead, it will be possible to build more entrances to the footpaths on the other side of the green space. This will provide access for the new residents, creating a pleasant social space where the communities can interact.</p> <p>Access to Upper Hill Meadow, Bushby Close and Furzen Hill is via un-demarcated footpaths which run directly across the fields, giving a sense of space and a chance to observe the wildflowers that frequently grow in these fields. Dog Bark Lane is a wide bridleway with numerous trees and grass verges and offers access to views of Furzen Hill, Hill Orchard, and Upper Hill Meadow. Access to The Bank consists of a footpath that runs along the west side, with views over the Cotswolds hills, and a footpath along the north through a hedgerow, which gives a woodland feeling. Importantly, The Bank immediately adjoins Swindon Village Primary School, giving a countryside setting to the school and providing the children with a view across green space to the distant hills. Players (including children) and spectators (including parents) have access to the fields themselves. Access to Green Dean Furlong consists of views from footpaths on two sides and Brockhampton Lane to the West. There is no public access to the field itself, but the views across this land from the footpaths are important, and deer are commonly seen from the footpaths. Little Wheatlands and Wheatlands Orchid can be viewed from an attractive, wide footpath to the North and lanes to the side. Again there is no public access into the fields themselves, but the view is important since it includes the Home Farm buildings set amidst the fields. Shepherd Close is used for horses and has no public access, but is important because it provides attractive views of the countryside from within the village itself. Peas Furlong has the least access, though is visible from Bushby Close, and from the far corner of Quat Goose Lane.</p>	
6	Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community”	
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council	
	<p>This application is produced by Swindon Parish Council, which is unanimous in its support from all councillors. In addition the Parish Council has conducted the <i>Green Space Survey</i> which confirms strong support from all parishioners who responded (see Appendix 1). The topic of Green Space designation was first raised at the Parish Council meeting of 27th May (minute 14/63). It was discussed further on 10th June (minute 14/77), 8th July (minute 14/89), 12th August (minute 14/103), 14th October (minute 14/121), 11th November (minute 14/133) and 9th December (14/144). On all occasions it</p>	✓

	<p>was met with enthusiasm and full support (see Appendix 16 for full details of the minutes and confirmation of the support of the council). The final draft was approved for submission in the council meeting of 13 Jan.</p>	
6.2	<p>Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals.</p>	
	<p>The <i>Green Space Survey</i> conducted by Swindon Parish Council reveals significant support from local individuals. Of the 104 respondents, 96 agreed that the fields were valuable for their beauty; 102 agreed that they were valuable for horse riding, dog walking running and other leisure activities; 102 for preserving the identity of the village; 95 for avoiding light pollution; 101 for tranquillity; 101 for wildlife; 99 for children's interaction with nature; and 101 for historical reasons. There were 101 respondents who agreed with the summary statement 'In general, the fields surrounding the village make it a much more attractive place to live, work, play and visit'. There were also 38 relevant written comments received on the survey. These comments described the importance of the proposed green space area for mountain biking, exercise, fresh air, food provision, views, feelings of space, wildlife, the identity of the village, dog walking, nature walking, emotional wellbeing, relaxation, a sense of history, fruit picking, community spirit, horse riding, astronomy and tranquillity (see Appendix 1 for a summary of all comments and responses).</p> <p>Swindon Parish Council has received letters of support from the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Swindon Village Society (Appendix 6) b) Gloucestershire Hash House Harriers (Appendix 7) c) Swindon Village Art Club (Appendix 8) d) Bishops Cleeve District Rangers (Appendix 9) e) 1st Swindon Village Scout Group (Appendix 10) f) Terrapins After School Club (Appendix 11) g) Swindon Village Rainbows (Appendix 12) h) Save the Countryside (Appendix 16) <p>The letters of support give details of how the groups use, benefit from and enjoy the proposed Green Space area, including history walks (group a); biodiversity/wildlife observation (groups a,c,d,f); conservation activities (group a); running (group b); dog walking (groups b,c); fruit picking (groups b,c,d,e); sketching and painting (group c); nature walks (groups c,d,f); children's play (groups c); star gazing (groups c,d); orienteering (groups d,e); hiking (group e); surveys of hedgerows (group e); educational walks (group e); den building (group f); learning about wild plants and flowers (group f); and exploring the environment (group f).</p> <p>Rachel Smith, leader of the 1st Swindon Village Scout Group, states the following: Most of all we can enjoy being able to have the freedom to explore our natural world as it is meant to be, to see nature and to experience the great outdoors. To run, play and to use energy and our imaginations – something that is sadly lacking in today's society and that needs encouraging more than ever before. (Appendix 10).</p> <p>Swindon Parish Council invited parents and children at the local school to draw pictures and write comments to show the ways in which they value the proposed Green Space area. In total 81 individuals described a range of uses of the green space including mountain biking, nature walks, running, dog walking, sports, playing, football, doing cartwheels, mucking around, enjoying the fresh air, picking fruit, and watching wildlife and animals including butterflies, horses, and deer. The comments from children included 'I love the wildlife and I would be distraught if they go', 'We children need space to run and get exercise and wildlife need a place to live', 'We love walking and picking sloes', 'we love to play in the fields', 'I go walking with gran', 'I love going on nature walks with</p>	

	<p>my mummy in these fields’, ‘I love seeing horses’, ‘I’ve seen a deer!’, ‘I love mucking about’, ‘I love walking Sam – he has a swim in the stream’, ‘I love the fields’, ‘I love walking my grandad’s dog’ (see appendix 5 for all responses).</p> <p>Swindon Village Primary School is in the process of preparing a letter of support on behalf of both the Head Teacher and the governors. In sum, aside from a letter received from Home Farm objecting to the application, all respondents to the extensive consultation conducted by Swindon Parish Council were positive in their support.</p>	
6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders	
	<p>Martin Horwood, MP for Cheltenham, states: “I strongly support this Local Green Space application which I know will be of value to my constituents as well as to the immediate population of Swindon Village... I take a keen interest in this as I was responsible for drafting the original Liberal Democrat policy in opposition which became the LGS designation...I know from personal experience how special this area is to local people. I have enjoyed walking through these fields many times with my own family and seen many others do so...it is particularly striking to have seen it enjoyed by so many people of different ages from young people to much older residents.”</p> <p>Local MP Laurence Robertson states “I am fully supportive of the Green Space Application. This application, if granted, will preserve the rural nature of the Swindon Village Parish area, and will ensure that the feel of the village is maintained...Much of the pattern of the older part of the village was determined by the local agricultural sector and this application will protect and identify this for the future and as such will enhance the amenity for local residents in not just Swindon Village but Uckington and surrounding areas as well”.</p> <p>Local CBC councillor Dr Flo Clucas OBE states “The application is a tremendous piece of work...The land that is proposed as local green space...is essential to the wellbeing of the Village and its residents as it provides much needed, accessible recreation space that is safe and sustainable for those who live in the Village...The application has my full and wholehearted support”</p> <p>CBC councillor Chris Nelson states that “I fully support Swindon Parish Council's application for Local Green Space designation of the historic fields immediately surrounding Swindon Village. It is clear that these fields are very special and valuable to the local community. What is proposed appears very modest and eminently sensible, given the need to maintain the integrity of this 10th Century Village...I hope your well thought out proposal is accepted by the Council.”</p> <p>CBC councillor Roger Whyborn states that ‘I have enjoyed a number of country walks commencing from, or finishing at, points in Swindon Village, including the football training ground and the ends of Stantons Drive or Quat Goose Lane. These places feature on your map, as entry points to the area you propose. In principle I would be very supportive of green spaces in your area as you seem to have made the case that they fall within the meaning of the three relevant paragraphs 76 to 78 of the NPPF’.</p> <p>Local CBC and County councillor Bernard Fisher states that ‘As both County and Borough Councillor for Swindon Village I wholeheartedly support your application for Local Green Space around Swindon Village’</p> <p>CBC councillor Anne Regan states that ‘As a local Borough Councillor I understand and condone the effort you are making to protect the green fields surrounding Swindon Village...from where our town is situated in the midst of the Cotswolds it should be protected’</p>	✓

	Appendix 2 contains the full responses from these MPs and councillors.	
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups	
	CPRE have provided a letter of support which includes the statement “CPRE supports in principle the application being made by Swindon Village Parish Council for an area of the current Green Belt immediately to the North and to the West of the Village to be designated as area of Local Green Space... Much of the area proposed is already used for informal recreational purposes including horse riding, dog walking, running, walking, children’s play and other such activities that contribute to the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the villagers. The area to be designated will...help to protect the setting and amenities of this self-contained historic settlement” (see Appendix 12 for full letter)	✓
7	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>beauty</u>,”	
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	
	The site consists of undulating fields bordered by fine hedgerows, mature trees, numerous species of wild plants and flowers, a great variety of wildlife, and an area of woodland, with undisturbed views over the Malvern and Cotswolds hills. In the Green Space Survey, 96 of 104 indicated agreement with the statement “The green fields and hedgerows are beautiful, particularly against the backdrop of the Cotswold and Malvern hills.” Residents wrote the following additional comments “We agree about the views across the fields to the Malverns. It is also lovely when walking to look back and see Cleeve Hill and the Cotswolds”; “I moved to Swindon village so that my two year old son could grow up in a beautiful scenic village environment and community”; “The views from the conservation area are important for its character” The JCS Historic Environment Assessment confirms that “Swindon Village is a Conservation Area, with key views overlooking the allocation area.” [in this case the ‘allocation area’ refers to the proposed Green Space area, since this is the area that the conservation area looks onto].	✓
7.3	Site visibility	
	There are views of the site from a number of vantage points within the centre of the village, including Quat Goose Lane, Church Road, Stantons Drive, Rivelands Road, Manor Road, and Manor Court Road. The views of the proposed Green Space from Brockhampton Lane and Manor Road are particularly important since they are approach roads, giving the feeling of Swindon Village as a village. The area is overlooked directly by the historic Swindon Manor, and is visible from the windows of a large number of properties that border it. The network of footpaths that run through the site itself offer exceptional views of green trees, hedgerows and fields against the backdrop of distant hills (as described in 5.2).	
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations?	

	The site itself is currently Green Belt (as of 13 Jan 2015), and it surrounds the Swindon Village conservation area. Details of the conservation area are included in Appendix 3.	✓
7.5	Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents?	
	The green setting of Swindon Village is mentioned in Cheltenham Borough Council's <i>Swindon Village Conservation Area Character Appraisal</i> . The appraisal states "The green environment makes a hugely significant contribution to the quality of Swindon Village. The dominance of large tree groups and open spaces has to a large degree shaped the rural character and appearance of the area" and mentions the importance of "greenbelt land to the north and west which has sustained the village's physical, predominantly rural setting...". (see Appendix 3) This greenbelt land is the proposed Green Space area and the fields beyond it.	
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?	
	<p>Yes, the green fields provide a vital context for the Swindon Village conservation area, which includes the 10th century St Lawrence Church, the listed buildings of Swindon Manor and Swindon Hall, a historic farm (Manor Farm), the original school and post office buildings and the picturesque thatched cottage, Maude's Elm. The JCS Historic Environment Assessment (JCSHEA) states that conservation area has "a strong historical relationship with the allocation area which comprises open agricultural land historically utilised by the assets. Erosion of this setting could significantly affect the historic value of these assets." The same report indicates a risk that "The village of Swindon, a Conservation Area, will be almost fully encompassed by the development, divorcing it from its former agricultural setting. Furthermore key views out from the Conservation Area will be significantly impacted by the development". The assessment specifically mentions the risk "of affecting the setting of those designated heritage assets situated adjacent to the allocation area, comprising: Church of St Lawrence, Grade II* and associated Grade II monuments; Swindon Hall, Grade II; Swindon Manor, Grade II." The JCSHEA recommends that "Development should attempt to preserve, and where possible enhance, the character and setting of Swindon Conservation Area... Furthermore development should be designed with regard to preserving the separation and landscape character of...Swindon [Village]". The proposed Green Space would accomplish this preservation of the landscape character with minimal impact on the number of houses that can be built.</p> <p>CBC's <i>Swindon Village Conservation Area Character Appraisal</i> states the following: "Swindon Village conservation area is special because: a) The village has a long history dating back to the 10th Century. The Church of St. Lawrence contains a Norman tower, dating back to around 1100AD; b) The area has retained its unique character and appearance through the dominance of historically and architecturally important buildings and their historic settings; c) The area has a diverse mix of building types and styles including grand historic buildings dating from the 17th - 19th Centuries; d) Large areas of open space and mature tree growth contribute significantly to the overall appearance and character of the area. (see Appendix 3 for more extracts from the document). Point (d) has been highlighted here because of its importance for this application.</p> <p>In addition, and significantly, in an earlier planning enquiry an HM Planning Inspector ruled that the fields Home Lease and the Eastern end of Upper Hill Meadow (which are contiguous with the Swindon Village Conservation Area) should not be developed but provide an important buffer between the Industrial and the Residential development.</p>	✓

7.7	Is the site highlighted in literature or art?	
	Not specifically, however the Chair of the Swindon Village Society, Barry Simon, has written on the history of the village and given a number of public talks (see letter of support from Barry Simon in Appendix 6).	
8	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its <u>historic significance</u>”	
8.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
8.2	Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site?	
	<p>Yes. Within the proposed Green Space area are the attractive buildings of Home Farm, which was established in the mid 1800s and, according to the Swindon Village Society, represents a classic farm establishment of that period with a particularly fine timber framed barn. The Green Space designation will ensure that Home Farm remains in its historic context surrounded by green fields.</p> <p>While Home Farm is the only historic building that is actually within the site, the proposed Green Space area provides an essential rural context for the historic buildings of the Swindon Village Conservation Area (as discussed in 7.6 above).</p>	✓
8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site?	
	<p>The proposed Green Space area has a long history of settlement and agricultural use, with traces of past land use evident in ridge and furrow formations. The JCS Historic Environment Assessment notes (JCSHEA) that “The Current settlement within the allocation area [i.e., the NW JCS site, including the proposed Green Space] had been established by the post-medieval period, and there is a therefore a high potential for remains relating to settlement and agricultural activities, especially in proximity to the current villages.” The Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments at English Heritage has confirmed that the fields Green Dean Furlong and The Bank include remnants of ridge and furrow earthworks (Appendix 14). The Gloucestershire Historical Environment Record (GHER) shows that there are earthworks (of various kinds) on all of the fields in the application (Appendix 15). The JCSHEA notes the “high potential for encountering remains of agricultural activity in the form of ditches, pits and the ploughed out remains of ridge and furrow. Areas of extant ridge and furrow are also still evident”. The GHER states the following about land directly within the proposed Green Space area (Furzen Hill and Hill Orchard): HER 44923 description: Settlement remains, comprising a small number of rectilinear/sub-circular enclosures recorded in the southeast part of the 2009 geophysical survey of land northwest of Cheltenham. It is likely that this activity extended northwards onto land currently/previously occupied by The River Swilgate. The survey recorded sinuous palaeochannels along the majority of the northern bank of the river and it is possible that archaeological remains survive undetected beneath substantial depths of alluvium. (Appendix 15).</p> <p>While the historical features of the landscape may not be immediately obvious to those walking through it, the area clearly does have an ancient history of settlement and agricultural use. There is potential for further, more detailed geophysical and</p>	✓

	archaeological exploration, e.g., in the alluvium of the River Swilgate and of the ridge and furrow patterns in Green Dean Furlong and surrounding fields.	
8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town?	
	Yes – Swindon Village developed as a rural/agricultural village with Manor Farm in the centre and Home Farm and Swindon Farm at the edge. The name of the village itself, 'Swindon' is agricultural, meaning 'pigs hill'. The fields in the proposed Green Space area (aside from The Bank) belong to these farms; they made Swindon Village the rural settlement that it was, and are vital to the continuing existence of the village as a village. MP Lawrence Robertson states "Much of the pattern of the older part of the village was determined by the local agricultural sector and this application will protect and identify this for the future and as such will enhance the amenity for local residents in not just Swindon Village but Uckington and surrounding areas as well"	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
	Not that we know of, but there is one event that is of importance to some local people. Dog Bark Lane, which runs directly through the proposed Green Space, was the old road from Cheltenham to Tewkesbury. As such it was the route used by the Yorkist Army on their way from Sodbury to Tewkesbury on the day before the Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471. King Edward IV was at their head (information from Barry Simon, Swindon Village Society). One resident from Brockhampton Lane wrote the following in the Green Space Survey: "Dog Bark Lane was the main road from Cheltenham to Tewkesbury in the 15 th Century and was used by the Yorkist army led by Edward of York and his brother Richard of Gloucester on their march to the decisive battle of Tewkesbury (1471) when Edward defeated the Lancastrian Army of Margaret of Anjou and became Edward IV. Therefore it is of inestimable historic importance."	✓
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? Not that we know of.	
9	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for example because of its recreational value (including as a playing field)"	
9.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
9.2	Is the site used for playing sport?	
	The field named The Bank is Cheltenham Town FC's training ground, and is used not just for professional training but also for children's football matches.	
9.3	Are the public able to physically access the site?	
	There is public access to the footpaths that traverse the site, with entrances from Quat Goose Lane, Manor Road, Stantons Drive, Hyde Lane and Brockhampton Lane. There is a network of bridleways, footpaths and country lanes across the area, with the main ones marked on the maps overleaf. In addition to the official rights of way there is unhindered physical access across some of the meadows and fields, with well-used informal paths evident (see photos on cover). The Cheltenham Circular path runs straight through the area, and the bridleway Dog Bark Lane is heavily used by walkers and horse riders to reach Elmstone Hardwick. The footpath that runs between Green Dean Furlong and The Bank is popular with children on their way home from school, offers stunning views of the Cotswold Hills, and is the first part of a route to Brockhampton. The footpath behind The Bank (not marked on the map) runs through a mature hedgerow and is the first part of a highly attractive route to Prestbury. (see 5.2 for details of access to specific fields)	✓

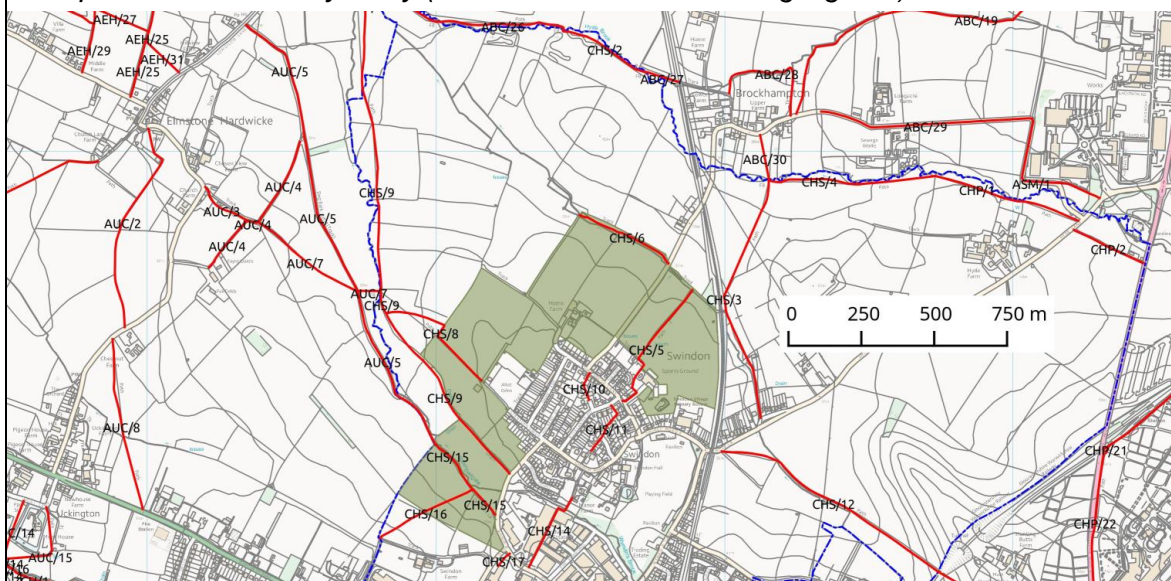
Footpaths, bridleways, country lanes, and tracks in the proposed Green Space area and its surroundings:



Cheltenham Circular Footpath:



Footpaths and bridleways only (lanes and tracks are not highlighted):



9.4	Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when?	
	<p>Yes. The site is used extensively for a great variety of forms of informal recreation which enhance health and wellbeing. Evidence of this was provided firstly by children and parents at Swindon Village Primary School who identified the following uses: <i>mountain biking, nature walks, running, dog walking, sports, playing, football, doing cartwheels, mucking around, enjoying the fresh air, picking fruit, and watching wildlife and animals including butterflies, horses, and deer</i> (see section 6.2 and Appendix 5 for full details).</p> <p>Secondly, Swindon Parish Council has received letters of support from seven local groups which described using the proposed Green Space for <i>history walks, biodiversity/wildlife observation, conservation activities, running, dog walking, fruit picking, sketching and painting, nature walks, children's play, star gazing, orienteering, hiking, surveys of hedgerows, educational walks, den building, learning about wild plants and flowers and exploring the environment</i> (see section 6.2 for more details).</p> <p>Thirdly, in the Green Space Survey, 90 of 104 respondents indicated agreement with the statement “<i>The fields are important for horse riding, dog walking, running, walking, children's play and other leisure activities that contribute to the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the villagers</i>”. Comments on the forms described how the proposed Green Space is used for <i>exercise, fresh air, food provision, views, feelings of space, dog walking, nature walking, relaxation, mountain biking, fruit picking, horse riding and astronomy</i> (see Appendix 1 for full details).</p> <p>Fourthly, the popular Cheltenham Circular Route runs directly through the proposed Green Space, with walkers and runners enjoying a stretch of open countryside through Bushby Close, followed by an attractive footpath between The Bank and Green Dean Furlong with views of the hills, then through along a mature hedgerow on the North side of The Bank (see 9.3 for map). In 2012, runners on the Cheltenham Circular Challenge signed five large canvases to express support for keeping the area green for the future. In total 628 runners signed the canvases.</p>	✓
10	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>tranquillity</u>”	
10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ? YES	
	YES.	
10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil?	
	<p>YES – the green fields are a haven of tranquillity because they are undisturbed by the noise of major roads, there is very little aircraft noise, and it is possible to hear the sound of the wind in the trees, birdsong all year round, and crickets in the summer. In the <i>Green Space Survey</i>, 101 of 104 respondents indicated agreement with the statement ‘<i>The fields provide an important space for tranquillity, both for those walking within them and all the bordering houses</i>’. One respondent writes “<i>I feel it is underestimated how important green spaces are to the mental wellbeing of people. Keep the green spaces so at least some small area of tranquillity can be appreciated and welcomed on both a physical and mental basis.</i>”</p>	✓

	The tranquillity of the proposed Green Space area is important not only for those enjoying the area itself, but also for the tranquil feeling of the village as a whole. CBC's <i>Swindon Village Conservation Area Character Appraisal</i> specifically refers to this tranquillity: "The heart of the village has managed to retain its unique qualities with a distinctive mix of historically important buildings predominantly from the 18th-19th Centuries... These are set within a quiet and tranquil 'village' atmosphere... In present day, the Swindon Village conservation area has remained relatively well preserved with a moderate amount of recent development. This preservation has enabled the village to retain its special qualities, characteristics and tranquil village atmosphere." (see Appendix 3).	
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area?	
	There are no formal recognition documents, but, as mentioned in 10.2, tranquillity is described as a key feature of the village in CBC's <i>Swindon Village Conservation Area Character Appraisal</i> (Appendix 3).	
11	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for example because of the richness of its wildlife";	
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES In the Green Space Survey, 101 of 104 respondents indicated agreement with the statement "The fields with their hedgerows and streams provide a haven for a great variety of insects, bird species, as well as mammals such as roe deer, giving an important chance for villagers to interact with natural wildlife." Comments included 'There are at least four identifiable ponds/wet areas within the scope of the green zone, all of which are natural habitats worthy of protection in their own right'; 'Some of the hayfields have not been ploughed or re-sown in many years leading to an exceptionally rich biodiversity. Many of the hedges are also very ancient as can be detected from the rich variety of plants they contain. I have counted 10 varieties of flowering plants. In autumn the hedges are hosts to migrating flocks of redwing, and the hedges are rich with wild plum and sloe.'; and 'It's a joy to see deer roaming these fields, watch foxes, pheasants, green and spotted woodpeckers, jays and a host of other species of birds. Once the green fields/hedgerows are gone these too will be lost forever'. At the school event, children drew pictures of butterflies, trees, birds, deer, and rabbits that they'd seen in the proposed Green Space area. Comments from children and parents included: "I love the wildlife and I would be distraught if they go", "wildlife need a place to live", "Nature is important to our children and wildlife", "Walking and wildlife and wonder", "I really appreciate the butterflies in Dog Bark Lane", "That's where wildlife live and wildlife is important.", and "I love watching the magnificent deer".	✓
11.2	Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value?	
	Not currently.	
11.3	Are any important habitats or species found on the site?	
	YES. The JCS Historic Environment Assessment describes the importance of the hedgerows in the area: "The existing boundary scheme is illustrated on ... the 1841 Swindon Tithe map. Although there has been some loss and alterations to boundaries, a significant proportion are likely to be considered 'important' under the Hedgerow	✓

	<p>Regulations. Within the proposed Green Space area there are potentially important hedgerows that run along the backs of The Bank, Green Dean Furlong and Little Wheatlands, and both sides of Upper Hill Meadow and Bushby Close. The hedgerows contain a large number of mature trees, and a great variety of plant species which provide important habitats for wildlife. The hedgerow that runs along the north of The Bank is particularly important because of an attractive footpath that runs within it, allowing local people to interact with plants and wildlife. The field Green Dean Furlong is a rich habitat, favoured by deer and a great variety of birdlife because it is left unploughed.</p>																																																															
11.4	<p>What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site?</p>																																																															
	<p>Swindon Village Society has been monitoring bird species and to date have sighted the following birds in the vicinity (information supplied by Barry Simon, President of SVS).</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>House Sparrow</td> <td>Great Tit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jay</td> <td>Buzzard</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rook</td> <td>Crow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blackbird</td> <td>Wood Pigeon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Collard Dove</td> <td>Blue Tit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Missel Thrush</td> <td>Robin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wren</td> <td>Magpie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green Woodpecker</td> <td>Common Gull</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kestrel</td> <td>Dunnock</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mallard</td> <td>Chiff Chaff</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Goldfinch</td> <td>Greenfinch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stock Dove</td> <td>Collared Dove</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Goldcrest</td> <td>Long Tailed Tit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Magpie</td> <td>Starling</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lesser Blackbacked Gull</td> <td>Herring Gull</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kingfisher</td> <td>Sparrowhawk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Willow Warbler</td> <td>Pheasant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skylark</td> <td>Meadow Pipet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chaffinch</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Plants include:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Arun Lilies</td> <td>White Dead Nettle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Red Dead Nettle</td> <td>Celandine</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Comfrey</td> <td>Cow Parsley</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Goose Grass</td> <td>Groundsel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dock</td> <td>Elephants Ear</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vetch</td> <td>Crack Willow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Germander Speedwell</td> <td>Shepherds Purse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ground Ivy</td> <td>Ground Elder</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whitlow Grass</td> <td>Hedge Garlic</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coltsfoot</td> <td>Broadleaf Plantain</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Violet</td> <td>Blue Aconite</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ribwart Plantain</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>In addition, the surveys conducted by Swindon Parish Council indicate that residents enjoy seeing butterflies, deer, rabbits, badgers, and foxes. One respondent to the Green Space Survey wrote 'We often see the deer in various fields including those highlighted. Also badgers have resettled in the sett that was destroyed in Dog Bark Lane. Also foxes, buzzards and herons.'</p>	House Sparrow	Great Tit	Jay	Buzzard	Rook	Crow	Blackbird	Wood Pigeon	Collard Dove	Blue Tit	Missel Thrush	Robin	Wren	Magpie	Green Woodpecker	Common Gull	Kestrel	Dunnock	Mallard	Chiff Chaff	Goldfinch	Greenfinch	Stock Dove	Collared Dove	Goldcrest	Long Tailed Tit	Magpie	Starling	Lesser Blackbacked Gull	Herring Gull	Kingfisher	Sparrowhawk	Willow Warbler	Pheasant	Skylark	Meadow Pipet	Chaffinch		Arun Lilies	White Dead Nettle	Red Dead Nettle	Celandine	Comfrey	Cow Parsley	Goose Grass	Groundsel	Dock	Elephants Ear	Vetch	Crack Willow	Germander Speedwell	Shepherds Purse	Ground Ivy	Ground Elder	Whitlow Grass	Hedge Garlic	Coltsfoot	Broadleaf Plantain	Violet	Blue Aconite	Ribwart Plantain		✓
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11.5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community?	
	Yes, the Swindon Village Society has been studying birds in the area over the last 10 years (see Appendix 6 and 11.4 above).	✓
12	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for <u>any other reason</u>”;	
12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	YES	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swindon Village has a no streetlight policy, and the green fields help keep the sky dark for sound sleeping and views of the stars, and benefit wildlife. In the Green Space Survey, 95 of 104 respondents indicated agreement with this statement. • The green fields surround a major primary school, giving children the chance to grow up interacting directly with nature and learning about the natural world. In the Green Space Survey, 99 of 104 respondents indicated agreement with this statement. • In general, the fields surrounding the village make it a much more attractive place to live, work, play and visit. In the Green Space Survey, 101 of 104 respondents indicated agreement with this statement. 	✓

Appendix 1: The Green Space Survey

The Green Space Survey was designed by Swindon Parish Council in order to test whether potential statements that could be made on the CBC toolkit about the proposed Green Space have the backing of the community. The survey consists of nine statements with boxes for respondents to tick if they agree with them, and an area for free written comments to provide extra evidence. The statements were based on the information required by the CBC toolkit, adjusted to the specific context of the village. The survey was distributed door-to-door in the centre of the village, sent via email to members of local groups and handed out during an event at the local school. The number of respondents was 104, representing primarily local people from the heart of the village, as well as others who have an intimate connection with the village such as parents of children who go to school here. The survey is not a representative sample of population of Swindon Village since return of the forms was voluntary. The respondents are therefore likely to be those with strong opinions about the application, either for or against it, although in this case all 104 supported the application. Separately, all known local community groups were contacted and asked to describe how they use the fields. The responses from the survey and the relevant free comments are detailed overleaf, and responses from the local groups are given in full in the appendices below.

Swindon Village Parish Council

Local Green Space Designation

Important survey – your help needed!



Cheltenham Borough Council has asked communities to identify green spaces of particular value to protect for the future. Swindon Village Parish Council has chosen a band of green space around the village that we think is very important for everyone who lives here (see map overleaf). To be granted Local Green Space protection for this area we need to gather evidence that the community really does value this green space.

Please look at the green space marked on the map, which currently consists of fields, hedgerows, footpaths and playing fields. Is this space valuable because (tick those that apply):

number of
respondents
who ticked
the box

	✓
The green fields and hedgerows are beautiful, particularly against the backdrop of the Cotswold and Malvern hills.	96
The fields are important for horse riding, dog walking, running, walking, children's play and other leisure activities that contribute to the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the villagers.	102
The green fields surrounding the historic Swindon Village are what make it a village, and are essential for its identity and the cohesiveness of the community and a sense of belonging.	102
Swindon Village has a no streetlight policy, and the green fields help keep the sky dark for sound sleeping, views of the stars, and the benefit of wildlife.	95
The fields provide an important space for tranquillity, both for those walking within them and all the bordering houses.	101
The fields with their hedgerows and streams provide a haven for a great variety of insects, bird species, as well as mammals such as roe deer, giving an important chance for villagers to interact with natural wildlife.	101
The green fields surround a major primary school, giving children the chance to grow up interacting directly with nature and learning about the natural world.	99
The village is historic, having a Norman Church and an extensive conservation area, with ridge and furrow fields showing that the area has been farmed since the middle ages. The green fields are essential to maintaining the historic character of the village.	101
In general, the fields surrounding the village make it a much more attractive place to live, work, play and visit.	101
Total number of responses received (counting those signed by two residents twice)	104

The street that you live on:

Your name (if you want to add it):

Please write additional comments overleaf:

Your comments on why the green fields around the village (identified on the map below) are valuable, or on what other green areas in the Parish should be protected:

The following comments were written by residents in the box above. Only comments that were relevant have been included, i.e., ones which directly comment on why the fields are valuable. A number of respondents indicated that the proposed area is too small and that other areas should also be included, and other respondents described how the historic village would be negatively impacted if it was engulfed in a large housing estate. These comments are not included here but will inform other action by the Parish Council separate from this application.

- For wildlife, feelings of space and exercise.
- We need space and freedom for our children to appreciate and learn about the countryside. Fresh air is also important.
- This is valuable agricultural land and can never be replaced. It should remain so as to provide food for our future generations
- Our wildlife is important. If we keep destroying our green spaces nature will suffer in the long term and so will humans.
- We bought our homes for the very reason they backed onto fields.
- There are at least four identifiable ponds/wet areas within the scope of this green zone, all of which are natural habitats worthy of protection in their own right.
- The views from the conservation area are important to its character.
- We feel the integrity of the village should be maintained. Further development would mean the village would lose its identity. It is therefore imperative to have Local Green Space Designation.
- The village must remain as a village. A green space around the village as indicated is an excellent idea and we welcome the Parish Council's suggestion. Well done!
- To protect the unique, valued, village nature of the area. To reduce light pollution in Swindon Village. To prevent birds, foxes, deer and so much more being driven away.
- Our village is a distinctive areas, feeling separate to the main town. It feels rural and isolated and has a real sense of community which risks being lost if additional unnecessary building takes place.
- The green fields should be protected for all the reasons stated overleaf plus for the residents to be able to walk their dogs safely near to their homes.
- This is an exceptionally good move and will enhance the chance to maintain the character of the village as a separate identity for all residents and future generations.

- This [the reasons on the form] is an excellent summary of the case for preserving the Green Belt or at least part of it around the village.
- Some of the hayfields have not been ploughed or re-sown in many years leading to an exceptionally rich biodiversity. Many of the hedges are also very ancient as can be detected from the rich variety of plants they contain. I have counted 10 varieties of flowering plants in [the hay fields]. In autumn the hedges are hosts to migrating flocks of redwing, and the hedges are rich with wild plum and sloe. You only have to look at the complex network of well worn paths to see evidence of how widely and how often people from the village come through these fields. Finally, these diverse green spaces are needed to keep up with the government's recognition that we have to protect pollination.
- If the green space was filled in with houses we would no longer be a separate village community. Vitally important to all who live here. If the Green Space was allowed it would make the provision of new homes more acceptable.
- It is imperative that we keep this historic village as it is, for residents and other to enjoy, for all the reasons stated. Please preserve this piece of history.
- The green fields around the village are an essential part of life. Sometimes we take nature's beauty for granted but once lost, it will be forever! We all need the space for our emotional wellbeing, whether young or old.
- It's nice to be able to take a walk outside your front door without having to use a car.
- The greenbelt affects the balance of all our lives and all other creatures living in it.
- The primary aim must be to hold onto all those aspects which make Swindon Village worthy of the name 'village'.
- We used the footpaths daily when we had a dog and I still use them now for relaxation. Our son, who was brought up in the village and now lives in London regularly walks them whenever he comes home. Dog Bark Lane was the main road from Cheltenham to Tewkesbury in the 15th Century and was used by the Yorkist army led by Edward of York and his brother Richard of Gloucester on their march to the decisive battle of Tewkesbury (1471) when Edward defeated the Lancastrian Army of Margaret of Anjou and became Edward IV. Therefore it is of inestimable historic importance.
- Swindon Village is scheduled to bear the brunt of the building strategy between it and Elmstone Hardwick...Is it too much to ask that we be left some space to walk our dogs?
- These areas are integral to maintaining the identity of the village and should be protected so that all future generations can enjoy the spaces and have the opportunity to experience the village life set amongst these open spaces.
- We have lived in the village for 10 years and use the fields regularly three to four times a week for dog walking with the family and neighbours. The children have gone on adventures without adults for picnics and rambling in the summer. Blackberry picking – we enjoy Swindon Village apple and blackberry crumble year round having frozen our local blackberries. Sloes too! The beavers and cubs walk through the village and fields for various activities. The fields/pathways are used and enjoyed by many. We often see the deer in various fields including those highlighted. Also badgers have resettled in the sett that was destroyed in Dog Bark Lane. Also foxes, buzzards and herons.
- Maintaining adequate air quality due to inevitable pollution and to preserve the village status.
- The green fields are historic and unique to our area. We have an ancient Norman Church with a village community that should not be swallowed up into a monstrous housing project which will destroy the wildlife and wonderful views we have – for ever. Greed

should not destroy our countryside, our future and our grandchildren's enjoyment of wonderful green spaces.

- I moved to Swindon village so that my two year old son could grow up in a beautiful scenic village environment and community. We frequently go on local walks and see all sorts of wildlife in our own garden and surrounding fields. This land must be protected to keep the charm of the village and more importantly keep it a village.
- We agree about the views across the fields to the Malverns. It is also lovely when walking to look back and see Cleeve Hill and the Cotswolds.
- All green fields should be protected for wildlife and trees which in turn help us humans to live.
- Swindon Village is an historic discrete settlement with its church and hall. Protecting the fields which are shown below would be the minimum we would consider necessary to respect the singular qualities of Swindon Village.
- Without the green space – i.e., if built on – the congestion arising would make living in what is now a quiet, friendly village more like living in a town – impersonal and lacking community spirit.
- The fields 'Home Lease' and eastern end of 'Upper Hill Meadow' should also be protected so that it will be an open buffer zone to separate it from the industrial units which are noise producers. The buffer zone would be in accord with an earlier report by an HM planning inspector.
- Cheltenham and its environs is presently regarded as a very desirable historic town, but I worry this image will be destroyed if all the green spaces existing now are developed into an endless housing estate. Swindon village is very much a part of this heritage, and I think the shaded areas defined on the map will greatly help to preserve our village status, benefit the overall area and consider it would be a small concession on behalf of CBC to retain it...for us and future generations to enjoy.
- These area of fields, hedges and woodlands are essential, providing clean air and recreational facilities for every age group. Future generations will benefit from our efforts now. It's a joy to see deer roaming these fields, watch foxes, pheasants, green and spotted woodpeckers, jays and a host of other species of birds. Once the green fields/hedgerows are gone these too will be lost forever.
- The area in question is a natural habitat for wildlife and a haven for those who enjoy horse riding, dog walking etc.
- [I am] a user of the green space, nature watching, walking, astronomy, mountain biking...
- I feel it is underestimated how important green spaces are to the mental wellbeing of people. Keep the green spaces so at least some small area of tranquillity can be appreciated and welcomed on both a physical and mental basis.

Appendix 2: Letters and emails of support from MPs, CBC and County councillors.

From: Martin Horwood MP Private <martin.horwood.2nd@parliament.uk> Sent: Wed 07/01/2015 1
To: STIBBE, Arran (Dr)
Cc: FIDGEON, David; cllr.flo.clucas@cheltenham.gov.uk; TOD, Fiona
Subject: FW: Swindon Village Green Space Designation

I strongly support this Local Green Space application which I know will be of value to my constituents as well as to the immediate population of Swindon Village.

I strongly support retention of local Green Belt protection against urban sprawl but local green spaces are important even where Green Belt criteria are considered to be less strongly met.

I take a keen interest in this as I was responsible for drafting the original Liberal Democrat policy in opposition which became the LGS designation when the coalition implemented the National Planning Policy Framework. There were effective protections in place for green spaces that were important for their scientific value or their landscape quality but nothing for local communities, particularly in urban areas, that simply wanted to protect green spaces for their intrinsic value to local people. Local green space is good for people's mental and physical health and is vital for free recreation, which is also known to reduce health inequalities; it absorbs pollution, both carbon emissions which contribute to global warming and dangerous particulate pollution which contribute to heart disease, respiratory and other problems; it can teach us, and particularly our children, about nature, wildlife and our local natural heritage; it can provide accessible and tranquil spaces for simple enjoyment; and it can provide local food production.

I know from personal experience how special this area is to local people. I have enjoyed walking through these fields many times with my own family and seen many others do so. Being a relatively level landscape it is particularly accessible from the immediate urban area and it is particularly striking to have seen it enjoyed by so many people of different ages from young people to much older residents.

I am happy to lend my support to this application.

Martin Horwood MP

Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Cheltenham



STRONGER ECONOMY. FAIRER SOCIETY.



COUNCILLOR ROGER WHYBORN

5th December 2014:

Dr Arran Stibbe
Councillor, Swindon Village Parish Council
White Rose, Swindon Village
Cheltenham, GL51 9RL

Dear Dr Stibbe

LOCAL GREEN SPACES WITHIN SWINDON VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL BOUNDARIES

I write as Borough Councillor for Up Hatherley, where I also serve on their Parish Council. For your information, Up Hatherley Parish Council is also studying the Local Green Space toolkit, and it may be that we shall make a proposal of our own, if the Parish Council deems it appropriate.

I am not sufficiently familiar with the geography of Swindon Village to give specific endorsements to any particular areas within your parish, but I will say that I have enjoyed a number of country walks commencing from, or finishing at, points in Swindon Village, including the football training club, and the ends of Stantons Drive or Quat Goose Lane. These places feature on your map, as entry points to the area you propose. In principal I would be very supportive of the protection of green spaces in your area, as you seem to have made the case that they fall within the meaning of the three relevant paragraphs 76 to 78 of the NPPF.

My assumption is that you are looking at areas which are expected to come out of green belt under the JCS. I would have hoped that under a well ordered planning regime, that even after major development, it would be possible to walk out through green 'corridors' from your village to the countryside, but I recognise you are limited by borough boundaries as to what can be achieved.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr. Roger Whyborn - Up Hatherley

From: Flo.Clucas@cheltenham.gov.uk Sent: Thu 04/12/2014 2
To: STIBBE, Arran (Dr)
Cc: parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk
Subject: Re: Swindon Parish Council Local Green Space Application

Dear Cllr Stibbe,

The application is a tremendous piece of work and sets down what local constituents say to me about the value to them, of the land that is proposed as local green space.

I am very happy to endorse the application as it protects a small fraction of the land that is outlined for building in the JCS. It is essential to the well being of the Village and its residents as it provides much needed, accessible recreation space that is safe and sustainable for those who live in the Village, especially the children. It gives an opportunity for local residents to interact with nature, to ensure historic elements are not lost and to be able to relate historic acts and events to today's modern world. For such a small area to be able to do such a lot is amazing.

The application has my full and wholehearted support and I look forward to a successful application.

Best wishes,

Cllr Dr Flo Clucas OBE LLD (hc) Cav

From: Bernard.Fisher@cheltenham.gov.uk Sent: Thu 04/12/2014 :
To: STIBBE, Arran (Dr)
Cc:
Subject: Re: Swindon Parish Council Local Green Space Application

Dear Arran,

As both County and Borough Councillor for Swindon Village, I wholeheartedly support your application for Local Green Space around Swindon Village to soften the blow of the JCS should it come to fruition.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Bernard Fisher

From: Anne.Regan@cheltenham.gov.uk Sent: Fri 05/12/2014
To: STIBBE, Arran (Dr)
Cc:
Subject: Re: Swindon Parish Council Local Green Space Application

As a local Borough Councillor I understand and condone the effort you are making to protect the green fields surrounding Swindon Village.

We are fighting to protect our local green space area here in Leckhampton and it should be acknowledged that where our town is situated in the midst of the Cotswolds it should be protected from over development.

Cllr Anne Regan

Warden Hill Ward

Cheltenham Borough Council

From: Chris.Nelson@cheltenham.gov.uk
To: STIBBE, Arran (Dr)
Cc:
Subject: Re: Swindon Parish Council Local Green Space Application

Sent: Sun 07/12/2014 11:00

Dear Dr Stibbe

I fully support Swindon Parish Council's application for Local Green Space designation of the historic fields immediately surrounding Swindon Village. It is clear that these fields are very special and valuable to the local community.

What is proposed appears very modest and eminently sensible, given the need to maintain the integrity of this 10th Century Village from the huge JCS site of Elms Park and it's 5000+ houses. I have always been of the opinion that Elms Park needs to be moved closer to the M5, so that more green space can be retained between the existing population in the area of the Village and the enormous new JCS development.

I hope your well thought out proposal is accepted by the Council.

Best regards

Cllr Chris Nelson

From: CALWAY, Mark <CALWAYM@parliament.uk>
Date: 15 December 2014 at 17:05
Subject: FW: Local Green Space Application - Swindon Parish Council
To: "parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk"
<parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk>

"I am fully supportive of the Green Space Application. This application, if granted, will preserve the rural nature of the Swindon Village Parish area, and will ensure that the feel of the village is maintained. In addition, it will help preserve the very valuable Green Belt, that is so essential in this area to prevent any more urban sprawl, which has blighted much of the area since the late 1980s. Much of the pattern of the older part of the village was determined by the local agricultural sector and this application will protect and identify this for the future and as such will enhance the amenity for local residents in not just Swindon Village but Uckington and surrounding areas as well".

Laurence Robertson MP.

Kind Regards
Mark Calway
Assistant to Laurence Robertson MP
22 High Street
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire
GL20 5AI
Tel 01684 291640

Appendix 3: Swindon Village Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan

by Cheltenham Borough Council, February 2007

[extracts, with key phrases in red]

Summary of special interest 1.9 Swindon Village conservation area is special because: a) The village has a long history dating back to the 10th Century. The Church of St. Lawrence contains a Norman tower, dating back to around 1100AD; b) The area has retained its unique character and appearance through the dominance of historically and architecturally important buildings and their historic settings; c) The area has a diverse mix of building types and styles including grand historic buildings dating from the 17th - 19th Centuries; d) **Large areas of open space and mature tree growth contribute significantly to the overall appearance and character of the area.**

Location and context

2.1 Swindon Village is located to the north west of Cheltenham, approximately 2 miles from the town centre and 9 miles from the historic town of Tewkesbury. **The village is set within a low-lying landscape which is predominantly agricultural land. Parts of this land are gradually being encroached upon by the growth of housing and retail industries.**

General character and plan form

2.2 Swindon Village conservation area captures the historic heart of rural Swindon Village. It contains historic houses, an historic farm and also important resources such as the old school and large recreational field.

2.3 Historic houses are loosely clustered around the Church of St. Lawrence within large plots surrounded by mature trees in spacious grounds. Housing of the 1960s and onwards has been more densely developed on smaller compact plots, within land to the north and west of the conservation area.

Wider landscape setting

2.4 Swindon Village's physical character has, to a large extent, been determined by the presence of the built environment, for example the raised railway to the east, which has created a physical barrier to development. There is an industrial park to the south of the parish between Tewkesbury Road and the southern boundary of the conservation area, and **greenbelt land to the north and west which has sustained the village's physical, predominantly rural setting.**

2.5 **The physical character is also determined by open spaces and gaps between the buildings which provide constant views of Cleeve Hill to the east, Bredon Hill to the north and agricultural land to the west.** Views of mature tree groups growing adjacent Wyman's Brook, for example, are evident from the Kingsditch Industrial Estate, and are important in establishing a sense of atmosphere and character.

The character and interrelationship of spaces within the area and key views/vistas

4.6 **Distance views of hills – and occasionally the lack of any such views – have a significant impact on the character of the conservation area and are all the more important because these views regularly change. At various points in the north of the conservation area, views are stopped at a considerable distance by the Malverns, Bredon Hill, Nottingham Hill, Cleeve Hill and other parts of the Cotswold Scarp. At some points (for example looking across the**

playing fields towards Hyde Lane, from about its junction with Quat Goose Lane) the scarp, viewed through trees, takes up more of the view to the horizon than does the sky.

Use of area and how use creates special interest

5.1 In the past, Swindon Village remained predominantly an agricultural settlement, until relatively recently when it has become a dormitory village and suburb of Cheltenham. 5.2 In present day, the village is predominantly urban in nature. However, **despite threats from industrial, retail and housing developments in recent years, the village has remained largely well conserved and unspoilt. Farming has historically played a key role in the development of the village** and the continued working of Manor Farm makes a significant contribution to the rural character. The farm also provides an example of traditional economic activity within the village. Outside the conservation area, Swindon Farm is also still a working farm and the fields around Home Farm are still farmed.

Contribution of trees and green spaces

5.54 **The green environment makes a hugely significant contribution to the quality of Swindon Village. The dominance of large tree groups and open spaces has to a large degree shaped the rural character and appearance of the area.**

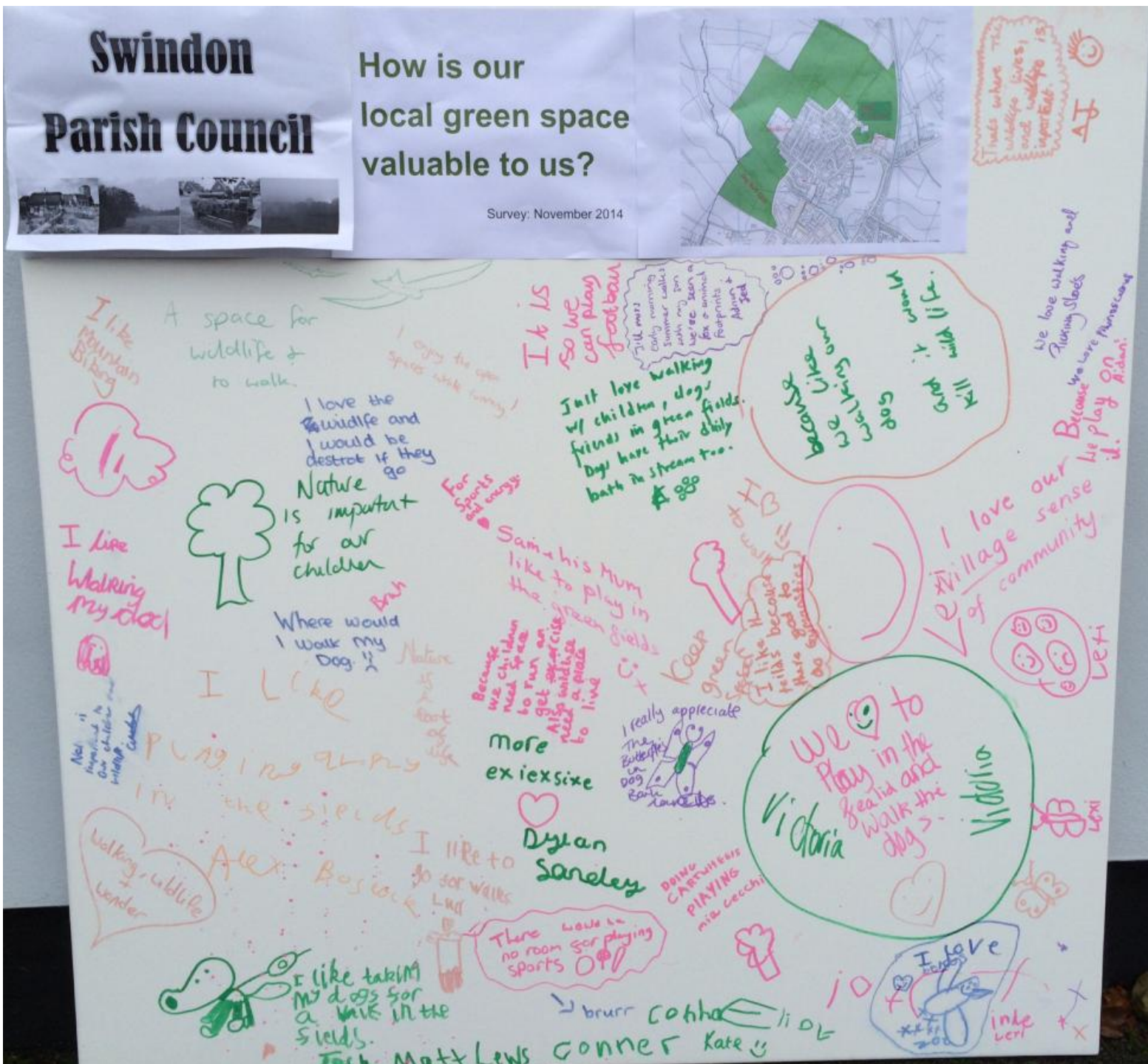
Appendix 4: Cheltenham Circular Challenge Signatures

The Cheltenham Circular Challenge runs directly through the proposed green area – specifically through the field Bushby Close. In 2012, runners were asked if they would sign a petition when they reached Home Lease. The petition called for the fields the runners were running through to be protected. The following are the signatures collected:



Appendix 5: Responses from school children and parents

On 15 November 2014 Swindon Parish Council created a stall at the Swindon Village Primary School fete, where we asked children and parents what they thought was valuable about the fields that surround the school and the village. We asked them to write or draw how they used the specific fields we are proposing for Green Space Designation. The following are the results:



Swindon Parish Council



How is our local green space valuable to us?

Survey: November 2014



Tell Us How is Your Green Space Valuable to you!

I walk in the footpaths in this area with friends most days. *Chwells*

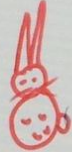


I LIKE MUGGING about in it
Todd



We go blackberrying every year!
Jason

I ♥ walking in this area with my friend. *Saybla x*



I love walking Sam- he has a swim in the stream!
Sam

I walk my dogs in fields.



MY OPEN PLAY SPACE

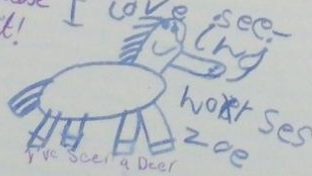
I ♥ Walking MY Granddads Poy
Lilyx

I LOVE the fields

I like to Play Rugby in the field!

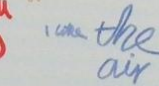
KEEP THE GREEN SPACES!

We walk our dogs in these fields we love it!



I Like walking here!
Marie-diane

I like to play football



I like Playing in the field!!
Nahala C/Z
with my friends
body cooles
hair dries
and it's nice to play
by the lake

I like to play football

I like watching my dog Emmah

I like playing football in the fields!

Playing and walking with the children and dog!



I love going on nature walks with my mummy in these fields. *Emma*

I go walking with gar and Juliet the dog

I like the deer
Maisie
I'm walking with my dog and playing tag with my family
Victoria

I ♥ watching the magnificent deer from my bedroom window
Richard Wells



I Play in the woods
Lexi

Transcription of survey of parents and children at Swindon Village Primary School, November 2014

The following is a transcription of the responses received on the canvases pictured above. The responses below were accompanied by pictures of butterflies, trees, dogs, birds, horses, deer, rabbits, friends, flowers, hearts and smiling faces.

- I like mountain biking.
- A space for wildlife and to walk.
- I love the wildlife and I would be distraught if they go.
- Nature is important for our children.
- I enjoy the open spaces while running

Where would I walk my dog?
I like walking my dog.
For sports and energy.
Sam and his mum like to play in the green fields.
Because we children need space to run and get exercise. Also wildlife need a place to live.
More exercise.
Nature is important to our children and wildlife
Walking and wildlife and wonder
I like playing in the fields
I like to go for walks.
I like taking my dog for walks in the fields
It is so we can play football
Just love walking my children, dogs, friends in green fields. Dogs have their daily bath in the stream too.
I really appreciate the butterflies in Dog Bark Lane.
Doing cartwheels and playing
That's where wildlife live and wildlife is important.
We love walking and picking sloes.
We play on it.
I love our village sense of community.
We love to play in the fields and walk our dogs
I walk in the footpaths in this area with friends most days.
I love walking in this area with my friend.
I walk my dogs in the fields.
I like mucking about in it.
We walk our dogs in those fields and we love it.
I like walking my dog.
I like playing football in the fields
Playing and walking with the children and dog
I go walking with gran.
I love going on nature walks with my mummy in these fields
I love seeing horses
I've see a deer!
I love the mucking about.
I love walking Sam – he has a swim in the stream
I like walking here.
I like to play football
I like the deer.
I like walking with my dog and playing with my family.
I like the air.
I like walking here.
We go blackberrying every year
I like playing in the fields with my friends
Everybody walks their dog and kids like to play
I love watching the magnificent deer from my bedroom window.
I love the fields
I love walking my gradad's dog.
My open play space.

Appendix 6: Letter of support from Swindon Village Society

From: Barry Simon
Organisation: Swindon Village Society
Address: 3 Swindon Hall
Swindon Village
Cheltenham GL51 9QR
Date: 29 November 2014

Swindon Village Society

I represent the Swindon Village Society who use the land selected by Swindon Village Parish Council to be part of their Local Green Spaces Application.

I fully support the Parish Council Local Green Spaces Application and hope that this green land that is used by my group today can continue to be made available to us for our use in future. The land in question is used by my group in the following ways:

A part of the remit of The Swindon Village Society is conservation. As such we undertake regular bird walks in the area under discussion. These are primarily for our own interest but we do encourage the participation of youngsters to come and start taking an interest in birds and other wild life. Our current bird list is attached.

In addition, as part of the annual village walk which includes this area we try to involve the youngsters that take part by providing information on local history, trees and nature. Again I attach some of our efforts in this direction which have appeared as part of quiz sheets used on the walks. While only a part of the walk covered the designated green space, this area would become even more important were the rest of the land to fall to development.

Barry Simon
Chairman, SVS

[the map referred to in this letter has been incorporated in the site location plan in section 1.2, and bird list mentioned appears in section 11.4]

Swindon Village Society – example of information supplied to walkers on countryside walk

Once upon a time all the fields had names and all the people would know them. These are some of the names from the 1841 Tithe Allocation. Starting from Swindon Village: The first field as you turn off Manor Road was called 'Upper Mill Meadow'. That is because once there was a small corn grinding mill very close to where the Wyman's Brook crosses under Manor Road. It had a mill pond that stretched out east running behind the church where the amenity area is now. The next field was 'Lower Mill Meadow' You then cross into the end of 'Bushy Close' Then a few paces over 'Little Crow's Nest' to get to the bridge across Wyman's Brook. You then cross 'Square Meadow' before walking along 'Gibb's Piece' We don't know the name of the last field before you get to the road into Elmstone Hardwicke. On the way back you walk up Lowdilow Lane and turn off to return across the fields. We don't know the name of the first field but the second you come to is 'Rye Hedge'.

Then 'Little Ground' Next comes 'Clark's Lower Ground' Then short crossings of two field. The First is 'Twelve Acres' but it was also known as 'Second Daisy Stalls'. The next field is 'Nine Acres' but this was also known as 'First Daisy Stalls'. Now the 'acres' bit is easy – that is the size of the fields

– but we have no idea where the ‘ Daisy Stalls’ name came from. The next field is ‘Crow’s Nest’ before you cross to ‘Little Crow’s Nest’ again. You finish off by walking along Bushy Close again to the end of Stanton’s Drive. The name Swindon comes from over 1000 years ago. If you look at Swindon carefully you will see that it is on a low hill. The hill is a small mound of sand left in a saucer of clay after the melting of the last ice age sent lots of water and rubble down from the north to create the Severn Vale. The church is on the top of this small hill. Before the church was built 900 years ago it would seem that the Anglo-Saxons kept pigs on the hill because the place was known in Saxon as ‘Suin-done’ – ‘the hill where the pigs are kept’. So if you are not keen on the name Swindon , remember it could have been worse. We could have been ‘Pigshill’. **Trees:** Here are three trees to look out for. White Willow: When starting from Swindon Village, in the first field you walk along there are lots of trees on the right. The biggest about half way along is a White Willow. It has long catkins that have now opened to release lots of small seeds. It has a tough light pliable wood and is used to make cricket bats and wooden legs. Its twigs are used to make baskets.

The first tree on the right in the second field is another sort of Willow, a crack willow, so called because if you bend the branches they break with a crack. English Oak: Further along the second field the biggest tree on the left with dark leaves is an Oak. On Swindon’s playing fields there are six different sorts of Oak. The way you know this is an English Oak is that the leaves don’t have a stalk but come straight off the wooden twig. They are used to make good quality furniture . They used to be used to make large ships. The ships that fought the Armada were all made of Oak. Field Maple: In the second field, just as the path takes a small turn to the right, if you look left you can see a Field Maple. This is a medium sized darkish tree but you can see lots of red seeds on it. These are winged just like those on the better known Sycamore (which is also a sort of Maple).

Appendix 7: Letter of support from Gloucestershire Hash House Harriers (a running group)

Local Green Space Designation by Swindon Parish Council

From: RUSSELL MURFIT
(Treasurer)

Organisation:
GLOUCESTERSHIRE GOURMET
HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Address:
45 QUEENS RD
CHELTENHAM GLOS GL50 2LX

Date: 28-11-2014

To: Swindon Parish Council
C/O Cllr. Dr. Arran Stibbe.
White Rose
Stantons Drive
Swindon Village
Cheltenham GL519RL

I represent the above group who use the land selected by Swindon Village Parish Council to be part of their Local Green Spaces Application.

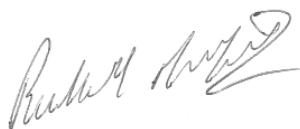
I fully support the Parish Council Local Green Spaces Application and hope that this green land that is used by my group today can continue to be made available to us for our use in future.

The land in question is used by my group in the following ways:

1. WEEKLY RUNS ALONG COUNTRY FOOTPATHS, TYPICALLY WITH 20-30 RUNNERS PER OCCASION (8 DOGS).
2. COUNTRY WALKS WITH DOGS.
3. BULBERRY PICKING.

I WOULD ALSO SAY THAT PATHS WITHIN HOUSING ESTATES OR WOODS ONES BORDERING ESTATES (AS SEVERAL OF THESE DO) ARE NOWHERE NEAR AS PLEASANT AS PATHS TOTALLY IN AGRICULTURAL FIELDS. TAKE BISHOP'S CREEVE AS AN EXAMPLE!

Signature:



Appendix 8: Letter of support from Swindon Village Art Club

Adrian Skilling
Chairman of Swindon Village Art Club
32 Church Road
Swindon Village
Cheltenham
GL51 9QS

To:
Swindon Parish Council
c/o Cllr. Dr. Arran Stibbe
White Rose
Stantons Drive
Swindon Village
Cheltenham
GL51 9RL

Local Green Space Designation by Swindon Parish Council

I represent the Swindon Village Art and Craft Club, the members of which use the land selected by Swindon Parish Council to be part of their Local Green Spaces Application.

I fully support the Parish Council Local Green Spaces Application and hope that this green land that is used by our group today can continue to be made available for us in the future.

This land is used and valued by our group in the following ways:

Sketching and painting

For walking

For dog walking

For Childrens play (and grandchildren)

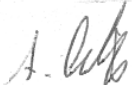
For wildlife itself and for observing wildlife

To provide a tranquil and attractive setting for the Village

The no street light policy means this space is excellent for star gazing

Foraging: Blackberry picking, rose hips, sloes and more

Yours faithfully



Adrian Skilling

Appendix 9: Letter of support from Bishops Cleeve District Rangers

Local Green Space Designation by Swindon Parish Council

From: Victoria Bowley

Organisation: Bishops Cleeve
District Rangers

Address: 4/12/14

Date:

To: Swindon Parish Council
C/O Cllr. Dr. Arran Stibbe.
White Rose
Stantons Drive
Swindon Village
Cheltenham GL519RL

I represent the above group who use the land selected by Swindon Village Parish Council to be part of their Local Green Spaces Application.

I fully support the Parish Council Local Green Spaces Application and hope that this green land that is used by my group today can continue to be made available to us for our use in future.

The land in question is used by my group in the following ways:

- Playing games
- exploring the natural world
- orienteering.
- fruit picking
- walking

Signature:



Appendix 10: Letter of support from 1st Swindon Village Scout Group

Local Green Space Designation by Swindon Village Council

Rachel Smith
1st Swindon Village Scout Group
8, Seneca Way
Wymans Brook
Cheltenham
Glos.
GL50 4SG
3/12/14

Swindon Village Council
C/O Cllr Dr Arran Stibbe
White Rose
Stantons Drive
Swindon Village
Cheltenham
GL51 9RL

I represent the above group who use the land selected by Swindon Village Parish Council to be part of their Local Green Spaces Application.

I fully support the Parish Council Green Spaces Application and hope that this green land, which is used by my group today, can continue to be made available to us for our use in the future.

The land in question is used by our group in the following ways:

We hike both in the summer and the winter months as training for our activity camps.

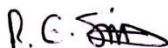
We set up orienteering routes and use them to practice our map and compass work.

We do surveys of the hedgerows for some of our badge work.

Local people from within our community take us on learning walks which again help us with our badge work and camping skills.

Our younger members enjoy blackberry picking and then making them into pies.

Most of all we can enjoy being able to have the freedom to explore our natural world as it is meant to be, to see nature and to experience the great outdoors. To run, play and to use energy and our imaginations – something that is sadly lacking in today's society and that needs encouraging more than ever before.



Rachel Smith

Appendix 11: Letter of support from the Terrapins After School Club

Local Green Space Designation by Swindon Parish Council

From:

Organisation: The Terrapins After school Club
Address: Swindon Village Primary School
Church Road
Swindon Village
Cheltenham Glos

Date:

To: Swindon Parish Council
C/O Cllr. Dr. Arran Stibbe.
White Rose
Stantons Drive
Swindon Village
Cheltenham GL519RL

I represent the Terrapins After School Club who use the land selected by Swindon Village Parish Council to be part of their Local Green Spaces Application.

I fully support the Parish Council Local Green Spaces Application and hope that this green land that is used by my group today can continue to be made available to us for our use in future.

The land in question is used by my group in the following ways:

- Nature walks
- Den building
- Seeing wildlife in it's natural habitat
- Learning about wild plants and flowers
- To be able to explore different environments

Signature: *Rusinas*

Appendix 12: Letter of support from the Campaign to Protect Rural England



Cheltenham, Gloucester &
Tewkesbury District

Major Tom Hancock, DL (Chairman)
Saltway House, The George,
Winchcombe,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 5LJ

Tel: 01242 602173

4 December 2014

Philip Stephenson
Senior Planning Officer
Cheltenham Borough Council
Municipal Offices, Promenade
Cheltenham, GL50 9SA

Dear Mr Stephenson

CPRE supports in principle the application being made by Swindon Village Parish Council for an area of the current Green Belt immediately to the North and to the West of the Village to be designated an area of Local Green Space.

Much of the area proposed is already used for informal recreational purposes, including horse-riding, dog walking, running, walking, children's play and other such activities that contribute to the health, wellbeing and quality of life of the villagers. However, its exact boundaries may require adjustment from those proposed better to fit the natural contours of the land.

Providing Local Green Space protection, and its inclusion in the forthcoming Cheltenham Local Plan, will be particularly important should the Joint Core Strategy be approved in its present form. The area to be designated will therefore additionally help to protect the setting and amenities of this self-contained historic settlement.

Yours sincerely

Major Tom Hancock DL
Chairman

Appendix 13: Letter of support from Swindon Village Rainbows

Local Green Space Designation by Swindon Parish Council

From: Jackie Bailey

Organisation: Swindon Village
Rainbows

Address:

Date: 4/12/14

To: Swindon Parish Council
C/O Cllr. Dr. Arran Stibbe.
White Rose
Stantons Drive
Swindon Village
Cheltenham GL519RL

I represent the above group who use the land selected by Swindon Village Parish Council to be part of their Local Green Spaces Application.

I fully support the Parish Council Local Green Spaces Application and hope that this green land that is used by my group today can continue to be made available to us for our use in future.

The land in question is used by my group in the following ways:


- Treasure hunts
- Teaching about ^{the} countryside.
- walks
- blackberry picking

Signature:

J. Bailey

Appendix 14: Email from English Heritage on the subject of ridge and furrow fields

From: Beamish, Hugh <Hugh.Beamish@english-heritage.org.uk> Sent: Thu 18/12/2014
To: STIBBE, Arran (Dr)
Cc: Barge, Melanie
Subject: Ridge and furrow earthworks, Swindon, Cheltenham.

Message  turningplough.pdf (164 KB)

Dear Councillor Stibbe,

Thank you for your email of the 15th, which has been passed to me as I help to cover Gloucestershire.

We do not maintain detailed records here of ridge and furrow earthworks, although we do have basic records that show the fields known as 'Green Dean Furlong' and 'The Bank' include the remains of such earthworks, and that the field known as 'Upper Hill Meadow' includes a complex of drainage ditches. The former are visible on aerial photographs taken in 2010 but the latter had apparently been removed from Upper Hill Meadow by 2010.

Detailed records on ridge and furrow earthworks are kept by GCC in the Historic Environment Record, which can be accessed here:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/her>

The data held in the HER was compiled as part of project funded by English Heritage, known as the National Mapping Programme. Attached is a copy of a research paper that we published some years ago on the subject of cultivation earthworks, which you may find interesting.

Naturally, I would be pleased to discuss this further with you.

Yours sincerely,



*Hugh Beamish – Assistant Inspector of Ancient Monuments
English Heritage
Direct dial 0117 975 0726 Mobile 07824 528812*

Appendix 15: Information on local earthworks from Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record

NB: Earthworks (of various kinds, including ridge and furrow) are marked with blue arrows.

Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record

TITLE: Ridge and Furrow



NAME:	2009 geophysical survey of land northwest of Cheltenham.
STATUS:	
GRID REF:	392277 225612
PARISH:	ELMSTONE HARDWICKE
MAP SHEET:	SO92SW

HER 44804 DESCRIPTION:-

2009 "A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken on land to the northeast of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Approximately 270ha has been identified as a potential site for residential and associated development.

- The majority of the site appears to be clear of archaeological remains that are capable of responding to magnetic survey. However, the survey has identified a number of sites, including the full extent of a probable prehistoric / Romano-British settlement in the mid northern part of the proposed development (on land to the northwest of the village of Swindon, in Fields 23 - 26). At least two ditched trackways appear to extend northwards from the settlement.
- Less extensive settlement remains, comprising a small number of rectilinear/sub-circular enclosures, were also recorded in the southeast part of the site (in Field 36). It is likely that this activity extended northwards onto land currently/previously occupied by The River Swilgate (the survey recorded sinuous palaeochannels along the majority of the northern bank of the river and it is possible that archaeological remains survive undetected beneath substantial depths of alluvium). Similarly, the western extents of groups of ditches (including penannular examples) recorded in the northwest region of the site (Fields 2 - 3) appear to have been partially truncated by a subsequent westward meander of the river.
- The survey detected the northernmost element of possible settlement remains on land to the north of the A4019 (in Field 50), close to southern edge of the proposed development. Romano-British remains are known in this area and it is suggested that the survey has identified further traces of activity that dates to this period. To the northeast of this, a small ring ditch was detected in the central part of Field 53. Potential ditches and pits were also recorded in this area.
- An unusually shaped partial enclosure was detected in the mid northern part of the site (Field 13). This lies in relative isolation and possibly represents a livestock corral.
- Traces of archaeological remains were recorded in the western region of the site. These include three distinct groups of enclosures, linear ditches and pits in Field 64. The northern most examples appear to form part of a larger complex of ditches that continues into the northern half of Field 65.
- The survey recorded widespread traces of ploughed out ridge and furrow.
- The survey registered the strong magnetic response of a number of buried services.
- Zones of relatively weak magnetic variation were recorded in close proximity (and predominately to the north/east) to The River Swilgate. These almost certainly reflect natural processes/features, such as ferrous-rich silt and peat deposits within palaeochannels, or as isolated deposits. {Quoted from Source Work 12138.}

NAME:	Settlement remains, comprising a small number of rectilinear / sub-circular enclosures recorded in the southeast part of the 2009 geophysical survey of land northwest of Cheltenham
STATUS:	
GRID REF:	393049 224813
PARISH:	
MAP SHEET:	SO92SW

HER 44923 DESCRIPTION:-

Settlement remains, comprising a small number of rectilinear/sub-circular enclosures recorded in the southeast part of the 2009 geophysical survey of land northwest of Cheltenham (in Field 36). It is likely that this activity extended northwards onto land currently/previously occupied by The River Swilgate. The survey recorded sinuous palaeochannels along the majority of the northern bank of the river and it is possible that archaeological remains survive undetected beneath substantial depths of alluvium. {Source Work 12138.}

Appendix 16: Letter of support from Save the Countryside



Trails End, Stantons Drive
Swindon Village
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire GL519RL
hwells@mdlz.com
Tel 07770 986078

To Swindon Parish Council

Save The Countryside is an organisation made up of many residents from Swindon Parish and other Cheltenham areas. Working since 2006, we all share the determination to protect the precious Greenbelt land around Cheltenham, nationwide and in particular the Greenbelt at the North West of the town under consideration for re classification.

We are delighted to support the green space application by Swindon Parish Council.

While we recognise that a reasonable level of growth should be possible in Cheltenham and the surrounding area, we believe that urban extensions and incursions into the Green Belt are unnecessary and in the specific case of Swindon Village, have grave doubts about the suitability of this green belt land as a development site. We have separately responded to various consultations regarding planning for development in the area.

Members of our organisation regularly use the public bridleways and footpaths that cross over the fields identified within the green space application for recreational activities, health and wellbeing and to view the surrounding countryside and its wildlife.

For the last 8 years, around 150 people walk the footpaths on this land together, for the annual Save the Countryside walk. This has become a very popular community social event attracting press coverage.

We maintain our view that Greenbelt land in North West Cheltenham should be retained for the following reasons:

- It prevents Swindon Village and Cheltenham sprawling,
- It prevents any merging of Swindon Village with Elmstone Hardwicke and Uckington
- It encourages the regeneration of Cheltenham town centre and other brownfield urban areas.
- It ensures continued productive agricultural use of the land
- It also acts as a soak away for floodwaters in this area which has very poor drainage and has often experienced flooding.

If it is not feasible to retain all the greenbelt land that separates Swindon village from Elmstone Hardwicke and Uckington, then the team support Swindon Parish Council's green space designation so that a protected a green zone around Swindon village can be maintained and used productively.

Yours sincerely,

H. Wells Chairman Save the Countryside

Appendix 17: Relevant minutes from Swindon Parish Council

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Extracts from Swindon Parish Council Minutes

27 May (minute 14/63)

Cllr. Wells stated that she and Cllr. Stibbe had been investigating Local Green Spaces. These are designated areas (described in the NPPF) that can be used to provide a buffer between new developments and existing residential areas. Cllrs. Wells and Stibbe sought the Council's approval to pursue an application for a Local Green Space designation...

10 June (minute 14/77)

Cllrs. Stibbe and Wells were in the process of trying to meet with Borough Council Planning to discuss Local Green Space designation and how it might be used.

8 July (minute 14/88)

Cllr. Allen stated that if we produce a Green Space Plan it will be deemed a single policy neighbourhood Plan with all the attendant cost and complexity. Cllr. Stibbe said that he would continue to look into what needs to be done. The Clerk said that GRCC might be able to provide us with advice.

12 August (minute 14/103)

The Local Green Space proposal had been submitted and receipt acknowledged by the Borough Council. The Borough Council are producing a toolkit which we will need to complete.

14 October (minute 14/121)

Elin Tattersall of GRCC was present to discuss Local Green Spaces. GRCC had been commissioned by Cheltenham Borough Council to assist Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Co-ordination Groups wishing to prepare a case for designating areas of Local Green Space. Ms. Tattersall described the process that had to be used to identify, justify and prioritise green areas and left the Council with resources to use.

11 November (minute 14/133)

Molly Gallagher of GRCC would be meeting with Cllrs. Wells and Stibbe at Cllr. Wells' house on Monday next to continue the process of identifying spaces with potential for protection under the Local Green Spaces programme. The other councillors were invited to participate.

9 December (minute 14/144)

Cllr. Stibbe had been driving this with the assistance of Cllr. Wells. They had consulted a number of individuals and organisations and had received 100 letters back. The first draft of the document had been sent to GRCC and the Borough Council...

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

"Morris Hill Crossing"
Swindon Lane
Cheltenham
Glos GL50 4PE

Philip Stephenson
Senior Planning Officer
Cheltenham Borough Council
Municipal Offices
Promenade
Cheltenham
Glos GL50 9SA

22nd December 2014

Swindon Parish Council
Local Green Space Application

Dear Philip,

GRCC have made clear to us that, since the above application is being made on behalf of Swindon Parish Council, we should demonstrate that the Parish Council is fully supportive. You will be aware that one of our councillors approached you in the Spring to make initial enquiries about the prospect of making a Local Green Space application. Once the Borough Council's Local Green Space tool kit was made available a working party of our councillors worked through the process in association with representatives from GRCC.

For the record I wish to emphasise that this activity has always benefited from the unanimous and enthusiastic support of Swindon Parish Council. Drafts of the Local Green Space proposal were submitted to all councillors and their comments were included in subsequent revisions.

The relevant extracts from the council's minutes are included in the application.

Yours sincerely,



Shaun Cullimore
Clerk to Swindon Parish Council,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Email parish.clerk@swindonparish.org.uk