

# Local Green Space and Public Open Space Background Paper

Reading Borough Council  
Submission Local Plan  
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## Contents

1.0	INTRODUCTION	...3
2.0	POLICY, GUIDANCE AND ADVICE	...3
2.1	What is Local Green Space? What is its relationship to planning?	...3
2.2	National legislation, policy and guidance	...4
2.3	Local policies and strategies	...4
3.0	RESULTS OF PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS	...8
4.0	CURRENT CHARACTERISTICS AND FUTURE TRENDS	...8
4.1	Reading Borough	...9
4.2	Current issues facing Reading's Public Open Space	...9
5.0	POLICY ISSUES AND ANALYSIS	...10
5.1	Potential alternative policy approaches	...11
5.2	Methodology	...12
6.0	RECOMMENDED APPROACH	...14
7.0	REFERENCES	...14
	<b>Appendix 1: Local Green Space Assessment Matrices</b>	<b>...15</b>
	<b>Appendix 2: Policy EN7 text and list of sites with final designation</b>	<b>...36</b>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This paper provides background evidence and justification for Reading Borough Council's designation of Local Green Spaces (LGS) in policy EN7 of the Local Plan. It sets out relevant legislation, local strategies, results of consultations, policy analysis and detailed methodology for determining Local Green Space. It is intended that this paper inform the development of the Local Plan and demonstrate how evidence has been applied in order to formulate policies designating Local Green Space.

1.1.2 Green spaces provide a wide variety of environmental, economic and social benefits including:

- Creating a sense-of-place and facilitating community cohesion;
- Increasing physical activity for adults and children;
- Adapting to climate change through CO<sub>2</sub> absorption, shading or flood alleviation;
- Improving mental health;
- Creating more attractive places to work, live and visit;
- Encouraging active transport like walking and cycling;
- Improving air quality;
- Improving water quality by reducing harmful runoff into local rivers; and
- Enhancing biodiversity and opportunities for wildlife.

1.1.3 This paper includes the following:

- An outline of national legislation, policy and guidance, as well as local strategies relating to designation of Local Green Space;
- A summary of the relevant results of previous consultations;
- A description of the method used to determine which spaces merit Local Green Space designation;
- An overview of open space issues in Reading;
- A discussion on the policy content for the Local Plan, including alternative approaches; and
- Detailed assessment matrices which demonstrate how and why certain spaces have earned designation and others have not.

## 2.0 POLICY, GUIDANCE AND ADVICE

### 2.1 What is the Local Green Space designation? What is its relationship to planning?

2.1.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) introduced a new optional designation for LGS in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012.

2.1.2 LGS designation is not required to be included in local plans by Local Planning Authority, but may help to achieve broad planning aims required by the NPPF, such

as creating sustainable communities, ensuring access to open space and recreation, conserving historic assets and preventing harmful development on or adjacent to public open space.

## **2.2 National legislation, policy and guidance**

2.2.1 A new planning policy for LGS must be framed in the context of national policies and local strategies.

2.2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states:

“Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.”

2.2.3 It states that LGS designation “will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space” and should only be used where the green space is in close proximity to the community it serves, is demonstrably special (for example, because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of wildlife) and is not an extensive tract of land.

2.2.4 Local planning authorities are not required to designate LGS in their area and spaces can only be designated when a plan is being prepared or reviewed.

2.2.5 LGS designation can contribute to the following overarching planning aims required by the NPPF:

- Creating sustainable communities;
- Ensuring access to open space and recreation;
- Conserving and enhancing the historic environment; and
- Preventing harmful development that may result in loss of wildlife.

## **2.3 Local Policies and Strategies**

### **Existing Local Development Framework (Core Strategy, Sites and Detailed Polices Document and Reading Central Area Action Plan)**

2.3.1 As LGS designation was introduced by Government in 2012, it is absent in existing Reading planning policy documents and is being proposed in this iteration of the Local Plan for the first time.

2.3.2 Reading's existing planning policy documents do include policies concerning public open space, generally. These can be summarised as follows:

- CS28: Loss of Open Space—This policy states that proposals which result in the loss of open space or jeopardise its use by the public will not be permitted. Development may be permitted in exceptional circumstances where a replacement open space can be provided close by or improvements to remaining open space will be made to a level sufficient to outweigh partial loss. The quality of existing open space should not be eroded by insensitive development on adjoining land.
- CS29: Provision of Open Space—All development should make provision for open space through on or off-site provision or through contributions towards provision elsewhere. On sites of 50 or more units or sites where existing provision has been identified as insufficient, new provision will be sought on-site. On sites of less than 50 units or areas not identified as deficient in the provision of open space, new provision or improvements will be sought through appropriate contributions.
- CS30: Access to Open Space—In areas with poor access to open space, new development should make provision for or contribute to improvements to road and other crossings to improve access to green space.
- RC14: Public Realm—This policy applies specifically the central area and reiterates the requirements of CS28 and CS29 and provides additional criteria for new public open space and civic squares. High-quality spaces with trees, water features and other planting will be encouraged.
- DM16: Provision of Open Space—Open space should be provided as detailed in the most up-to-date Open Spaces Strategy. Provision should satisfy the most urgent need in terms of type and size. New open space should be in useable parcels of land and not be fragmented, be safely and easily accessible and not severed by any physical barrier, be accessible to the general public and designed to feel public rather than private, create a safe environment considering lighting and layout and provide some informal landscaping. An agreement will be demonstrated to ensure proper management over the life of the development.
- SA16: Public and Strategic Open Space—Important areas as shown on the proposals map will be protected from development. Proposals that would result in the loss of any of these areas of open space or jeopardise their use or enjoyment by the public will not be permitted.

2.3.3 Many specific site allocations and opportunity areas require the inclusion of open space or that developers improve access to nearby open spaces.

**Community strategies and vision**

- 2.3.4 The following community strategies incorporate a vision for open space in Reading.
- 2.3.5 The Council's Corporate Plan (2016-2019)<sup>1</sup> articulates six service priorities, one of which applies to open space in the Borough: "*Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.*" This objective is supported by the Local Plan. The plan also emphasises climate change goals. Local Green Space and Public Open Space can help achieve resiliency in the face of climate change, as well as encourage residents to be active and improve quality of life. The vision is that Reading will be a clean and attractive place to live, work and visit. Everyone will be able to enjoy high-quality public open spaces that are safe and well-maintained. Reading's rivers and canals will be the focus for an interconnected series of accessible and desirable public spaces, providing a range of natural and urban experiences. There will be a choice of accessible, high-quality public parks and open spaces that together will provide places for people to meet, play and relax.
- 2.3.6 The Council's Climate Change Strategy (2013-2020)<sup>2</sup> emphasises the role of open space in building resiliency. It states that open spaces can have a significant impact on wildlife corridors and habitats, influencing wildlife's ability to survive periods of change. Tree planting and green space can help to mitigate emissions and rising temperatures, as well as improve air quality. Additionally, green space can increase the amount of permeable areas in the town which allow rain to be absorbed naturally, preventing sudden discharge of water and pollutants to water bodies.
- 2.3.7 The Council's Health and Well-being Strategy<sup>3</sup> (2017-2020) highlights the need for children and adults to achieve and maintain a healthy weight through an active lifestyle. Attractive open space can help to encourage these behaviours, as well as promote active travel such as walking and cycling for leisure and commuting. Open green space also helps to improve air quality for health.
- 2.3.8 The Sustainable Community Strategy, A vision for Reading in 2030 and beyond<sup>4</sup> emphasises the aim of having parks, gardens, open spaces, waterways and natural environments are highly valued and attractive. Good quality neighbourhoods with green, open space make a significant difference to quality of life. It states that "plans will seek to provide more trees, protect wildlife, enhance the build environment and open space and waterways."

### Open Spaces Strategy and 2017 update

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/4621/Corporate-Plan-2016---19/pdf/Corporate\\_Plan\\_2016-19\\_-\\_Building\\_a\\_Better\\_Borough\\_\(subject\\_to\\_approval\).pdf](http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/4621/Corporate-Plan-2016---19/pdf/Corporate_Plan_2016-19_-_Building_a_Better_Borough_(subject_to_approval).pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/1232/Climate-Change-Strategy/pdf/Climate-Change-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/6822/Health--Wellbeing-Strategy/pdf/Health\\_and\\_Wellbeing\\_Strategy\\_2017-2020\\_final.pdf](http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/6822/Health--Wellbeing-Strategy/pdf/Health_and_Wellbeing_Strategy_2017-2020_final.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/1238/Sustainable-Community-Strategy/pdf/Sustainable-Community-Strategy\(1\).pdf](http://www.reading.gov.uk/media/1238/Sustainable-Community-Strategy/pdf/Sustainable-Community-Strategy(1).pdf)

2.3.9 The Open Spaces Strategy 2007 (OSS) sets out the aims and approaches that Reading Borough Council will adopt in its role as custodian of Reading's public open space. The OSS reflects the objectives of the Reading 2020 Community Strategy and underpins the relevant policies in the Local Development Framework. The strategy also provides the context for the future management of and investment in recreational public open spaces. The strategies principles aims are to:

- Safeguard Reading's environmental endowment;
- Ensure that there is no net loss of recreational POS; and
- Secure additional open space where opportunities arise.

2.3.10 The Strategy sets out that although Reading's total amount of public open space is broadly in line with national guidelines, it is unevenly distributed across the town. Over the last 30 years the Council has continued to bring previously private open space into the public realm. However, people in and around the town centre are still further away from public open space than guidelines recommend and parts of north Reading are short of play areas. In many cases historical development patterns make it difficult to introduce new areas of POS without large-scale redevelopment. The cost of acquiring land outright for use as POS is prohibitive, and has normally only been achieved as part of wider development proposals.

2.3.11 The OSS seeks to emphasise the need to:

- Secure new public open space through the development process where opportunities arise;
- Make improvements to the quality and facilities of existing public open space;
- Secure more play areas where feasible and manageable;
- Change the management of some existing open spaces (like woodlands or under-used allotments) to increase access to more formal recreational open space where necessary;
- Continue to upgrade facilities in larger parks to benefit the wider population;
- Develop a network of safe and attractive green routes for pedestrians and cyclists that will link open spaces across the borough; and
- Secure an attractive and safe network of urban civic spaces.

2.3.12 In light of the new Local Plan, the OSS was revisited and a 2018 update was published in order to detail changes that have occurred since 2007. There have been no changes within the last ten years that would render its main objectives out-of-date.

2.3.13 In general, the overall policy context remains valid, even if individual documents have changed. The NPPF still states that the need for open spaces be assessed to support local plans, as well as emphasises the importance of open space for a wide range of functions including recreation, biodiversity and flood risk mitigation. Perhaps the main change in planning policy has been the introduction of Local Green Space within the NPPF, but the principle of defining key areas of open space

is hardly new. What is new is that NPPF gives LGS the same weight of protection as Green Belt.

2.3.14 In terms of standards of provision, there is not any particular defined standard that supersedes those considered in the OSS. The 0.4 km radius catchment area for local parks and 1.2 km catchment for larger parks remains a reasonable rule of thumb for assessing the distribution of open spaces in urban areas. The standard of 0.2 ha minimum local park size is also widely used.

2.3.15 One of the main changes related to open space in Reading within the last ten years is the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy in April 2015 as the primary source of financial contribution to open space from development, replacing Section 106 agreements in most cases. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge introduced since the last Open Spaces Strategy which allows local authorities to raise funds from developments to pay for infrastructure that is needed as a result, including open space. The Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan includes a detailed list of what open space infrastructure will be supported by CIL.

### **3.0 RESULTS OF PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS**

3.1.1 The following section summarises the results of previous consultations undertaken in relation to the Local Plan Issues and Options Paper (January to March 2016), the Draft Local Plan (May to June 2017) and the pre-submission Draft Local Plan (November 2017 to January 2018).

3.1.2 The public involvement process on the Issues and Options and Draft Local Plan encouraged the public to examine and comment upon (amongst other things), the Council's preferred spatial strategy and draft environment and public open space policies. There were many comments relating to Local Green Space designation and widespread support for protect and enhancement of existing public open space, as well as an emphasis on the need to ensure biodiversity and access, and the need to prevent inappropriate adjacent development.

3.1.3 Options to develop greenfield sites or sites adjacent to existing public open space presented during all consultations raised concerns over the protection of green space. Some respondents believed that new housing throughout the Borough would inevitably bring about a change in the amount and quality of public open space. Residents care deeply about the amount and quality of public open space in Reading for well-being, recreation and wildlife. Open space was one of the most frequently mentioned issues in all comments with widespread support for protection and expansion of open spaces, as well as improvements to quality.

### **4.0 CURRENT CHARACTERISTICS AND FUTURE TRENDS**

4.0.1 The following section provides a general overview of Reading's open spaces.



## 4.1 Reading Borough

4.1.1 Although Reading's total amount of recreational public open space remains broadly in line with the national guidelines having only slightly increased since the last assessment, it is still unevenly distributed across the town. Residents in and around the town centre are still further away from POS than residents in outer wards. In the town centre, historical development patterns make it difficult to introduce new areas of POS without large-scale redevelopment. Due to the high cost of land in the town centre, the Council is unable to acquire land outright for new POS. Thus, POS is normally achieved as part of wider development proposals.

4.1.2 While the total provision is adequate, the main issues for Reading remain as identified:

- Access: the distribution of POS leaves some areas underprovided. In central Reading, POS is where residents are not. Areas immediately to the west, north-west, south and east of the town centre are amongst the most poorly supplied in the Borough and the problem is exacerbated by very dense housing.
- Quality: some existing parks and open spaces are of poor quality.
- Green links: open spaces are fragmented and wildlife corridors are incomplete.

4.1.3 Many of these issues are common to urban areas in the UK. This suggests that the current amount of recreational POS needs to be protected and access needs to be expanded.

## 4.2 Current issues facing Reading's Public Open Space

4.2.1 The amount, accessibility and quality of Reading's public open space are of real concern to local people. Reading has a considerable variety of public open space, with a range of public facilities which potentially can provide an important breathing space for our growing urban community and comprise essential habitats for maintaining and enhancing local biodiversity. However, these areas are sometimes abused, poorly managed, under-used and ultimately undervalued.

4.2.2 Reading's provision of green space is close to average, but at the lower end of the range. There has been an increase in unrestricted open space over the last ten years, with unrestricted open space being open space without restrictions on public access. For the most part, this constitutes recreational public open space. There has been a significant loss of areas previously mapped as public open space with limited access. The gaps existing in areas immediately to the east, south and west of the town centre, as well as some more suburban fringe areas in south, west and north Reading remain largely the same, although distribution has improved with new parks at Kennet Island and Battle Square. There has been some improvement in severance lines, but access remains an issue in the south as a result of the A33 and to the west due to the railway.

4.2.2 In very brief summary, the key issues facing Reading are set out below:

- Notable deficiencies in public open space in Central Reading and the residential areas surrounding Central Reading (west and north west of town centre, south of town centre);
- Poor access to formal children’s play facilities in a number of areas of the Borough, particularly in North Reading;
- Barriers that reduces residents’ access to open space;
- Many local open spaces that do not meet users’ aspirations with respect to variety, quality and facilities, causing a significant number of people to travel to more attractive recreational open space further afield;
- Significant concerns expressed by residents fearful of the future loss of existing open spaces to new development; and
- Reading provides less recreational open space than guidelines recommend, although much of the deficit is supplied by private or school’s sports pitches.

## 5.0 POLICY ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

5.0.1 Planning policies must be framed in the context of the relevant national, strategic and local policies (as described above) and be tailored to local conditions. National policies on planning matters contained within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance provide relevant direction for the formulation of policies. It is likely however, that many of the Government’s recommendations will be more applicable to detailed planning documents, such supplementary planning documents.

5.0.2 Local Plan policies are not required to designate Local Green Spaces, but must serve the underlying goal of protecting and enhancing public open space. Local Green Space designation is simply a tool that can be used to achieve this goal.

5.0.3 Essentially, the Local Plan should seek to resist development that would adversely affect any open space, unless the benefits of such development outweigh the loss of public open space.

5.0.4 Policy EN7: Local Green Space and Public Open Space will be applied in tandem with other open space policies in the new Local Plan. Background evidence for these policies can be found in the main Local Plan Background Paper. These are summarised as follows:

- EN8: Undesignated Open Space—There will be a presumption in favour of retention of undesignated open space, including allotments. Development should not result in loss or jeopardise use of these spaces. If it can clearly be demonstrated that a replacements open space or improvements can be provided to outweigh the loss, development may be permitted. Quality of existing open space should not be eroded by insensitive adjacent development. (This policy is intended to reflect the approach in existing policy CS28, described above.)

- EN9: Provision of Open Space—All new development should make provision for open space based on specific needs. On sites of 50 dwellings or more and in areas identified as deficient, new provision will be sought. On sites of 50 dwellings or less, this can be fulfilled through appropriate contributions. The policy also provides detail to guide accessibility, safety and landscaping. (This policy is intended to reflect the approach in existing policy CS29, described above.)
- EN10: Access to Open Space—In areas with poor access to open space, new development should provide or contribute to improvements to access. (This policy is intended to reflect the approach in existing policy CS30, described above.)
- CR3: Public Realm in Central Reading—Proposals for new development in Central Reading will need to make a positive contribution to the public realm and may include new public open space or civic squares. This should include the provision of attractive features such as trees, planting, hard landscaping and water features. Pedestrianisation, traffic management and/or environmental enhancements should be implemented on appropriate streets. (This policy is intended to reflect the approach in existing policy RC14, as described above).

5.0.5 Site-specific policies and allocations provide more detail on whether or not open space should be required within new developments.

## 5.1 Potential Alternative Policy Approaches

5.1.1 The following options have been considered and have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal. Where rejected, the reasons are set out below.

- **EN7(i): No policy - REJECTED**  
A 'no policy' option would rely on other open space policies and provide some level of protection from loss or harmful development, but not the extent of options (ii) or (iii). This option may result in loss or degradation of Reading's public open spaces. This would bring negative sustainability effects with regard to the environment, human health, place-making, wildlife and recreation. Loss of areas of open space may lead to increased reliance on other areas and degrade their quality. This option would make more land available to development, but the costs far outweigh the benefits.
- **EN7(ii): Continue with current approach, no separate LGS designation - REJECTED**  
This option represents the approach taken in the existing policy SA16: Public and Strategic Open Space which protects areas shown on the proposals map. This approach has been used successfully to protect areas of public and strategic open space in Reading and would likely continue to do so. Thus, this

approach would bring largely positive effects, but would not allow Reading to recognise its most significant areas of public green open space. Additionally, this policy refers to any public open space, not necessarily green open space.

- EN7(iii): New policy including LGS designation - PROPOSED OPTION  
This option allows for special recognition of Reading's most significant green open spaces, as well as continuing to protect valued public open spaces that may not meet the specific criteria outlined in the NPPF for Local Green Space. The Local Green Space designation not only protects designated areas, but draws attention to an area's particular significance as a result of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness or wildlife and for these qualities to be taken into account in the determination of planning applications.

5.1.2 Assessment of each individual site listed in the policy for designation as either Public Open Space (POS) or Local Green Space (LGS) is contained in Appendix 1.

## 5.2 Assessment Methodology

### Site Selection

5.2.1 Local Green Spaces are designated for their value to a local community. Therefore, officers took the view that members of the community should identify potential areas for Local Green Space designation early on in the local plan process.

5.2.2 During the consultation on the Local Plan Issues and Options Paper (January to March 2016) a number of sites were put forward by members of the community and relevant organisations.

5.2.3 The Local Plan Issues and Options Paper introduced the new designation for Local Green Space and asked respondents to nominate sites for designation and to describe how the space meets the criteria outlined in the NPPF. It also contained an appendix which listed and mapped 76 possible sites for LGS designation on which members of the public were asked to comment.

5.2.4 During the Issues and Options consultation, a number of workshops were held in various areas in the Borough, including Tilehurst, the Civic Centre and Caversham. These workshops included an exercise which asked participants to identify potential areas for Local Green Space designation and to comment on the particular values of the sites. 28 sites were nominated and these were carried into the assessment phase.

5.2.4 In order to ensure that the most appropriate green spaces were considered for designation, planning officers supplemented these suggestions with an extensive list of known green spaces in the Borough. These were drawn from desk based assessment, site visits, the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment and existing policy SA16. Of these, 90 sites were carried into the assessment phase.

## Assessment of individual sites

- 5.2.5 After compiling a list of sites for assessment, officers developed assessment criteria according to the language in Paragraphs 76-78 of the NPPF. In addition to assessing beauty, historic significance, recreation value, wildlife and tranquillity, officers decided to assess:
- Is the site publicly accessible?
  - What is the size of the site?
  - How close is the site to the community which it serves?
  - Does it have an existing designation?
  - Can it endure beyond the plan period (2036)?
  - Is there an active 'friends' group or other community group related to the site?
  - Is there a children's play area?
  - Is the site allocated for future development or does it have extant planning permission within which LGS could not be accommodated?
- 5.2.2 Because the NPPF states that LGS cannot be "an extensive tract of land," officers set an upper range of 50 ha for LGS designation. This would allow Reading's large and highly valued parks to be included, while excluding large floodplains that would be considered extensive.
- 5.2.3 From June 2016 to September 2016, officers completed a desk-based assessment of all the long-listed sites. At this point, some sites were deselected for being too large or having been allocated for future development.
- 5.2.4 The remaining sites were visited by officers at least once, sometimes twice to resolve questions about public accessibility or use and to take photos, from September 2016 to December 2016. Again, some sites were deselected for various reasons including lack of public accessibility or not meeting the stringent test of significance. Officers asked "Does this site hold particular significance?" bearing in mind that according the NPPF most sites would not be appropriate for designation. Thus, designation was reserved for Reading's best and most-valued public green spaces. The assessment was a qualitative rather than quantitative exercise. Designation was not determined simply as a result of how many ticks are included in the assessment table. For some sites, significance in one category may earn an LGS designation, while others with multiple ticks may earn a POS designation.

## Consultation

- 5.2.5 Sites selected for designation were then consulted upon between May and June 2017 during the Consultation on the Draft Local Plan. Respondents broadly expressed support for the sites identified for LGS designation. Many residents provided evidence for an area's particular significance. These attributes were recorded and are reflected in the final assessment. One or two additional sites were suggested and assessed following this consultation.

5.2.5 Finally, policy EN7 was consulted upon again during the Pre-Submission Draft of the Local Plan consultation from November 2017 to January 2018. Again, respondents broadly expressed support for each designation.

## 6.0 RECOMMENDED APPROACH

6.1.1 The emerging Local Plan, in paragraph EN7, identifies a number of important spaces in Reading as Local Green Space, based on an assessment against the three criteria above, and informed by consultation with local communities about the spaces which are important to them. The remainder of the most important open spaces remain protected as Public Open Space.

6.1.2 A total of 41 sites were designated as Local Green Space. 21 other areas of public open space that did not meet the specific requirements outlined in the NPPF for LGS designation were designated as Public Open Space (POS). Both LGS and POS are given the same level of protection under policy EN7.

6.1.3 It is considered that areas not listed in policy EN7 will be sufficiently protected by other open space policies in the plan, notably EN8.

## 7.0 REFERENCES

- Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and the Greater London Authority (2009), **Open Space Strategies, Best Practice Guidance**
- Department for Communities and Local Government (2012), **National Planning Policy Framework**
- Department for Communities and Local Government (2012), **Planning Practice Guidance**
- Reading Borough Council (2007), **Open Spaces Strategy**
- Reading Borough Council (2008, amended 2015), **Core Strategy**
- Reading Borough Council (2009), **Reading Central Area Action Plan**
- Reading Borough Council (2012, altered 2015), **Sites and Detailed Policies Document**
- Reading Borough Council (2018), **Open Spaces Strategy Update**

## Appendix 1: Local Green Space Assessment Matrices

Please note that this assessment is not a quantitative exercise. It is not simply a matter of how many ticks are included in the table. For some sites, significance in one category may earn an LGS designation, while others with multiple ticks may earn a POS designation. Both POS and LGS sites receive the same level of protection under the new Local Plan which protects sites from development other than in very special circumstances. LGS designation simply denotes that a particular site meets the criteria outlined in national guidance and is considered to be one of Reading 'best' green spaces.

### Sites designated either Public Open Space (POS) or Local Green Space (LGS):

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
Albert Road Recreation Ground (EN7Na)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Thames	Yes	LGS - This park is well used and includes a paved recreation area, children's play area, walking trail, field, bowling green and tennis courts. With a variety of recreation facilities available, this area has particular significance because of its recreation value.
Alfred Sutton Playing Field (EN7Ea)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Park	Yes	LGS - This playing field is one of the larger in the Borough and is demonstrably special to the local community because it can accommodate multiple recreation activities at once and is well-used.
Amersham Road Recreation Ground (EN7Nb)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Caversham	Yes	LGS - Park is well-used by local families in an underserved area. The park's wooded edge provides a refuge for wildlife. Additionally, the site is home to an important community centre, as well as recreation grounds and a

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										children's play area.
Arthur Newbery Park (EN7Wa)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Kentwood	Yes	LGS - This park is significant with regard to beauty, recreational value and wildlife. It provides some of Reading's best views across the River Thames to Mapledurham.
Baltimore Walk (EN7Nc)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Thames	Yes	LGS - This historic park is particularly beautiful and tranquil, with mature woodland. It provides important habitat for wildlife in a residential area and is well-used by the local community.
Battle Square (EN7Wb)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Battle	Yes	LGS - This small, but well-maintained space provides a children's play area in a dense residential neighbourhood that is underserved by open space.
Beechwood (EN7Nd)	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Thames	Yes	LGS - This mature woodland provides important habitat for wildlife and a tranquil experience for residents.
Beresford Road Playground (EN7Wc)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Battle	Yes	POS - Although this playground is well-used by residents, it is not considered one of Reading's best open spaces and is not of particular significance when measured against the criteria outlined in the NPPF.
Blagrave Recreation Ground (EN7Wd)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Tilehurst	Yes	POS - Although the recreation ground provides space for informal games



Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										and a children's play area, there is insufficient evidence that this site is 'demonstrably special' when compared with other play areas around the Borough.
Blundells Copse and Meadway Sports Ground (EN7We)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tilehurst	Yes	LGS - This site is particularly significant because of its ancient woodland and tranquillity. Additionally, the nearby sports ground provides space for recreation. It is supported by an active community group, illustrating its importance to local residents.
Bug's Bottom (Hemdean Bottom) (EN7Ne)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Thames	Yes	LGS - This area provides important habitat with both mature grassland and a small mature woodland. It is a tranquil area for local residents and serves as a gateway to the countryside to the north.
Caleta Close Play Area (EN7Nf)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Caversham	Yes	POS - There is insufficient evidence to show why this site is 'demonstrably special.' The area has very limited facilities and does not seem to be one of Reading's best open spaces.
Caversham Court Gardens and Allotments (EN7Ng)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Caversham	Yes	LGS - This area is one of Reading's best open spaces. It has an active friends group and is designated as a Historic Park and Garden by

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										Historic England. It is particularly beautiful and tranquil. It is well-used for informal recreation by residents and visitors and is home to wildlife.
Caversham Pond (EN7Nh)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Peppard	Yes	POS - Although the site is beautiful and home to wildlife, there is insufficient evidence for particular significance.
Christchurch Meadows (EN7Ca)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Caversham	Yes	LGS - This is one of Reading's largest and best public open spaces with a wide variety of facilities. It fulfils almost every aspect of particular significance as outlined in the NPPF and hosts many events throughout the year.
Cintra Park (EN7Sa)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Redlands	Yes	LGS - This park has unique recreational value with outdoor fitness stations and a running/walking path with distance markers. It is well-used by the local community and provides tranquillity within a dense residential area, as well as provides habitat for wildlife.
Clayfield Copse and Blackhouse Woods (EN7Ni)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Peppard	Yes	LGS - This site has unique value due to its sculpture trail and ancient woodland. It provides a beautiful and tranquil area for residents to walk and is home to diverse wildlife.

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										Additionally, a skate park and sports ground provide opportunity for recreation.
Coley Recreation Ground (EN7Wf)	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Minster	Yes	LGS - Although this site is not particularly beautiful or natural, it is very important to local residents. It is well-used for formal and informal recreation and was home to Reading Football Club from 1882-1889. There is a wide variety of recreation facilities for children, football, basketball, tennis and cricket.
Courage Park (EN7Wg)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Minster	Yes	POS - There is insufficient evidence to show why this site is 'demonstrably special.' The area has very limited facilities and does not seem to be one of Reading's best open spaces.
Eldon Square (EN7Eb)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Redlands	Yes	POS - This Georgian-style square is not particularly well used by residents and has recently been neglected, becoming overgrown and is against a very busy street. Although it has elements of significance, it is best protected as part of the Conservation Area.
Emmer Green Pond (EN7Nj)	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Peppard	Yes	POS - Although tranquil and home to wildlife, this area is not particularly significant or well-used. It is

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										not considered to be one of Reading's best or most-valued public open spaces.
Emmer Green Recreation Ground and Allotments (EN7Nk)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Peppard	Yes	LGS - This park is very well-used with well-maintained facilities for formal and informal recreation and a children's play area. It is certainly one of the best parks in the north of the Borough.
Fobney Island Nature Reserve (EN7Sb)	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Minster	Yes	POS - Although the area is home to wildlife and tranquil, there is insufficient evidence that this site is one of Reading's best green spaces or that is markedly more significant than other wetland floodplains in this area.
Forbury Gardens (EN7Cb)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Abbey	Yes	LGS - This is one of Reading's oldest and most valued open spaces. It is adjacent to the Abbey Ruins and provides informal recreation for residents and visitors. It hosts many events throughout the year.
Great Knollys Street Recreation (EN7Wh)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Abbey	Yes	POS - There is insufficient evidence to show why this site is 'demonstrably special.' The area has very limited facilities and does not seem to be one of Reading's best open spaces.
Greenham Avenue, Kennet Island (EN7Sc)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Whitley	Yes	LGS - This large grassy space provides an area for informal recreation in a

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										dense residential neighbourhood that is underserved by open space.
Hills Meadow (EN7Cc)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Caversham	Yes	LGS - BMX track and skate park provide unique recreational value and area is home to wildlife.
John Rabson Recreation Ground (EN7Sd)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Church	Yes	LGS - This large space has many formal recreation fields, a large children's play area and is in an area that is underserved. The site hosts many community events throughout the year and is demonstrably special to the local community.
Kennet Island Nature Reserve (EN7Se)	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Whitley	Yes	POS - Although the area is home to wildlife and tranquil, there is insufficient evidence that this site is one of Reading's best green spaces or that is markedly more significant than other wetland floodplains in this area.
Kensington Park (EN7Wi)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Battle	Yes	LGS - This area provides fields for formal recreation and a children's play area. The park is well-used and demonstrably special to the local community.
Kings Meadow and the Coal Woodland (EN7Cd)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abbey	Yes	LGS - This is one of Reading's largest and best public open spaces with a wide variety of facilities. It fulfils every aspect of particular significance as outlined in the NPPF and

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										hosts many events throughout the year. The area is very beautiful and is home to recently refurbished Victoria baths.
Kings Road Gardens (EN7Ce)	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Abbey	Yes	POS - This site is not particularly well-used is bordered by loud and busy traffic. There is insufficient evidence for LGS designation according to the criteria outlined in the NPPF.
Land at Deans Farm (EN7NI)	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Caversham	No	POS - This site is not demonstrably special to the local community as it is not publicly accessible.
Land at Stuart Close (EN7Nm)	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Peppard	Yes	POS - There is insufficient evidence to show why this site is 'demonstrably special.' The area has very limited facilities and does not seem to be one of Reading's best open spaces.
Long Barn Lane Recreation Ground (EN7Sf)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Katesgrove	Yes	LGS - This area is well-used by the surrounding residential community with many opportunities for recreation and a children's play area. It is one of the largest and best-used parks in the south of the Borough.
Lorenzo Quelch Park (EN7Ec)	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Redlands	Yes	POS - Although the area provides a small children's play area, there is insufficient evidence that the park is one of Reading's most valued green spaces.

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										It does not meet any of the criteria outlined in the NPPF.
Lousehill Copse (EN7Wj)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Tilehurst/ Norcot	Yes	LGS - This large copse is beautiful, tranquil and provides important habitat for wildlife.
Mapledurham Playing Fields (EN7Nn)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Mapledurham	Yes	LGS - This is one of Reading's best and most highly valued green spaces and meets every requirement of significance outline in the NPPF.
Mcllroy Park and Round Copse (EN7Wk)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Kentwood	Yes	LGS - This is one of Reading's best and most highly valued green spaces and meets every requirement of significance outline in the NPPF.
Meadway Woodland (EN7Wl)	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Tilehurst	Yes	POS - Although the area is home to wildlife and tranquil, there is insufficient evidence that this site is one of Reading's best green spaces or that is markedly more significant than other woodlands in this area.
Milestone Wood and Milestone Way (EN7No)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Peppard	Yes	LGS - This pedestrian spine through Caversham Park Village is well-used and includes a community centre, football pitch and beautiful woodland within forms the boundary with South Oxfordshire.
Oxford Road Community	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Battle	Yes	POS - Although this area provides opportunities for

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
Garden (EN7Wv)										community gardening, it is accessible by the full public. There is insufficient evidence according to the criteria in the NPPF that this is one of Reading's most significant areas of green space.
Oxford Road Recreation Ground (EN7Wm)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Kentwood	Yes	LGS - This ground is well-used within an underserved residential area. It provides a tranquil escape from the busy Oxford Road with opportunities for recreation.
Palmer Park (EN7Ed)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Park	Yes	LGS - This is one of Reading's largest and most valued areas of green space. The velodrome facilities provide unique recreation facilities. It is tranquil, beautiful and home to wildlife. It also hosts many community events throughout the year.
Portman Road Playground (EN7Wn)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Kentwood	Yes	POS - Although the area provides a small children's play area, there is insufficient evidence that the park is one of Reading's most valued green spaces.
Prospect Park (EN7Wo)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Southcote	Yes	LGS - This is one of Reading's best and most highly valued green spaces and meets every requirement of significance outline in the NPPF.
Rivermead and Thameside	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abbey/Battle	Yes	LGS - This is one of



Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
Promenade (EN7Wp)										Reading's best and most highly valued green spaces. Reading Festival, perhaps the most significant annual event in the town, utilises this area.
Robert Hewett Recreation Ground (EN7Wq)	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Minster	Yes	LGS - This historic play area is well used by local residents and provides tranquillity near the busy Bath Road.
Rotherfield Way Copse (EN7Np)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Peppard	Yes	LGS - This area provides recreation opportunities, with walking trails through a tranquil wood teeming with wildlife. This is one of the largest and best used woodlands in the north of the Borough.
Shinfield Road Recreation Ground (EN7Sg)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Church	Yes	LGS - This area provides recreation opportunities in an underserved area and is well-used by residents.
South Whitley Park (EN7Sh)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Whitley	Yes	LGS - This is one of the largest and best parks in the south of the Borough, providing habitat for wildlife and recreation facilities for Whitley residents.
Southcote Linear Park (EN7Wr)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Southcote	Yes	LGS - This is one of the largest and best parks in West Reading. It provides walking trails and sports pitches, as well as a children's play area. With woodlands and grassland, as well as river views, this

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										area provides tranquil habitat for wildlife.
St Laurence's Churchyard (EN7Cf)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Abbey	Yes	POS - Although this area is beautiful and historic, there is insufficient evidence for its designation as LGS. The area is used mostly as a pedestrian thoroughfare to and from the Town Hall to Forbury Gardens and is protected as the setting of a listed building, as well as public open space.
St Mary's Churchyard (EN7Cg)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Abbey	Yes	POS - Although this area is beautiful and historic, there is insufficient evidence for its designation as LGS. The area is used mostly as a pedestrian thoroughfare to and from Broad Street and is protected as the setting of a listed building, as well as public open space.
Taff Way Woodland (EN7Ws)	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Norcot	Yes	POS - There is insufficient evidence to illustrate that this particular woodland is more significant than others in the area.
The Warren Woodland West (EN7Nq)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Mapledurham	Yes	LGS - This narrow strip of woodland near a large chalk escarpment provides beautiful views of the Thames for walkers, as well as tranquil woodland for residents and wildlife.
Tofrek Terrace (EN7Wt)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Norcot	Yes	POS - Although the area provides a few sports pitches, there is insufficient

Site name (code)	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										evidence that the park is one of Reading's most valued green spaces.
Victoria Road Recreation Ground and Kentwood Hill Allotments (EN7Wu)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Kentwood	Yes	LGS - This is one of the most valued green spaces in the west of Reading and provides sports pitches and allotments, as well as habitat for wildlife.
View Island (EN7Ch)	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Caversham	Yes	LGS - This formerly derelict boat yard rehabilitated by RBC in 1998 is well-used by residents of all ages, as well as school groups. It offers an 'outdoor classroom' and habitat for many types of wildlife.
Waterloo Meadows (EN7Si)	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Katesgrove	Yes	LGS - This area has an active friends group, a BMX track, part of the National Cycle Route and grassland habitat for many types of wildlife. It is well-used and provides a beautiful pedestrian link from Katesgrove to Rose Kiln Lane.
Westfield Road Recreation Ground (EN7Nr)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Caversham	Yes	LGS - This ground is well-used within a residential area and is highly-valued among residents of Caversham. It provides multiple sports pitches.
Whitley Wood Recreation Ground (EN7Sj)	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Whitley	Yes	LGS - This area provides recreation opportunities in an underserved area and is home to a football league.

Sites considered, but not designated POS or LGS:

Site name	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
Abbey Ruins & Chestnut Walk	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Abbey	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Although this site is special, it is already protected as a scheduled monument, as well as within the Reading Abbey Quarter.
Caversham Park	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Peppard	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - this area is not publicly accessible at this time. Policy CA2: Caversham Park outlines planned development at this site.
Chapel Hill Allotments	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Tilehurst	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Allotments are not accessible to the wider public like parks or recreation grounds. Allotments are considered 'undesignated open space' and will be protected subject to policy EN8.
Chazey Court Farm and Thames Island	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Mapledurham	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Public accessibility could not be determined. This area is

Site name	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										considered a Major Landscape Feature.
Chiltern Road Play Area	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Peppard	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - This area is not expected to endure throughout the plan period as it is allocated for cemetery expansion (see CA1g).
Christchurch Green	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Katesgrove	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - this area is very small and is protected as the setting of a listed building, as well as a green space that contributes to the character of the conservation area.
Circuit Lane Allotments	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Southcote	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Allotments are not accessible to the wider public like parks or recreation grounds. Allotments are considered 'undesignated open space' and will be protected subject to policy EN8.
Coal Woodland (partial) & Kennet Mouth	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Abbey	No	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - The area near horseshoe bridge and the railway is not particularly well-

Site name	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										used by the public and is poorly maintained. The most significant areas of the Coal Woodland have been protected as Local Green Space as detailed above. Additionally, it is not expected endure through the plan period as it is safeguarded for transport projects.
Coley Park Allotments	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Minster	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Allotments are not accessible to the wider public like parks or recreation grounds. Allotments are considered 'undesignated open space' and will be protected subject to policy EN8.
Coronation Square	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Southcote	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - This small green space is not particularly significant. There are many larger and better publicly accessible green spaces in this area.
Devil's Dip	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Southcote	No	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - This area is overgrown and no longer publicly accessible.

Site name	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
Downing Road Playing Field	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Tilehurst	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - This area is not expected to endure throughout the plan period as it has been allocated according to Policy WR2. There are many better sports pitches nearby.
Goddard's Farm Allotments	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Whitley	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Allotments are not accessible to the wider public like parks or recreation grounds. Allotments are considered 'undesignated open space' and will be protected subject to policy EN8.
Henley Road Allotments	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Peppard	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Allotments are not accessible to the wider public like parks or recreation grounds. Allotments are considered 'undesignated open space' and will be protected subject to policy EN8.
Henley Road Cemetery	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Peppard	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - it is

Site name	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										considered that cemeteries are best protected as undesignated open space and are extremely unlikely to be redeveloped due to the nature of the use.
Kennet Meadows	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Southcote	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - This very large area is protected as a Major Landscape Feature.
Kiln Road Chalk Caves	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Peppard	No	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - This area is not publicly accessible and may present health and safety concerns.
Land at Peppard Road and Lowfield Road	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Peppard	No	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - There are many better publicly accessible green spaces in this area. This very small patch of grass does contribute to the area, but serves no formal function of the public such as recreation.
Land at Wincanton Road	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Whitley	No	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - There are many better publicly accessible green spaces in this area. This very small patch of grass does



Site name	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										contribute to the area, but serves no formal function of the public such as recreation.
Lower Southcote Allotments	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Southcote	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Allotments are not accessible to the wider public like parks or recreation grounds. Allotments are considered 'undesignated open space' and will be protected subject to policy EN8.
Meadway Allotments	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Norcot	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Allotments are not accessible to the wider public like parks or recreation grounds. Allotments are considered 'undesignated open space' and will be protected subject to policy EN8.
Oakley Road Allotments and Caversham Cemetery	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Thames	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - it is considered that cemeteries are best protected as undesignated open space and are extremely unlikely to be

Site name	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										redeveloped due to the nature of the use. Allotments are not accessible to the wider public like parks or recreation grounds. Allotments are considered 'undesigned open space' and will be protected subject to policy EN8.
Reading Cemetery	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Park	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - it is considered that cemeteries are best protected as undesignated open space and are extremely unlikely to be redeveloped due to the nature of the use.
Reading Golf Course	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Peppard	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - The golf course is not accessible to the wider public.
Ridgeline Trust Garden and Mockbegger Allotments	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Park	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - Allotments are not accessible to the wider public like parks or recreation grounds. Allotments are considered 'undesigned open

Site name	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it local in character and in proximity to the community it serves?	Particular local significance					Ward	Is it demonstrably special to the local community?	Recommendation
			Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife			
										space' and will be protected subject to policy EN8.
Scours Lane, Cow Lane and Littlejohn's Farm	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Battle/ Kentwood/ Abbey	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - This very large area is protected as a Major Landscape Feature.
New Christchurch School Playing Fields	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Katesgrove	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - It is considered that school playing fields are not accessible to the wider public at all times.
Tilehurst Triangle Green	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Tilehurst	Yes	Does not meet the requirements of POS or LGS designation - There are many better publicly accessible green spaces in this area. This very small patch of grass does contribute to the area, but serves no formal function of the public such as recreation.

## Appendix 2: Policy EN7 text and list of sites with final designation

### EN7: LOCAL GREEN SPACE AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The following Local Green Spaces (LGS) and Public Open Space (POS), as shown on the Proposals Map, will be protected from development. Proposals that would result in the loss of any of these areas of open space, erode their quality through insensitive adjacent development or jeopardise their use or enjoyment by the public, will not be permitted.

Code	Name	Status	Area (ha)
EN7Ca	Christchurch Meadows	LGS	11.06
EN7Cb	Forbury Gardens	LGS	1.8
EN7Cc	Hills Meadow	LGS	4.26
EN7Cd	Kings Meadow and the Coal Woodland	LGS	16.17
EN7Ce	Kings Road Gardens	POS	0.16
EN7Cf	St Laurence's Churchyard	POS	0.39
EN7Cg	St Mary's Churchyard	POS	0.59
EN7Ch	View Island	LGS	1.62
EN7Ea	Alfred Sutton Playing Field	LGS	4.9
EN7Eb	Eldon Square	POS	0.35
EN7Ec	Lorenzo Quelch Park	POS	0.12
EN7Ed	Palmer Park	LGS	16.07
EN7Na	Albert Road Recreation Ground	LGS	1.53
EN7Nb	Amersham Road Recreation Ground	LGS	2.31
EN7Nc	Balmore Walk	LGS	7.06
EN7Nd	Beechwood	LGS	3.65
EN7Ne	Bug's Bottom (Hemdean Bottom)	LGS	14.23
EN7Nf	Caleta Close Play Area	POS	0.46
EN7Ng	Caversham Court Gardens and Allotments	LGS	1.4
EN7Nh	Caversham Pond	POS	0.73
EN7Ni	Clayfield Copse and Blackhouse Woods	LGS	26.31
EN7Nj	Emmer Green Pond	POS	1.09
EN7Nk	Emmer Green Recreation Ground and Allotments	LGS	2.27
EN7NI	Land at Deans Farm	POS	2.29
EN7Nm	Land at Stuart Close	POS	0.73
EN7Nn	Mapledurham Playing Fields	LGS	10.86
EN7No	Milestone Wood and Milestone Way	LGS	8.29
EN7Np	Rotherfield Way Copse	LGS	1.97
EN7Nq	The Warren Woodland West	LGS	0.99
EN7Nr	Westfield Road Recreation Ground	LGS	1.45
EN7Sa	Cintra Park	LGS	6.87
EN7Sb	Fobney Island Nature Reserve	POS	6.18
EN7Sc	Greenham Avenue, Kennet Island	LGS	0.47
EN7Sd	John Rabson Recreation Ground and The Cowsey	LGS	26.91
EN7Se	Kennet Island Nature Reserve	POS	1.62
EN7Sf	Long Barn Lane Recreation Ground	LGS	3.29
EN7Sg	Shinfield Road Recreation Ground	LGS	1.15
EN7Sh	South Whitley Park	LGS	5.31
EN7Si	Waterloo Meadows	LGS	10.32
EN7Sj	Whitley Wood Recreation Ground	LGS	4.15
EN7Wa	Arthur Newbery Park	LGS	13.02

EN7Wb	Battle Square	LGS	0.54
EN7Wc	Beresford Road Playground	POS	0.54
EN7Wd	Blagrove Recreation Ground	POS	0.87
EN7We	Blundells Copse and Meadway Sports Ground	LGS	9.48
EN7Wf	Coley Recreation Ground	LGS	5.62
EN7Wg	Courage Park	POS	1.74
EN7Wh	Great Knollys Street Recreation Ground	POS	1.49
EN7Wi	Kensington Park	LGS	4.23
EN7Wj	Lousehill Copse	LGS	12.67
EN7Wk	Mcllroy Park and Round Copse	LGS	15.02
EN7WI	Meadway Woodland	POS	2.6
EN7Wm	Oxford Road Recreation Ground	LGS	0.69
EN7Wn	Portman Road Playground	POS	2.32
EN7Wo	Prospect Park	LGS	46.52
EN7Wp	Rivermead and Thameside Promenade	LGS	16.83
EN7Wq	Robert Hewett Recreation Ground	LGS	0.34
EN7Wr	Southcote Linear Park	LGS	3.47
EN7Ws	Taff Way Woodland	POS	2.74
EN7Wt	Tofrek Terrace	POS	2.1
EN7Wu	Victoria Recreation Ground and Kentwood Hill Allotments	LGS	4.64
EN7Wv	Oxford Road Community Garden	POS	0.12