

Local Green Space Assessment

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012 allows communities to nominate green spaces to be designated as Local Green Space. This designation can be made when either a Local Plan is adopted or a Neighbourhood Plan 'made'.

Local Green Space designation gives the green space a very high level of protection against development and the NPPF states that the Local Green Space designation will not be suitable for most green space.

The 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.

Local Green Space must fulfil certain criteria to be designated. These are:

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

During 2012 and 2013 Harborough District Council undertook two 'call for sites' asking for Local Green Space nominations to be submitted with evidence supporting their designation.

A total of 177 sites were nominated by communities, and these were assessed against the criteria within the NPPF, the information concerning Local Green Space on Planning Practice Guidance and comments made by Examiners during neighbourhood Plan examinations.

To be designated the site needed to have special significance to the community by either being used for a community event in the past, or have some sort of structure erected upon it that was of community significance. Any sites that were private gardens were excluded from the designation, as were sites that had existing protection such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Open Space Sport and Recreation sites.

The landowners of submitted sites were contacted to seek their representations concerning the nomination, and recommendations were reassessed in the light of the comments received.

A total of 43 sites are considered to be suitable as Local Green Space, and the justification for the decision are shown below in Appendix 1. Plans for the sites are shown in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 - Local Green Space submissions assessed as being suitable to designate

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
Allextton	LGS/All/1	Village Green Allextton	The site appears to meet the criteria for being designated as Local Green Space ie important to the street scene, of recreational value and not a large tract of land. LCC highways comments have indicated that publicly maintained highway is not suitable for designation as Local Green Space. It is considered this is a unique piece of verge in community and demonstrated to be significant to residents. Recommendation is to designate as LGS
Arnesby	LGS/ARN/10	Paddock, Stoneyleigh	The land has been used for May Fayres in the past and is therefore shown to be of significance to the community. The land owner alleges that the annual expense of maintenance will devalue the land, however the burden of additional maintenance cannot be imposed on a landowner therefore this appears not to be a robust argument. What remains to be proven is whether the site is of special significance to the community compared with other similar sites in the settlement. Recommendation is that given its unique position of being ring fenced by roads with no buildings on the paddock, in a prominent position at the entrance to the village and previously being used for community events that it should be designated as Local Green Space
Billesdon	LGS/Bil/2	Old Clay Pits Woodland Billesdon	This site is supported as LGS, as it appears to be an important area of natural woodland within scale and relating to the community.

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
	LGS/Bil/3	Muddy Lane, Billesdon	Relates to the village and appears to meet NPPF criteria. This is not a large tract of land and is in scale to the community that values it. The site is special in character and is unlike any other with in the settlement. Iti is identified in the Neighbourhood Plan for Billesdon as a Heritage Asset, being for centuries a carriage road giving access to the rear of the properties in Church Street. The land owner LCC has objected to the designation stating that publicly maintained highway is not suitable to be designated as Local Green Space. It is recommended however that the site is designated as Local Green Space
	LGS/Bil/1	Billesdon Brook	The river corridor is well used by locals and is a valued amenity. The site has biodiversity and is not a large tract of land. It also appears to relate well to the settlement of Billesdon. It is recommended this can be designated as LGS.
Bittesby	LGS/Bit/1	The Lake Bittesby	This site does not readily relate to the settlement of Bittesby and is difficult to justify being designated as LGS. More justification needed prior to decision being made. Sept 2014 Advisory Panel has asked that this site is determined. Although no further evidence has been submitted the importance to the community to retain this site as a green space on the edge of the employment area should be considered. On balance it officer opinion that this site should be recommended to designate as Local Green Space.

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
Burton Overy	LGS/BO/7	Old Heather Garden	<p>Inclusion as LGS is justified as the site is in the centre of the village and contributes to the visual amenity of the settlement. The planning application appears to extend into the proposed LGS area and this permission will take precedence even if designated as LGS. The NPPF criteria are met in that the site is not a large tract of land and is in scale to the community it serves. The land owners have suggested a redrawing of the boundary of LGS to take account of the developed area, and this seems a reasonable way forward. It is recommended that the owners and Burton Overy Parish Council are contacted prior to any further work being undertaken on the designation to seek agreement on the site in question. Sept 2014 Advisory Panel asked that this site be determined. In officer opinion the site is suitable to be designated as Local Green Space, however any portion of the land which is subject to a planning application should be removed from the boundary of LGS designation.</p>
	LGS/BO/6	Traffic Island bearing the village sign	<p>Includes village sign and appears justified in being designated as LGS. The Highway Authority has indicated that it does not support the designation as LGS as publicly maintained highway is not suitable for designation. These triangles of grass are characteristic of Burton Overy and many other villages and to lose them would detract from the villages character. The question is are they of special significance to the community and can they be designated against the advice of LCC? Recommendation is designate because of village sign and significance to the community derived from that.</p>
	LGS/BO/3	Main Street Spinney	<p>With the additional information provided this should be justified as inclusion as LGS as it is within the settlement and not a large tract of land. The biodiversity that the site provides is important to the village as is the visual amenity important to the character. The site has two entrances as indicated by the land owner. It should be confirmed whether there is any use by the community prior to the designation as this will strengthen the case for designation as LGS.</p>

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
	LGS/BO/2	Pasture land east of Scotland Lane	This site has been recognised by the community and PINS as being important to the character of the village. The visual amenity and open character that the site provides justifies its inclusion as LGS. The area is not a large tract of land and relates well to the settlement. The village subscription and the ownership by Burton Overy village land verify that this piece of land is highly valued by the community and therefore fulfils the test of special significance to the community. It should therefore be designated as Local Green Space
	LGS/BO/1	Main Street Pasture	Owned by Burton Village Land the site is almost in the centre of the village and contributes to the open character of the settlement. Justified in inclusion as LGS as it meets the NPPF criteria. The fact that the village land company owns the site indicates the special significance to the community of these pieces of land. It is recommended that this is justified to be included as Local Green Space
Bushby (Thurnby)	LGS/THUR/8	Dismantled Railway Line Dalby Avenue	The site is on the edge of Bushby, but will become more significant as new development takes place off Pulford Drive, ensuring the site relates better to the settlement. The site is quite large, but because of the valuable habitat and the additional development in close proximity sufficient of the NPPF criteria may be met to justify inclusion as LGS. The owners have contested that the site is not visible from the street and has no public access. There may well be opportunities for this site to be protected through application of the Core Strategy policies and emerging Local Plan criteria based polices. The special significance to the community that the NPPF requires appears not, on balance, to have been demonstrated. It is suggested that this site is not designated at this time as the evidence presented is too contradictory. Further work will be needed with the community to determine the way forward with this site. The use of part of the site as Garden should also be taken into account as this cannot be designated as LGS (Billesdon Examiner comments) Sept 2014 Advisory Panel asked that this site be determined. Officer recommendation is to designate the part of the site that is the old railway line, with removal of the private gardens from the LGS area

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
Claybrooke Parva	LGS/CLAPA/3	Church Field Ullesthorpe Road	This area of land is in the centre of the village and is shown to have importance to the community. It is not a large tract of land and is easily accessible. The field is adjacent to the church and church field and affords a view of the church from the thorough fare and houses opposite. This could be designated as Local Green Space but the owner has not had opportunity to comment on the proposal as details were not supplied. Sept 2014 Advisory Panel has requested that this site is determined. Officer recommendation is the site is designated because of the location adjacent to the church and the views afforded
Dunton Bassett	LGS/DB/c	Wild area next to Leics Round Footpath	Insufficient evidence provided. This area is not a large tract of land and associates well with the community and is in proportion to the size of the settlement. With further evidence it may be possible to designate as LGS. Further details have not been provided and so it is recommended to not take this designation further until more evidence and landowner details have been presented. Sept 2014 Advisory Panel have requested that this site is determined. Because of the location next to the Leicestershire Round, officers consider that this is of sufficient special significance within Dunton Bassett to designate the site as Local Green Space.
Fleckney	LGS/FLECK/2	Amenity Area, Priest Meadow Estate	This area of land is part Highway verge. The area is not a large tract of land and is evidently important to the local community it serves. The land owner is untraceable and has not had opportunity to comment. LCC highways contest that the part of the site that is highway should not be designated as LGS. This site has a history of community use, and importance to the community it serves. It is fully accessible and used for informal recreation. On balance it is recommended that this site is designated as Local Green Space.

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
Foxton	LGS/FOX/6	Shoulder of Mutton Garden, Foxton	There is sufficient evidence to designate this site as LGS. The site is accessible and highly valued by the community it serves. The site is not a large tract of land. The recommendation is to designate this site as LGS.
	LGS/FOX/3	Black Horse Garden	Sufficient evidence is given to designate as LGS. The site is not a large tract of land, is of importance to the community and is accessible. It is recommended that this site be designated as LGS as the owner has had opportunity to comment.
Great Easton	LGS/GRTE/4	High St and Church Bank Gt Easton	This site is in the centre of the village and evidence is given of the importance of the visual amenity of the site. It is not a large tract of land and appears to meet the criteria for Local Green Space. Highways Authority suggests that publicly maintained highway is unsuitable for designation as LGS. Suggest that this site is reassessed when guidance becomes available. On balance the site is demonstrated to be significant because of the listed phone box.
	LGS /GRTE/2	Brook Lane Paddock Gt Easton	<p>The site appears to meet sufficient criteria for inclusion as Local Green Space, and the evidence submitted suggests its visual amenity value and archaeological importance. The land owner has suggested that there is not archaeological importance and little habitat or wildlife. The site is currently classed as Important Open Land, which supports the LGS inclusion, but it is only part of the land in Great Easton that is listed as IOL. Why is this field of particular significance? The field runs down to the brook and affords extensive views over a very attractive part of Great Easton. The land owner has asked for the PC to amend the LGS boundary as they may want to apply for planning permission. The decision on designation will need to wait until this amended boundary submission is received and the site can then be assessed against the requirements of local wishes.</p> <p>Further information has been received from the PC that they would not support the amended boundary, and want the original submission considered for LGS. Recommendation is to designate this site as LGS because of location in centre of village and significance indicated by the Conservation Area Character statement for Great Easton</p>

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
Great Glen	LGS /GRTE/3	Barnsdale Paddock, Gt Easton	Evidence of the importance of the area to the community is given, and the importance of the visual amenity of the site is apparent. The Parish Council has subsequently clarified the position of the boundary for the LGS and has indicated support for the area of land proposed to develop one property as being excluded from the LGS proposal. The site is not classed as Important Open Land and is not available to residents as a community asset. Evidence has been submitted that it has not heritage or archaeological value. The line of the LGS boundary should be drawn outside the development site proposal. The site gives character to the entrance to the village with two stone gate pillars at the site entrance. Recommendation is to designate the area of the site outside the proposed development as Local Green Space because of the setting in the centre of the village, the surrounding historic thatch cottages and the reference in the Conservation Area Character statement.
Great Glen	LGS/GRTG/1	Post Office Green Great Glen	The information given for this site is not comprehensive, however the site is in the public realm and currently forms part of the village green and street scene. Consideration should be that this site is a candidate for designation as Local Green Space. Recommendation is to designate as LGS.
Great Glen	LGS/GRTG/2	Grassed Area Outside Chemist GG	The information given for inclusion of this site as LGS is only small, however the site is in the centre of the village and forms an integral meeting place for residents around the local stores. The owner of the land contests the proposal. It will obviously have importance to local people, but has special significance to the community been demonstrated? It is not clear why this area is more or less significant than other areas in Great Gen that could have been designated as Local Green Space. The site has semi mature trees and is a small triangle of grass. It gives access to some original properties in Glen and on balance should be considered as being designated as Local Green Space. Recommendation is to designate as LGS.

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
Keyham	LGS/KEY/1a,b,c	Snows Lane - Sunken Lane Keyham	Site is obviously important to the residents of Keyham. The site appears to be unique in Leicestershire and the land owner is supportive of the nomination. Evidence is given of a rare lane and there is concern that additional access points to adjacent land may spoil the feature. The land is accessible from the village and links two ends of the settlement. This land is important for its visual amenity and as such the site should be designated as Local green Space
	LGS/KEY/2	Miles Piece Keyham	The land may already be protected by a designation as a Local Wildlife Reserve and protected by L&RWT. Confirmation will be needed prior to designation as Local Green Space. Confirmation received from L&RWT. Access is permitted to the public and this site is recommended for designation as Local Green Space.
Kibworth Harcourt	LGS/KIBH/1	The Munt, Kibworth Harcourt	The Munt is a locally significant site and of historic importance, However little evidence is given to justify inclusion as LGS. The site is not already designated as an OSSR site. This is a prime site for designation. Recommendation is to designate as Local Green Space.

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
Kings Norton	LGS/KIN/2	Land Adjacent to Grange Farm Kings Norton	Some additional information is given for this site. The site relates well to the village and evidence has been given for use by the community. The site is not a large tract of land and designation as LGS should be possible with further information. Decision should be deferred until further information is received. Sept 2014 Advisory Panel have asked that this site is determined. In the light of evidence submitted and the use by the community for village events it is considered that this site is suitable for designation as Local Green Space .
Laughton	LGS/LAUG/1	Village Hall green/Paddock Laughton	This site is an integral part of the village hall land. It is important to the community because of its attachment to the village hall and is owned by the village hall charity. It appears to meet the criteria sufficiently to be designated as LGS. Accessibility, Local significance in scale to the community it serves. Recommend designation as Local Green Space
Lutterworth	LGS/LUTT/3	Rye Hills Lutterworth	This site is outside the envelope of the town, but is well connected by footpaths links. The evidence provided indicates that the site is important for wildlife and habitat, and well used by the community for walking and linking up other important green space with footpaths (Misterton Marshes). The submission has suggested that the entire site be designated as the footpath link gives access. Suggest consideration is given to designating this area as Local green Space. The owner for this site is not known, therefore unable to progress with the designation although this is a strong candidate on the evidence. Sept 2014 Advisory Panel have asked that this site is determined. Given the links, use and proximity to already designated OSSR site (railway line) this site, in the opinion of officers should be designated as Local Green Space. The site is demonstrably special for recreation in the form of walking and links up other important OSSR site of Misterton Marshes.

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
	LGS/LUTT/8	Memorial Gardens Lutterworth	This site is in the centre of Lutterworth, is well used and is a suitable site for designation as Local Green Space. Little evidence is provided for the decision to be made, but local knowledge of the site should allow a designation to be made. Suggest designating as LGS. Reasons for designation are accessibility and special significance for historic and recreational use.
	LGS/LUTT/5	River Swift Floodplain Lutterworth	This site is adjacent to the town on the southern end of the residential area. It is also bounded by the business area. The evidence provided indicates that the site has some significance as habitat and an area of conservation. The area also has historical significance, being associated with John Wycliffe. It is a quite large area of land, but the evidence indicates that this could be designated as Local Green Space. Land owner has not been contacted therefore cannot progress. Sept 2014. Advisory Panel has requested that this site is determined. The location and importance to the community has been demonstrated with links to John Wycliffe. The habitat value of the site should also be taken into account and the association with the river. Officers consider that this site should be designated as Local Green Space
Medbourne	LGS/MED/6a,b	Tow Path and Gardens Medbourne	These sites comprise several owners and extend through the centre of Medbourne. The watercourse, its banks and the ford create a characteristic and unique street scene and is valued by the residents and visitors to the village. Evidence has been given demonstrating that the sites are valued by the community and form an important contribution to the character of Medbourne. Suggest that this site should be designated. The highway will need to be excluded from the LGS designation

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
	LGS/MED/8	Springbank Medbourne	<p>This site is a small piece of land in the village centre, adjacent to the church and owned by the village shop. It is used for visitors and others to sit and take refreshments and is valued by the community as a piece of open land. It contributes to the street scene of Medbourne and is valuable for its visual amenity. The site is within the conservation area boundary and consideration should be given whether this is sufficient protection. Suggest that this be designated as LGS and the owner contacted. Reasons for designation are significance to the community has been demonstrated and the area of land has a unique role in Medbourne as a piece of accessible green space.</p>
	LGS/MED/6b	Tow Path and Gardens Medbourne	<p>These sites comprise several owners and extend through the centre of Medbourne. The watercourse, its banks and the ford create a characteristic and unique street scene and is valued by the residents and visitors to the village. Evidence has been given demonstrating that the sites are valued by the community and form an important contribution to the character of Medbourne. Suggest that this site should be designated</p>
North Kilworth	LGS/NK/3	The Village Green North Kilworth	<p>The village green forms part of the secondary highway, but has obvious significance for the community because of the location of the Memorial Stone. The Highway Authority has objected to the designation as they suggest that publicly maintained highway is unsuitable for designation. It is suggested this site designated as LGS</p>
	LGS/NK/4	The Stoney North Kilworth	<p>The site is a track just outside the village boundary. Evidence has been given for the enjoyment of the track by walkers etc and the site also links up the church and the golf course. On balance this site should be considered for designation as LGS as it is a unique land in North Kilworth, and is demonstrated to have special significance.</p>

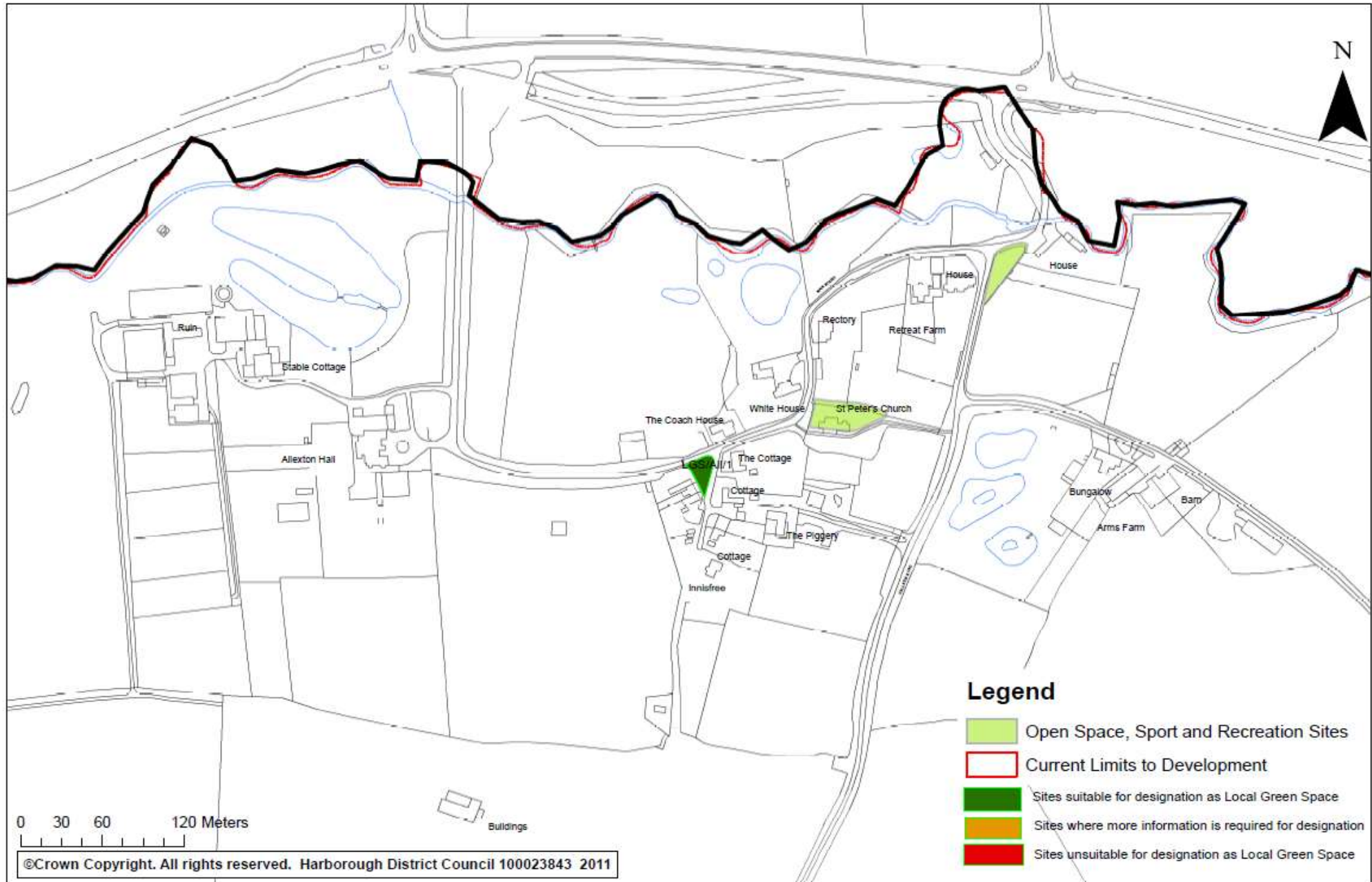
Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
Scraptoft	LGS/SCRAP/5	Stocks Road Scraptoft	This site is easily accessible from the village centre and forms a characteristic feature of Scraptoft. The site is valued by the community and designation as LGS should be considered as it meets the criteria. LCC highways has indicated that publicly maintained highway is not suitable as LGS as development cannot take place without the highway rights being formally extinguished. Recommend that this site is designated because of central position and location related to hall and church.
	LGS/SMEW/	Traffic Island Smeeton Westerby	Although no evidence is provided for justification of this site, the nature of the proposed Local Green Space makes it suitable as designation as LGS. The Highway Authority has objected to the proposal stating that publicly maintained highway is not suitable for designation as Local Green Space. On balance the site location in at the end of Main Street makes it so significant that it should be designated.
Stoughton	LGS/STO/1	Paddock opp Church Land Stoughton	The additional information provided gives an indication of the value placed on the land by the community. The site is adjacent to the highway and is in close proximity to the church. The site forms a break between houses and is opposite the road junction in Scraptoft. Consideration should be given to this site for LGS designation although further evidence will be needed from the landowner prior to designation. Sept 2014 Advisory Panel have requested that this site is determined. Because of the information concerning community use that this site has been used for in the past, it is considered that the site can be designated as Local Green Space

Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
	LGS/STO/2	Natural recreation area Stoughton	<p>Although not a great deal of evidence is given the current and potential future use of this site for village activities and recreation make this a prime candidate for designation as Local Green Space. The site is important to the community with the community being involved in achieving the lease and management of the site. Although the site is leased to the Parish Council they are not the owners. Comment from Coop estates will be required prior to designation, although I would recommend that this is a strong candidate for designation given the current use and the importance of the are to the community. It is shown to have special significance therefore should be designated as Local Green Space</p>
Swinford	LGS/SWIN/1	Glebe Land behind Play Area Swinford	<p>The submission from Swinford indicates that the play area and verge are well used by the community for recreation. The play area is a site for Open Space Sport and Recreation. The Glebe land owned by the Diocese lies directly behind the play area and has been submitted in the 2013 SHLAA as a development site. . The question remains has the field been demonstrated to hold special significance to the community. Other areas around the play area such as the verge may well have demonstrated this significance because of their existing use. The use by the village for village events on permission of the current lease holder is relevant here. The secondary highway may be suitable for LGS, but LCC Highways should be consulted prior to designation, as they have not yet has an opportunity to comment on the proposal. (the ownership details were not supplied) > The recommendation is to designate this site as Local Green Space. The reasons for designation are the additional information supplied by the Parish, concerning the significance to the community for village events. The significance of the setting for Swinford has been demonstrated through submission of the policy context for the site.</p>

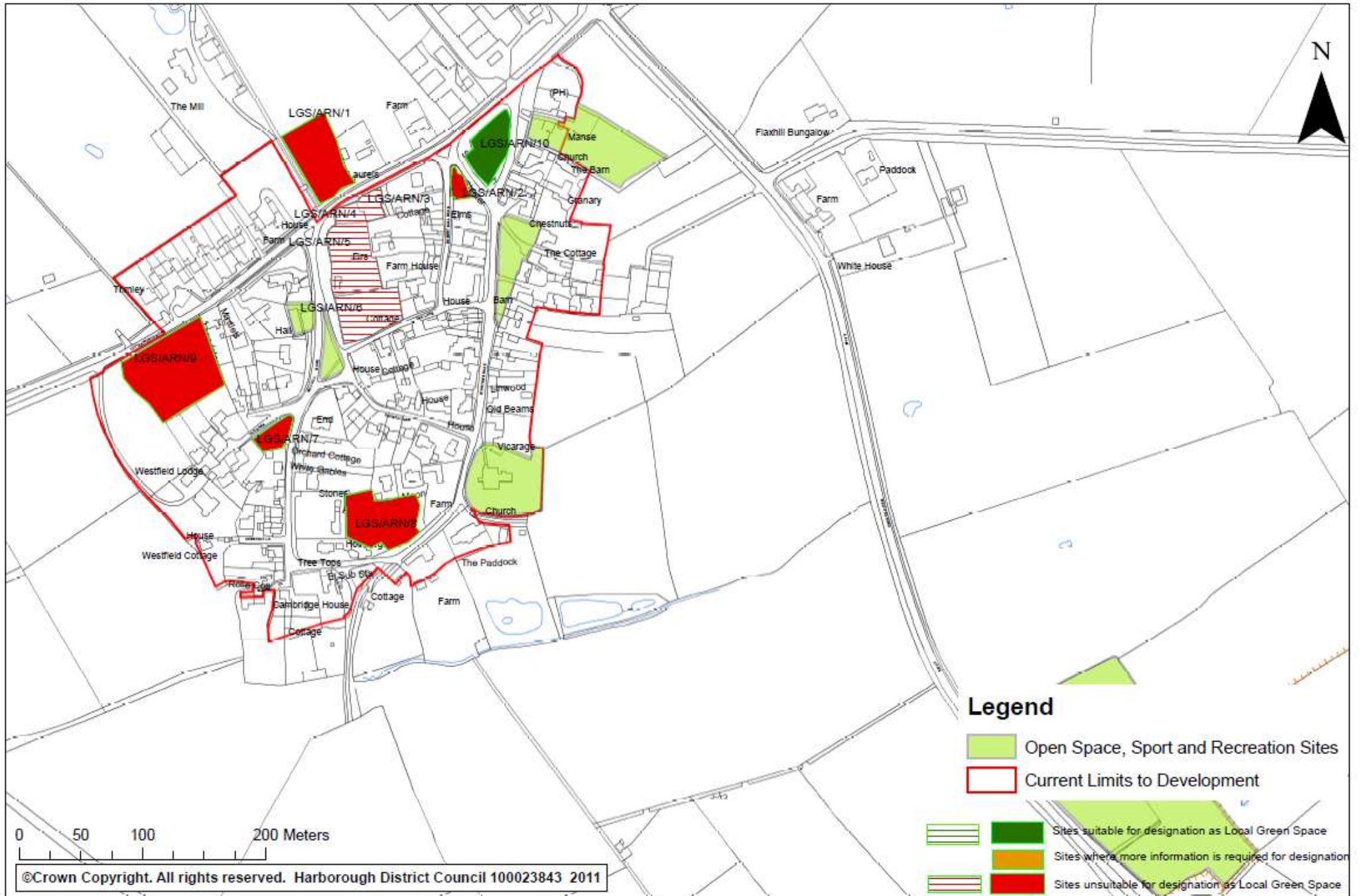
Location	OS number	Item	Justification for HDC decision
Theddingworth	LGS/THEDD/3	Jubilee Area Theddingworth	There has been little evidence provided concerning this site. The site is on the edge of the village and is readily accessible. It is a small piece of verge adjacent to the main road and forms part of the street scene. The site has a seat and tree planting, and because this is recently installed there is probably sufficient community value to be designated as Local Green space. The Highway Authority objects to the designation and is recommended that further clarification is sought prior to designating as Local green Space. On balance the recent tree planting and seating should make this a suitable site for designation. Recommend LGS designation
	LGS/THUR/4	Embankments on Station Road	The site is located on Station Road and the trees located there provide a characteristic tunnel effect. Evidence had been given that the trees form an important role in lessening road noise and providing habitat. The Highway Authority has objected to the designation. Because this is a unique space and is distinctive it should be designated as LGS the reasons being the unique character and habitat provided in on the edge of the City boundary.
Thurnby	LGS/THUR/1	Greens on front of Rose and Crown Thurnby	These greens form an important part of the street scene in Thurnby and are characteristic of this part of the village. The Highway Authority has objected to the designation. Because of location in front of the community asset it is suggested this has special local significance and should be designated as Local Green Space.

Appendix 2 – Local Green Space site plans

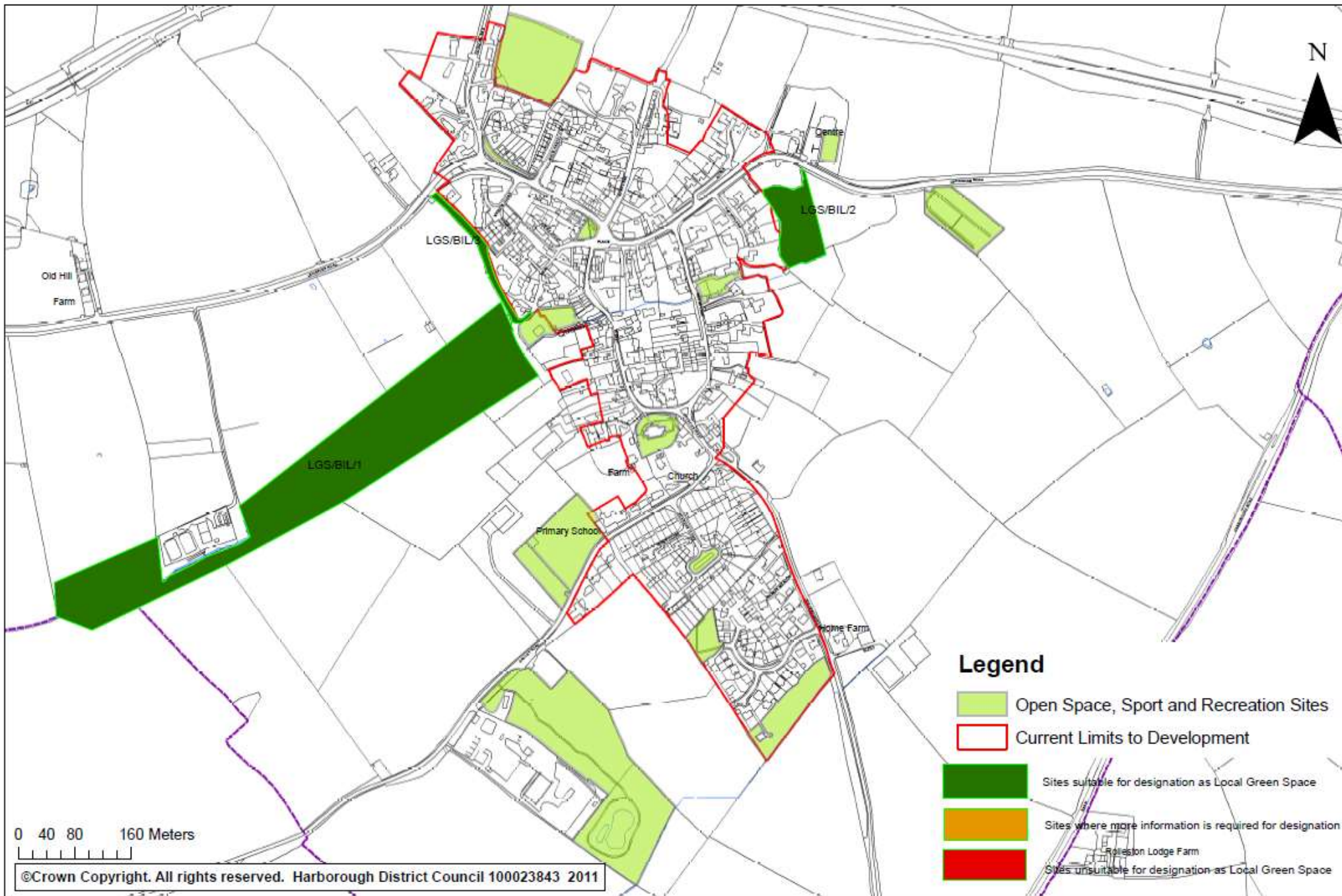
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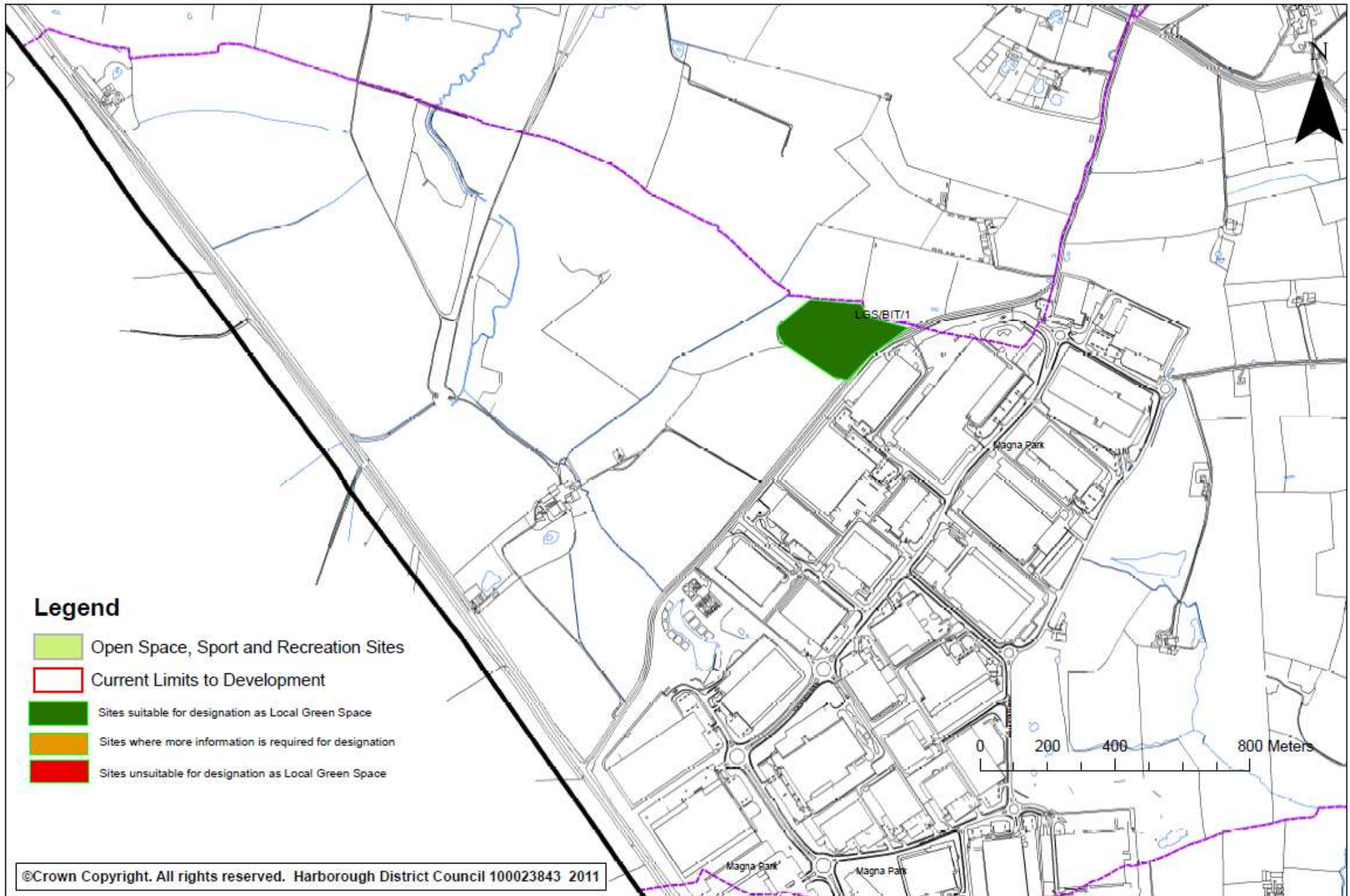
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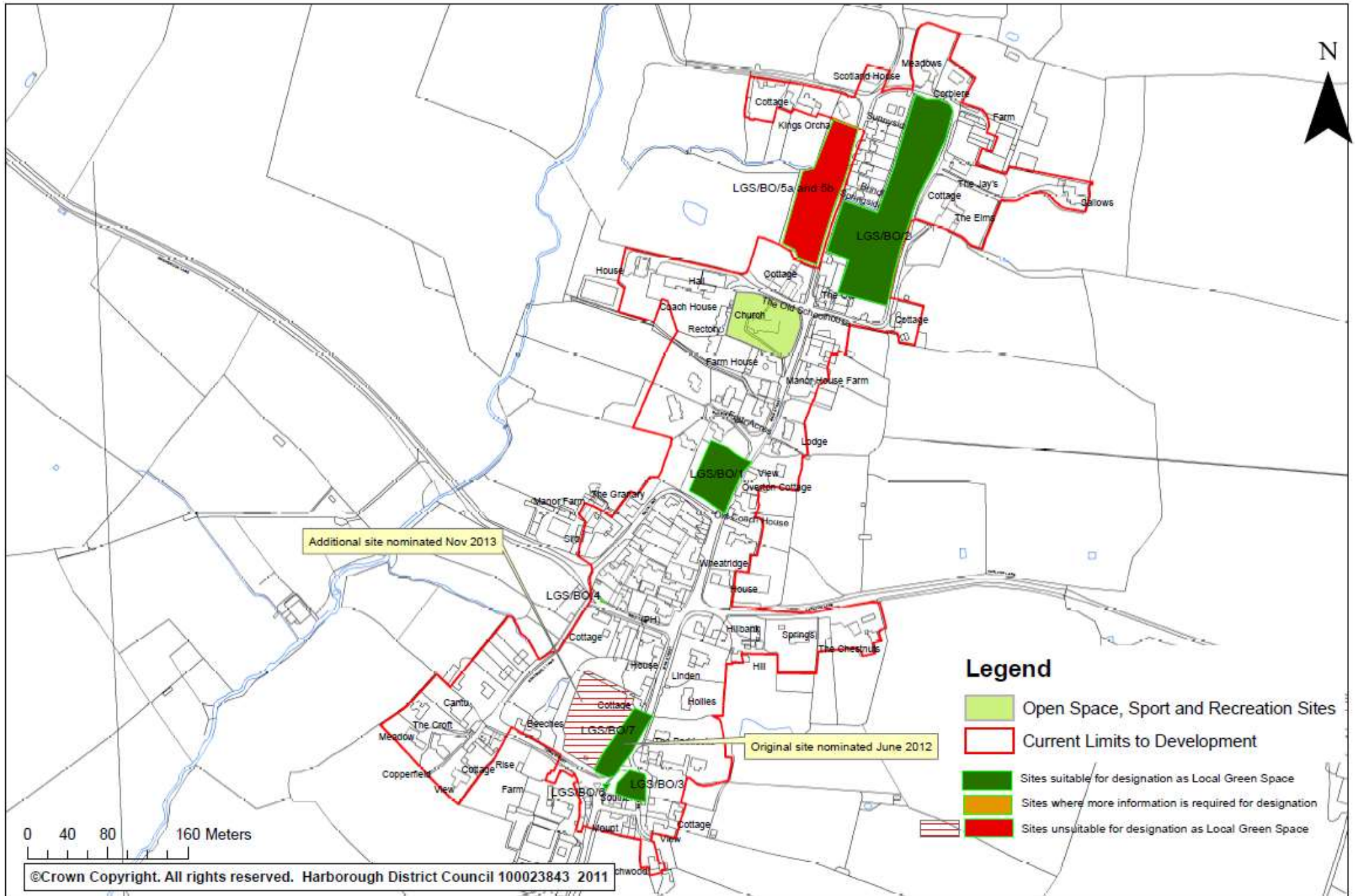
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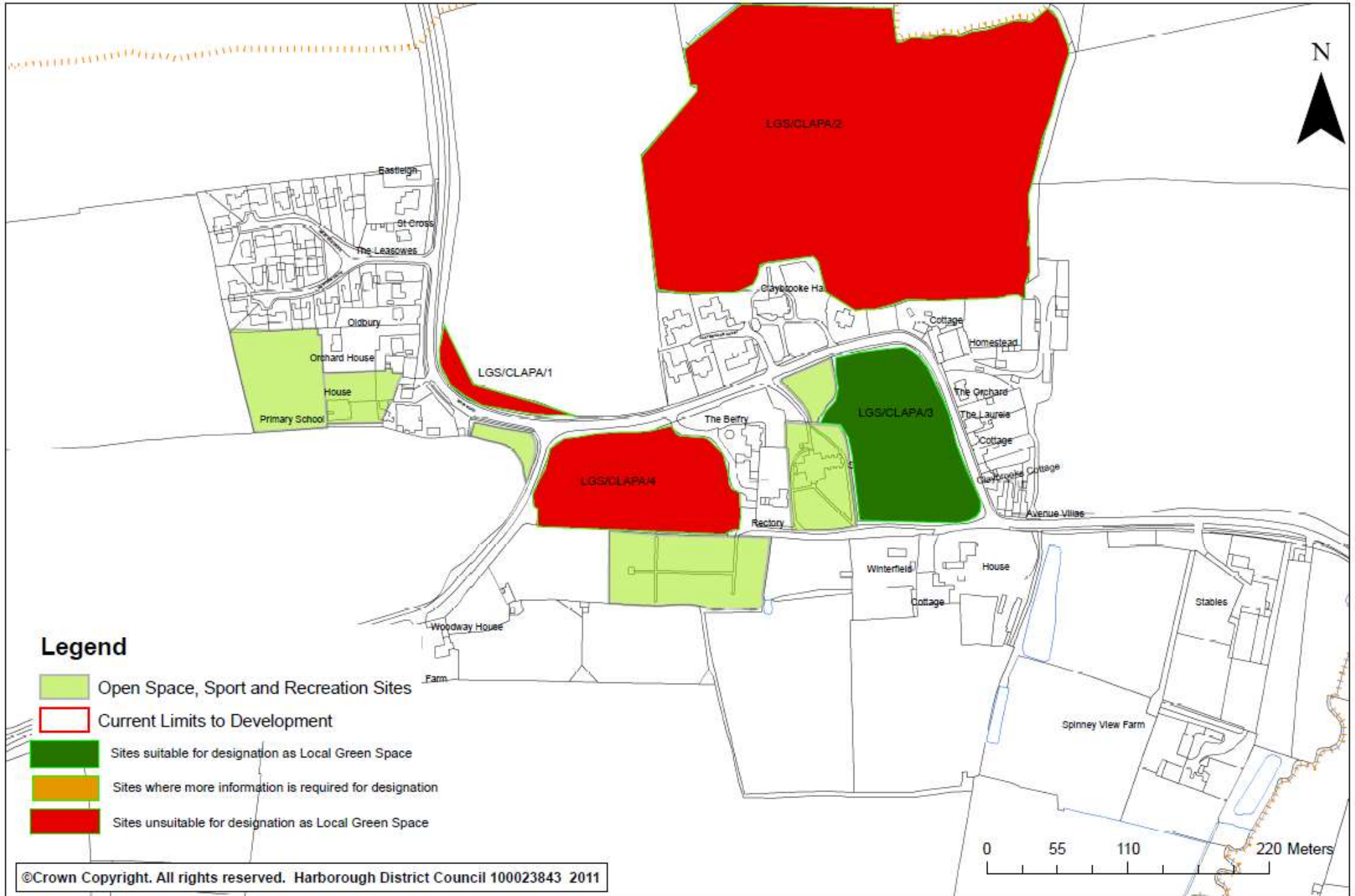
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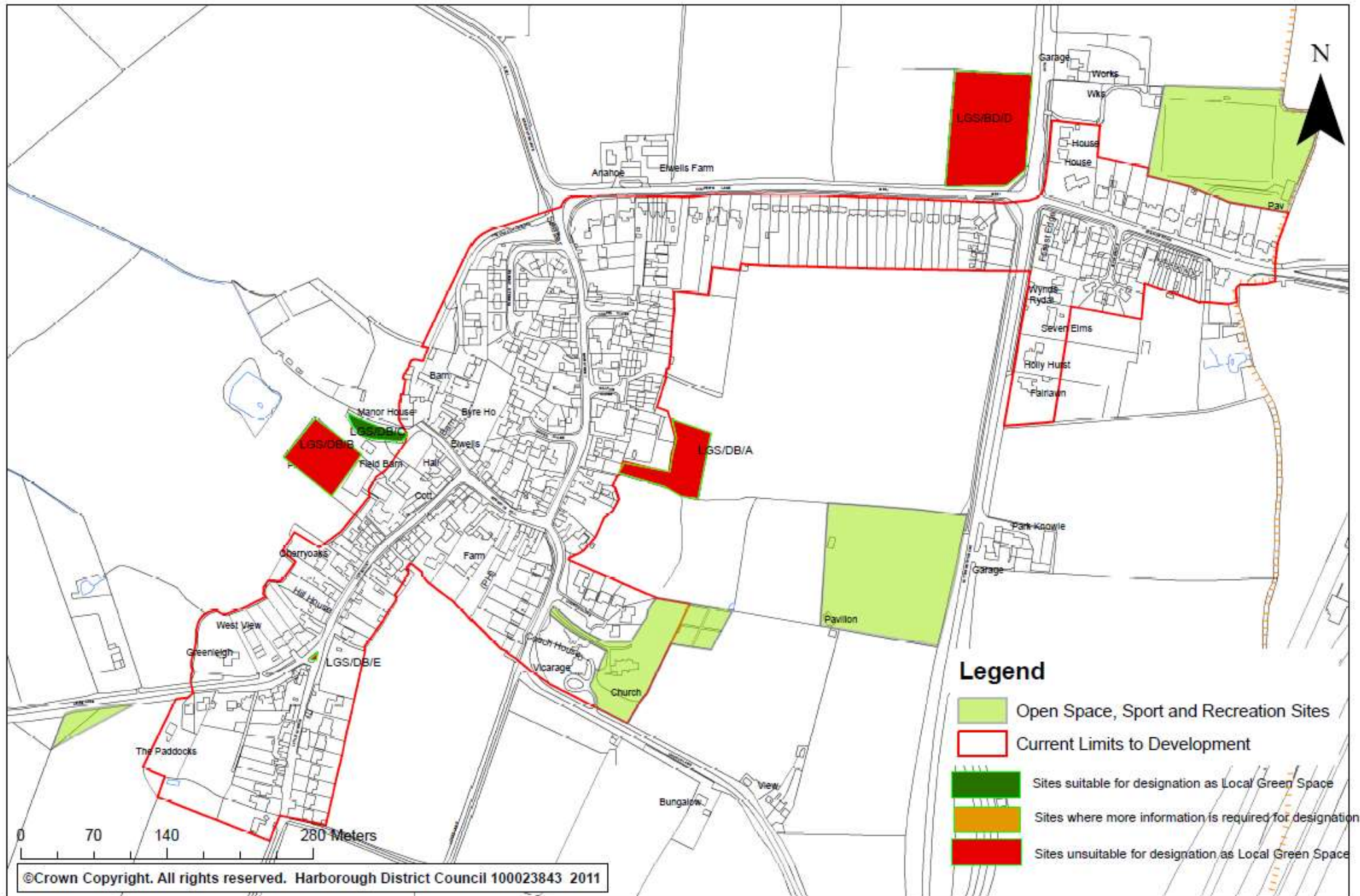
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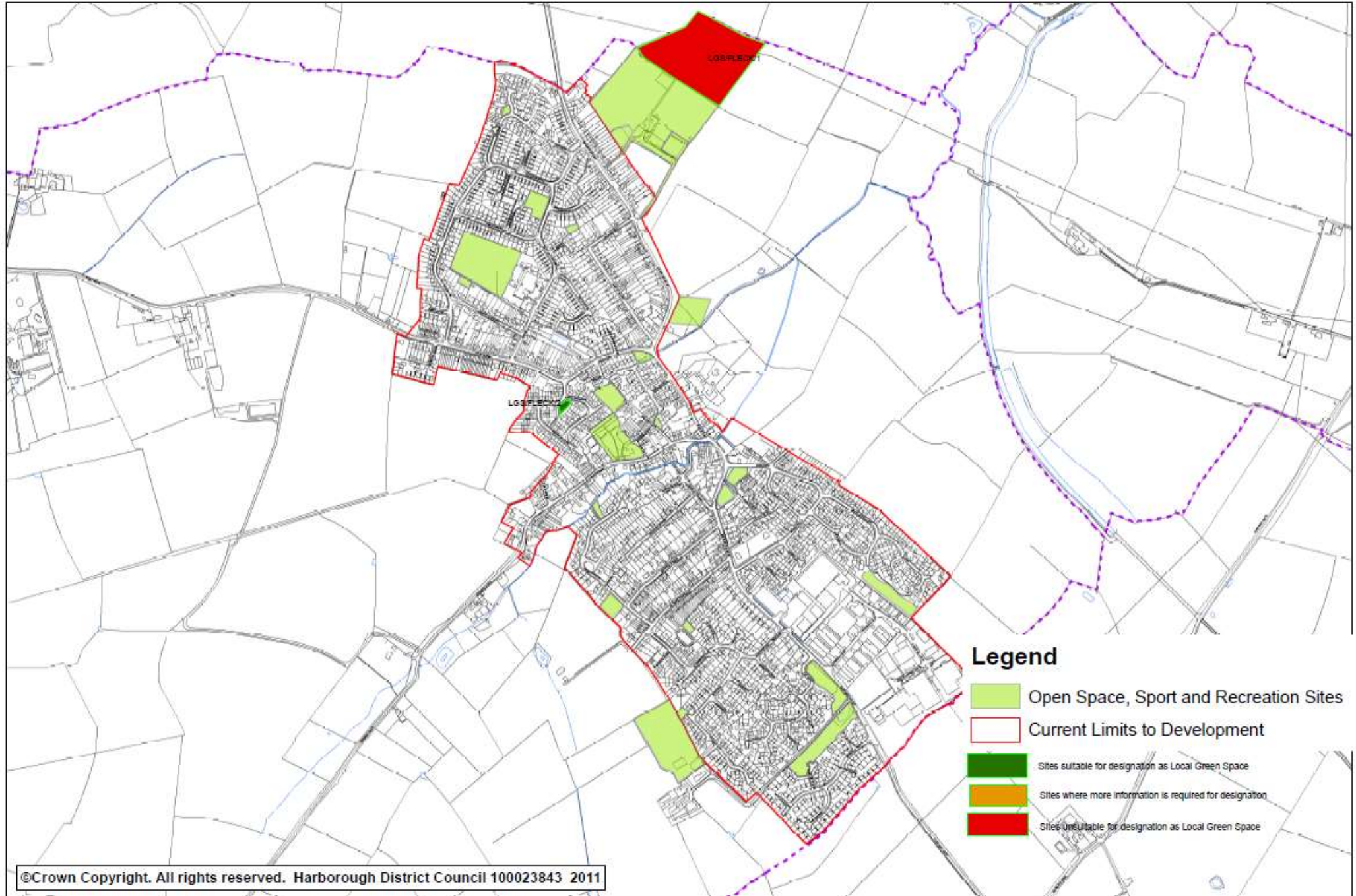
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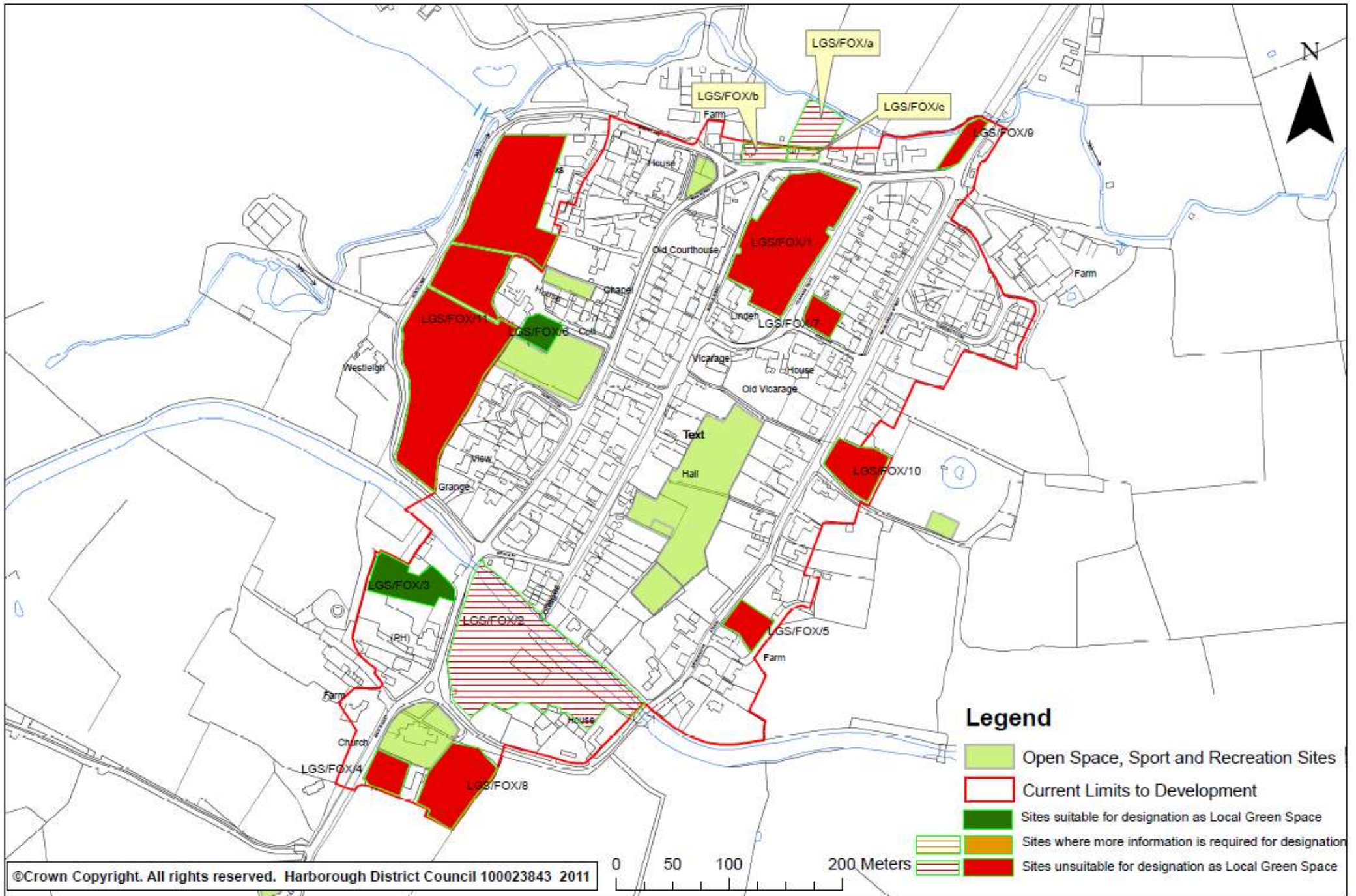
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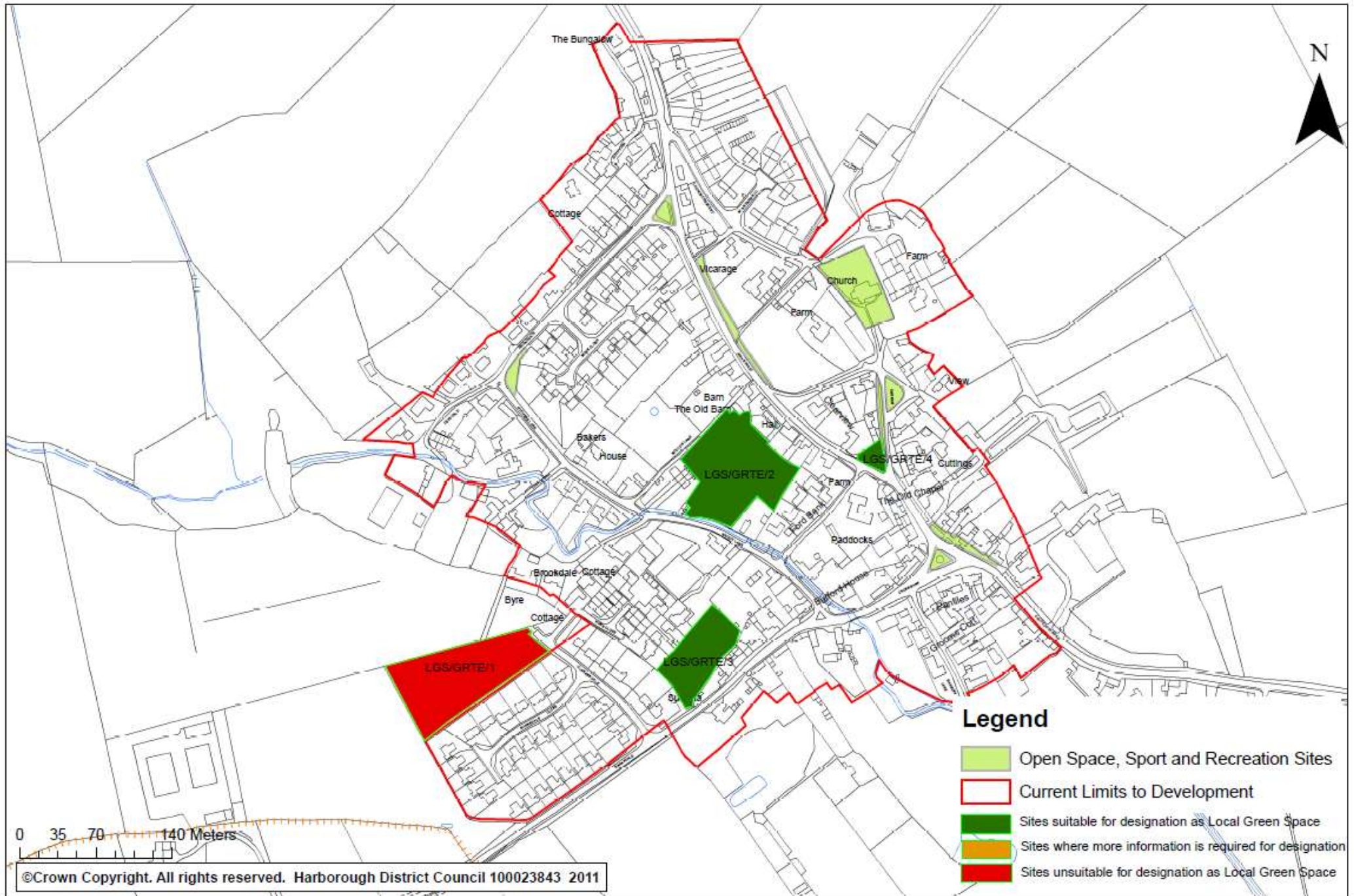
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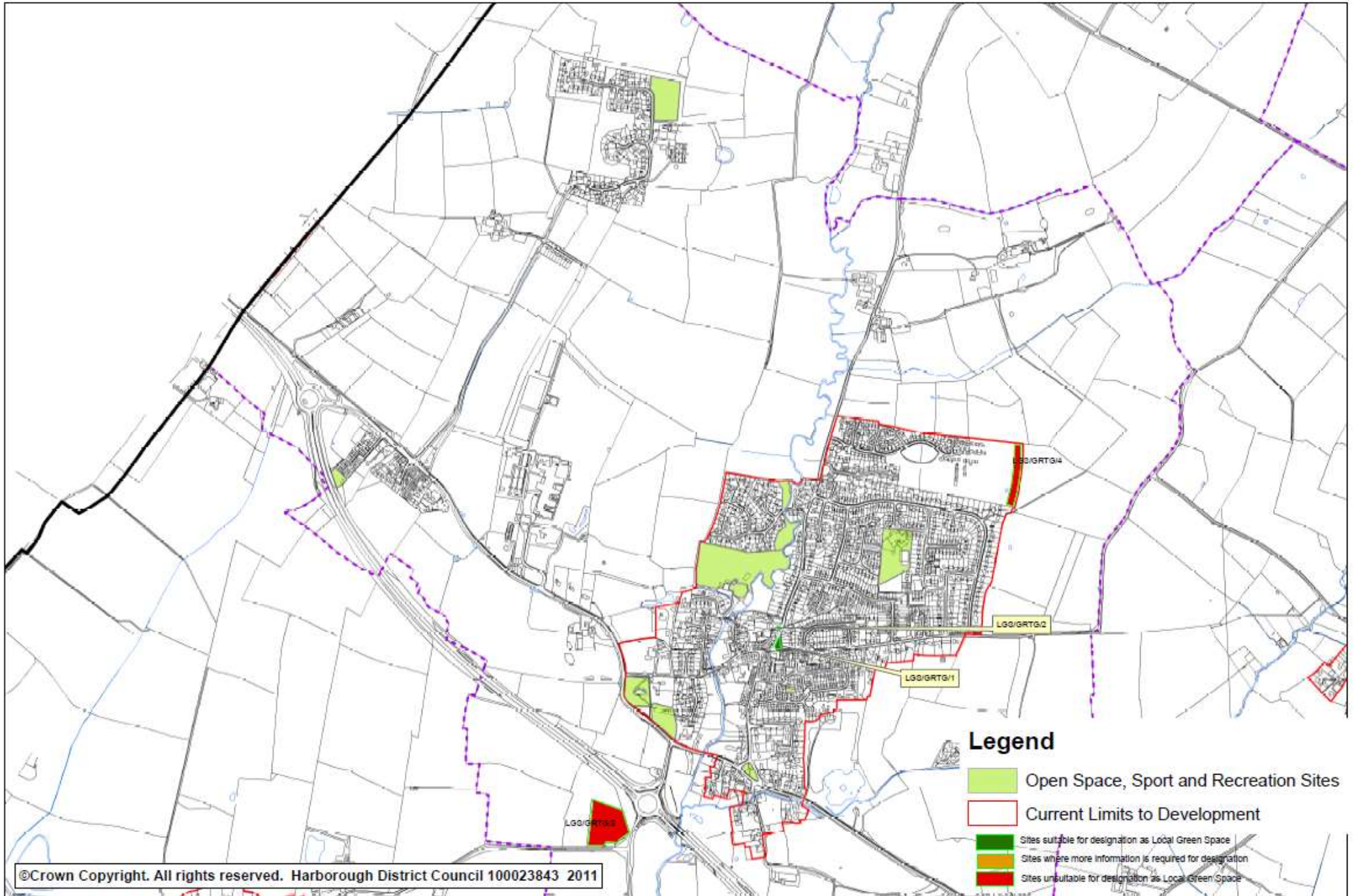
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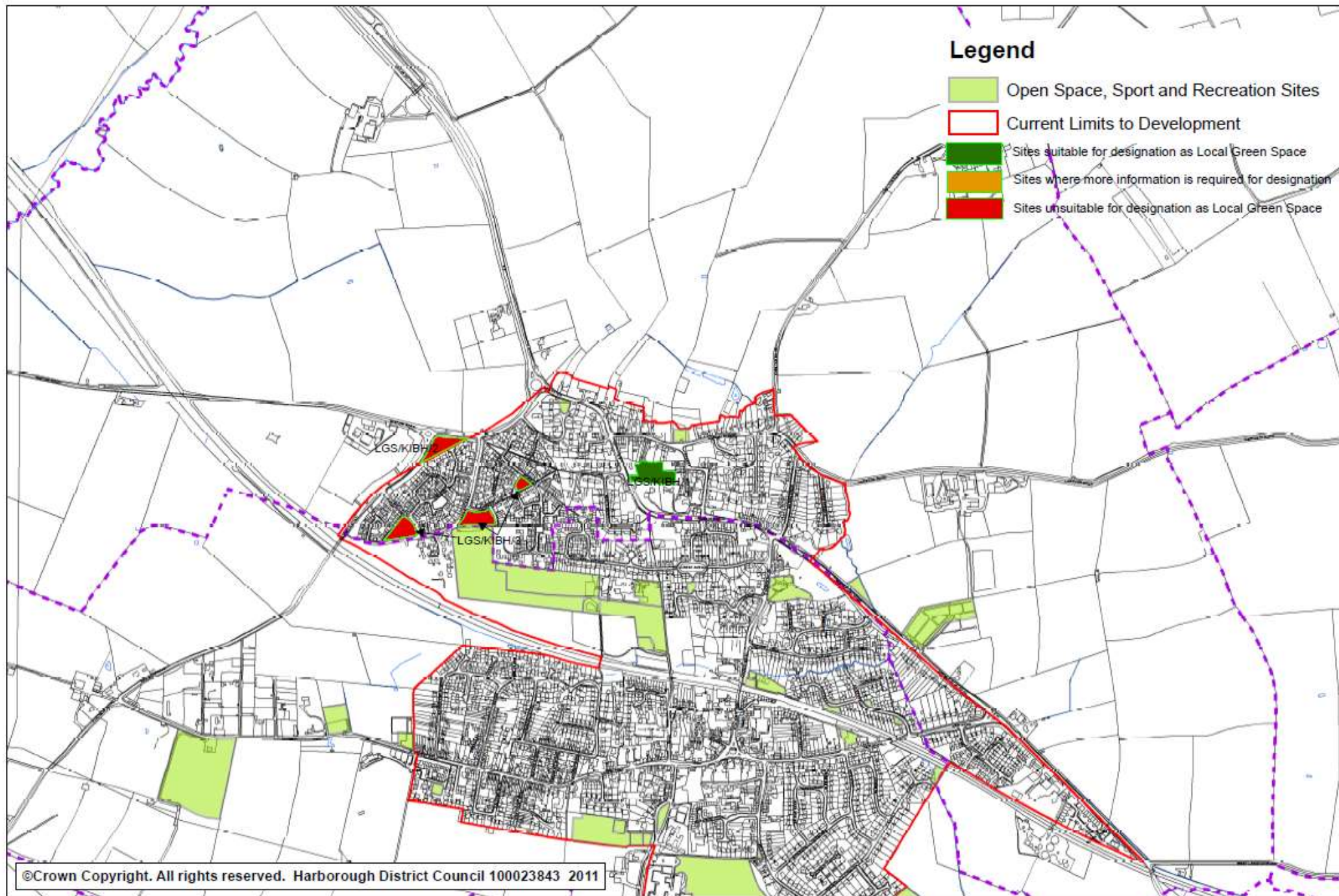
LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Great Easton



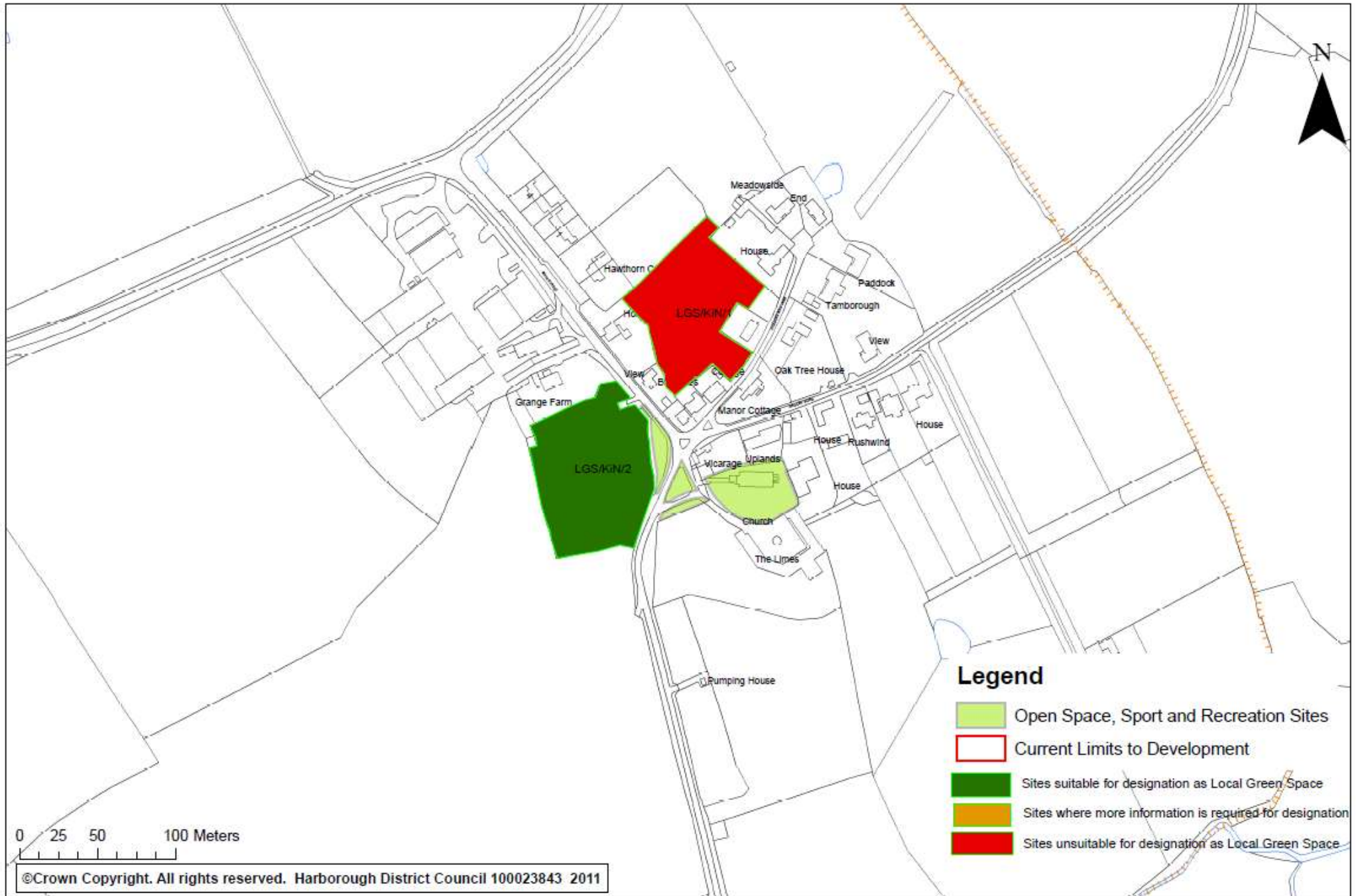
Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Great Glen



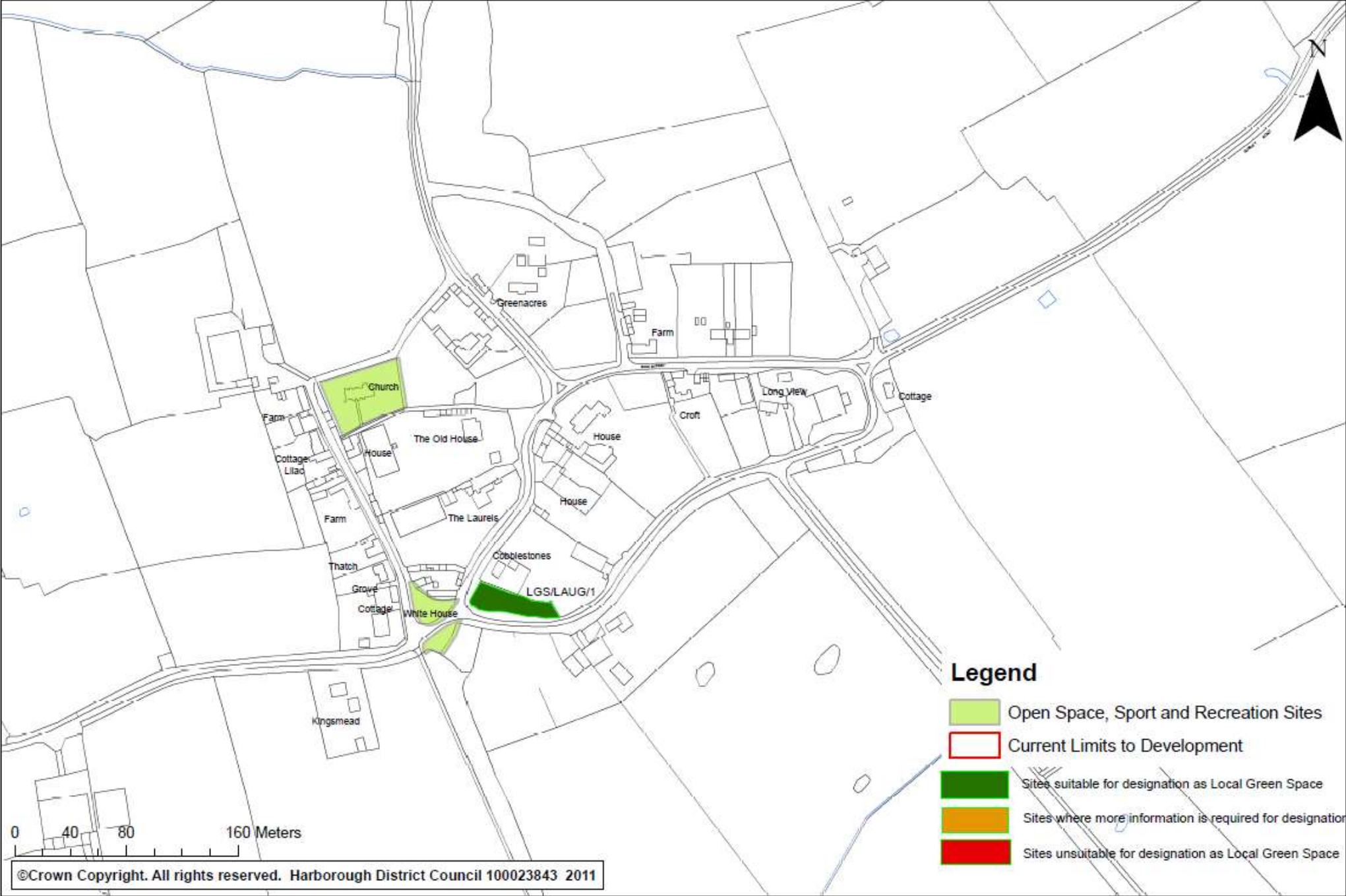
LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Kibworth Harcourt



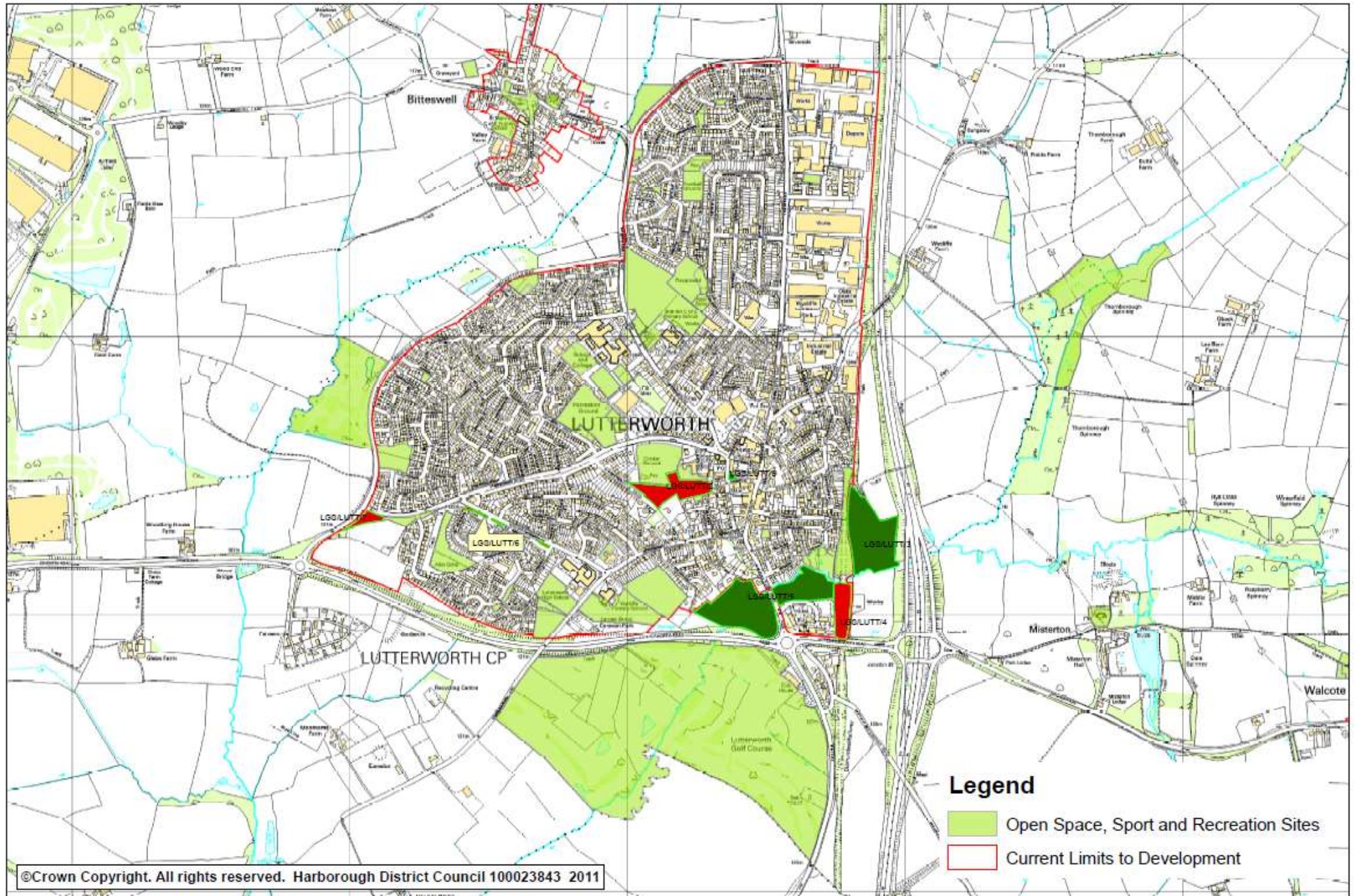
LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Kings Norton



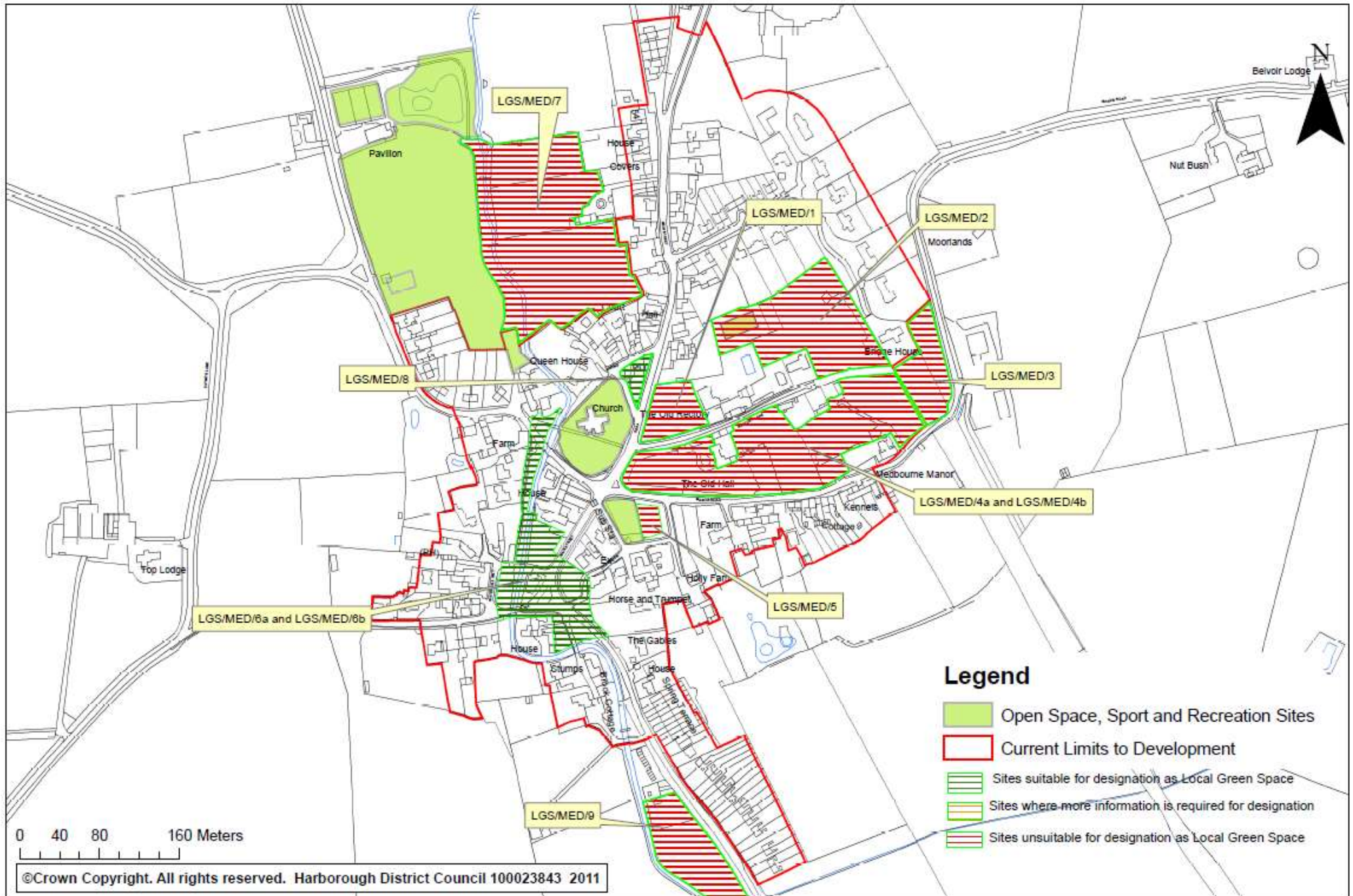
LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Laughton



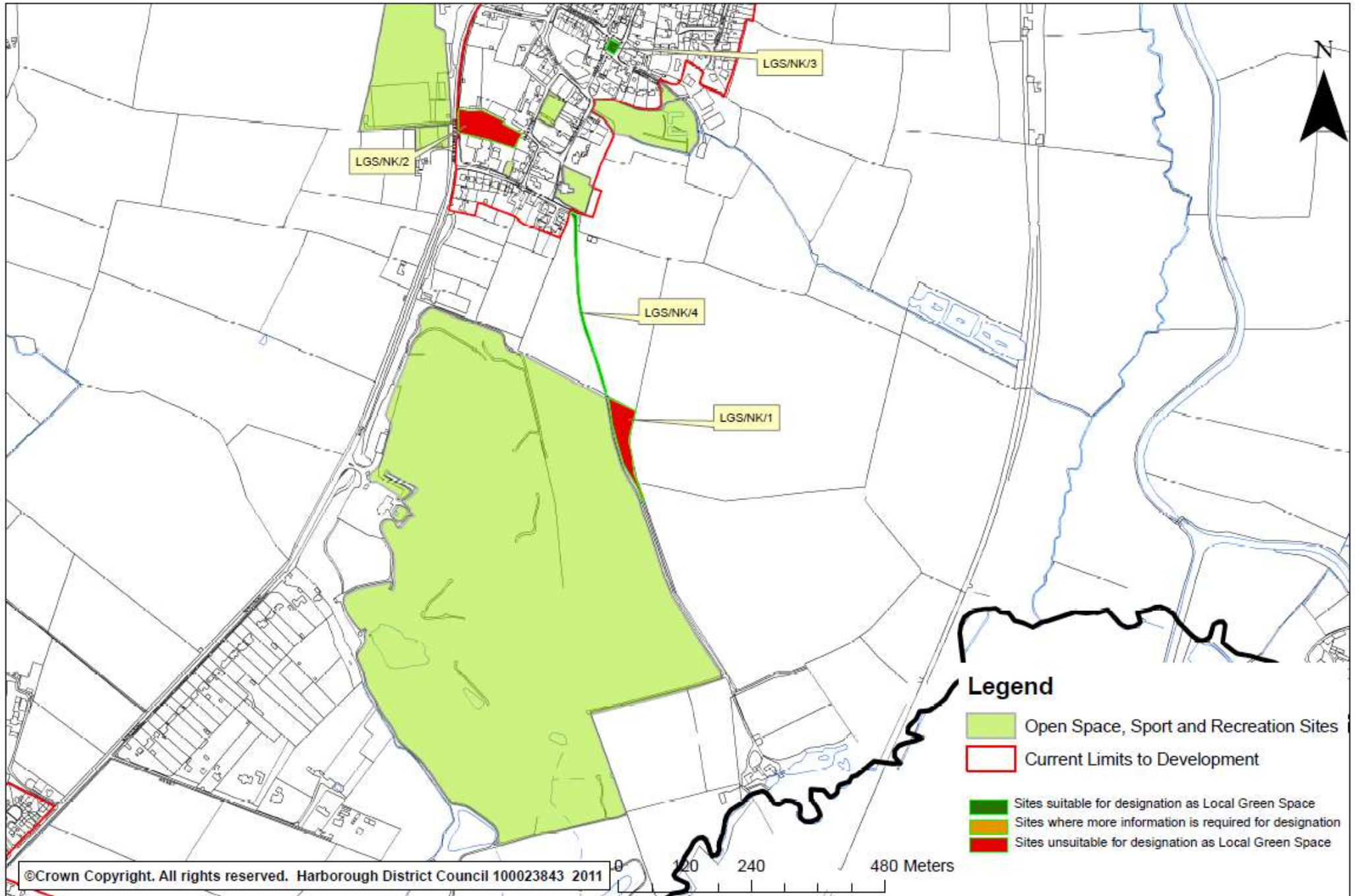
Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Lutterworth



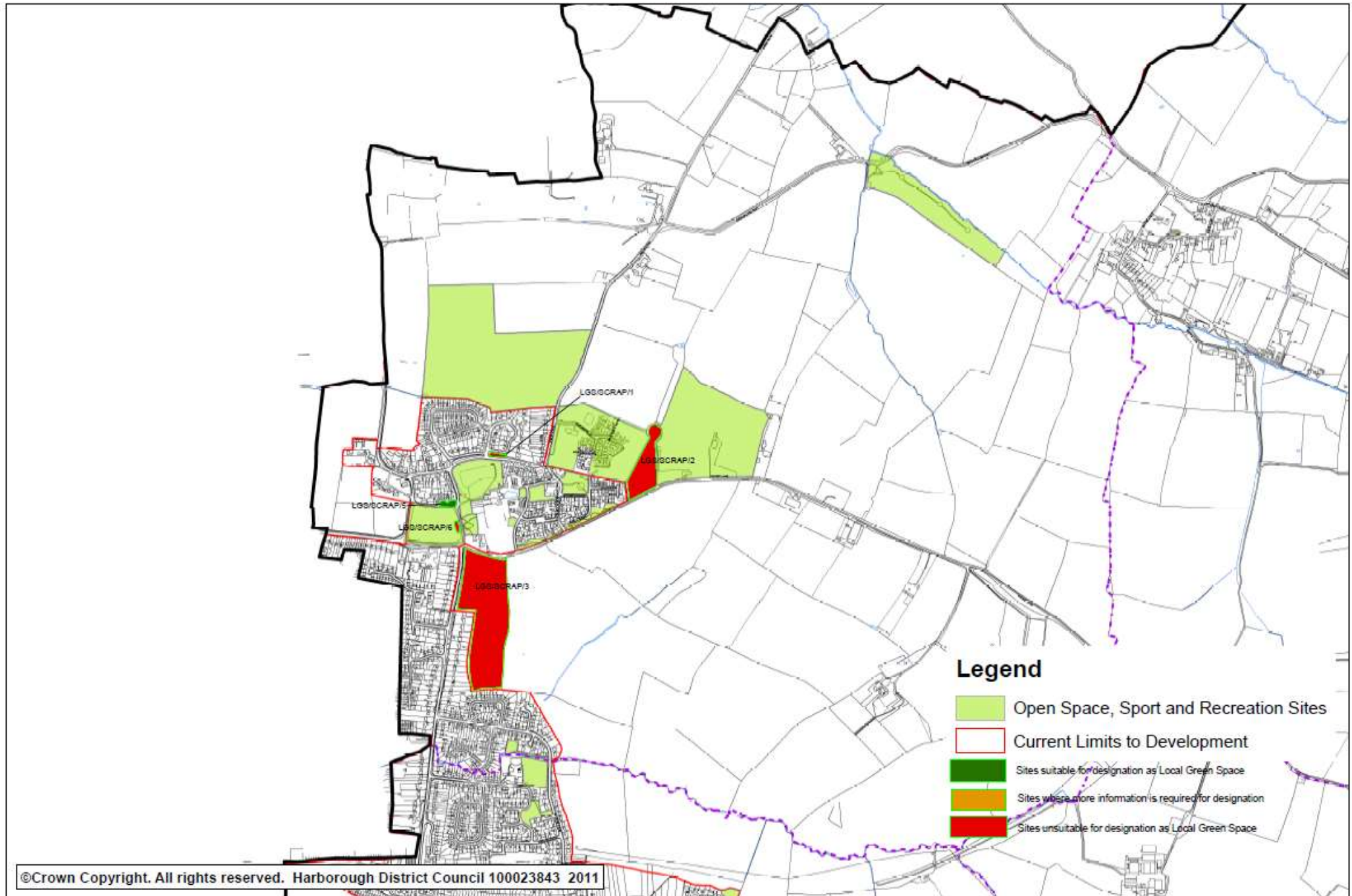
LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Medbourne



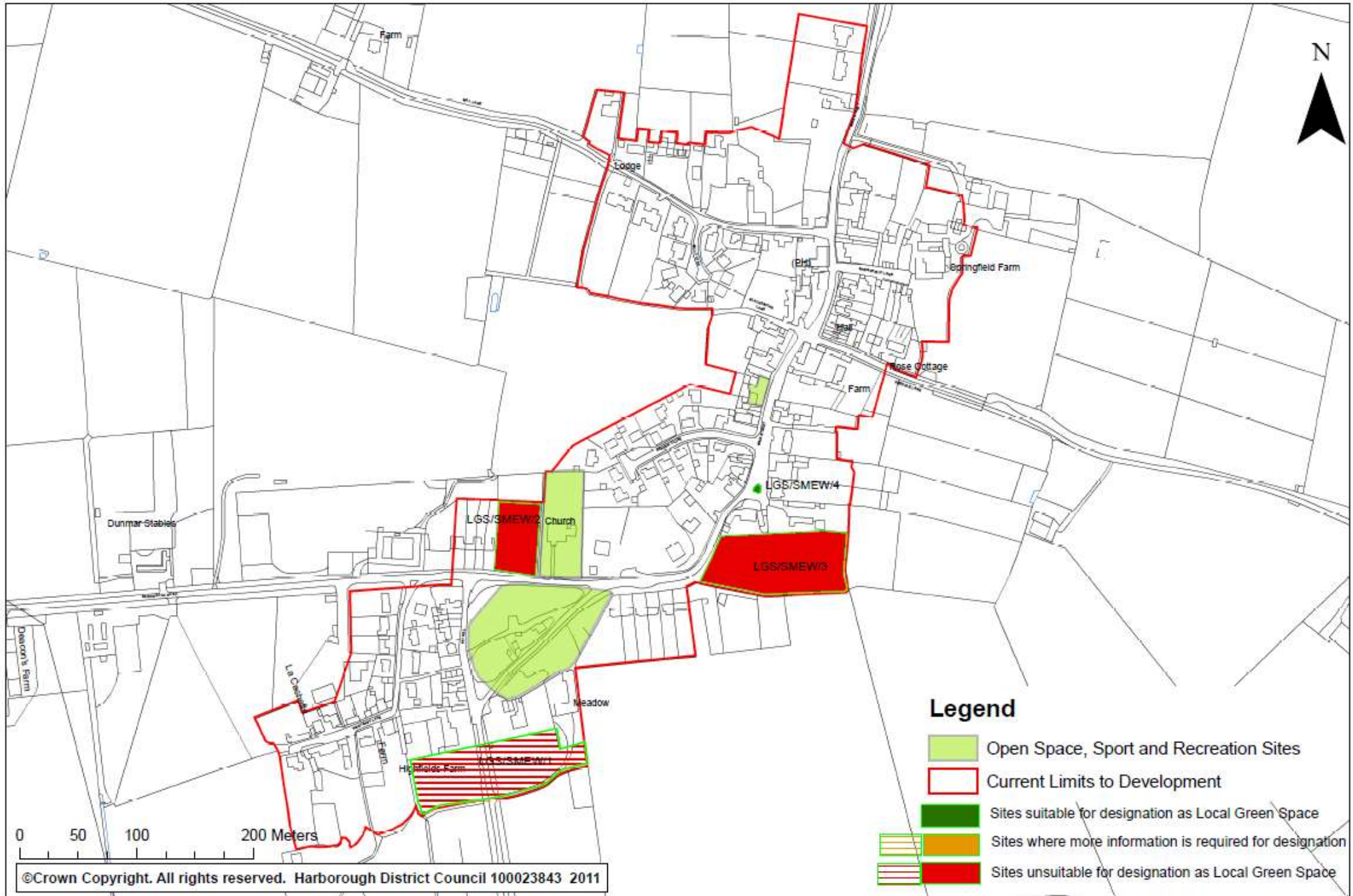
Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - North Kilworth 2



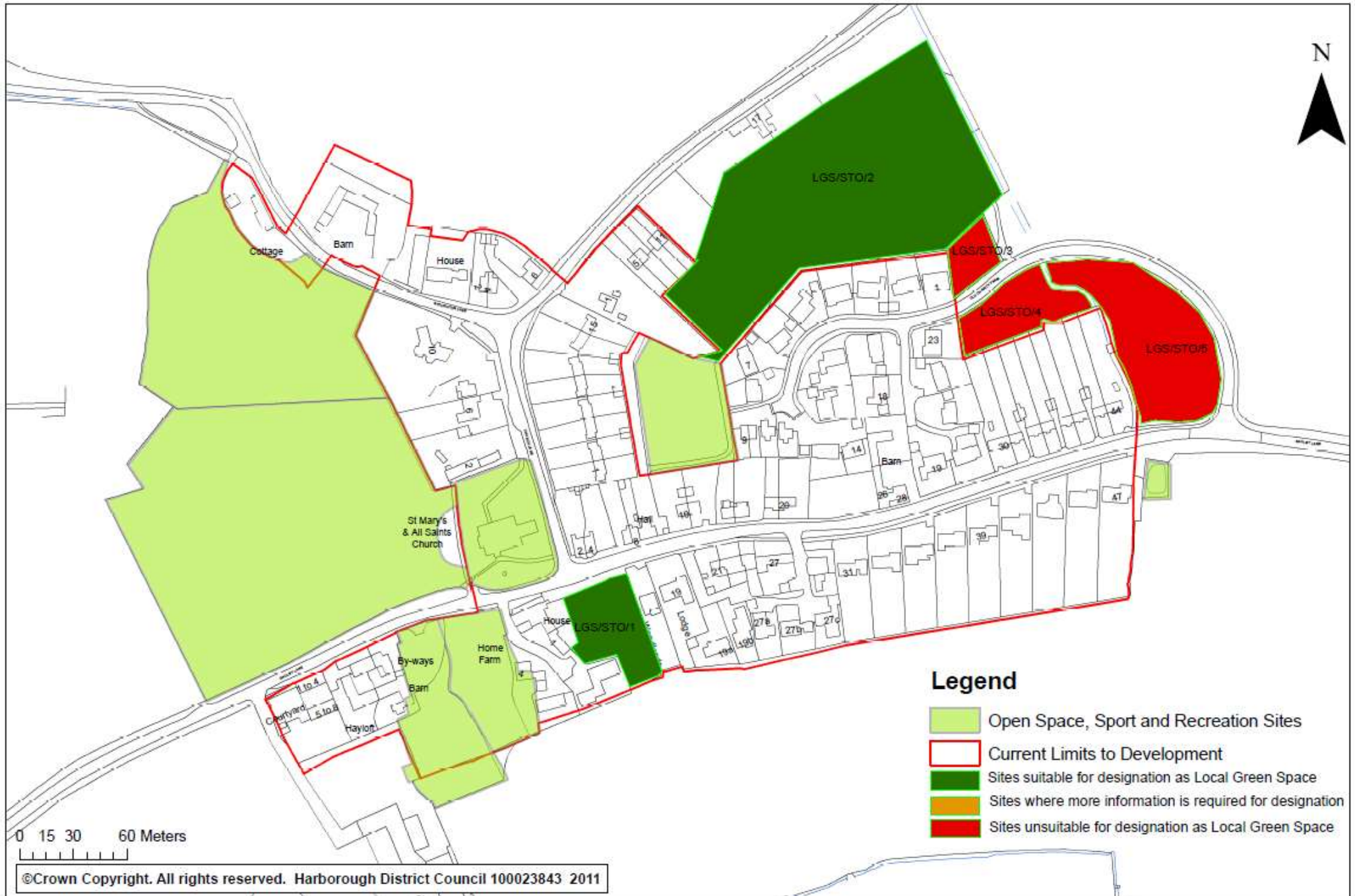
LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Scraftoft



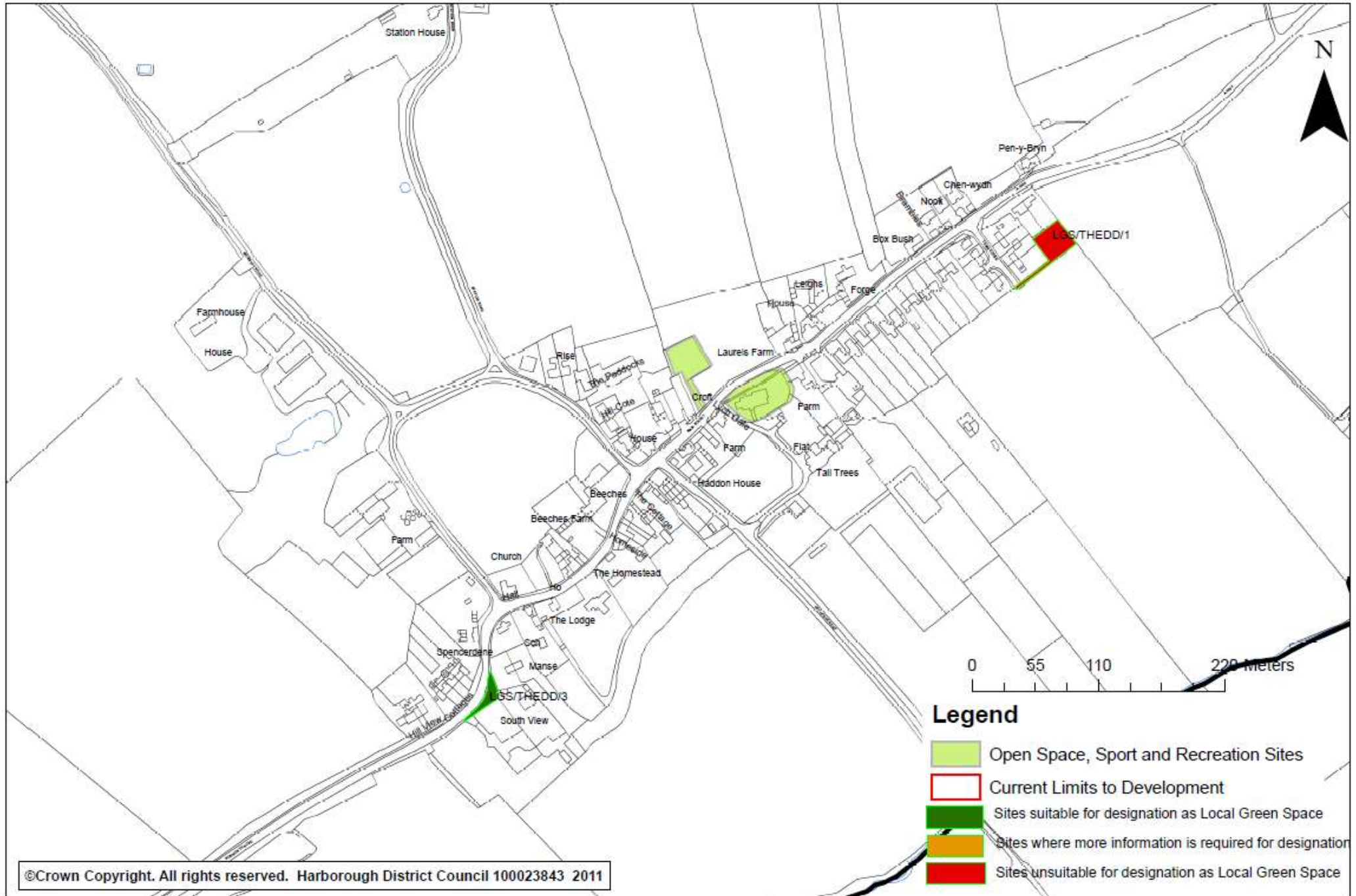
LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Smeeton Westerby



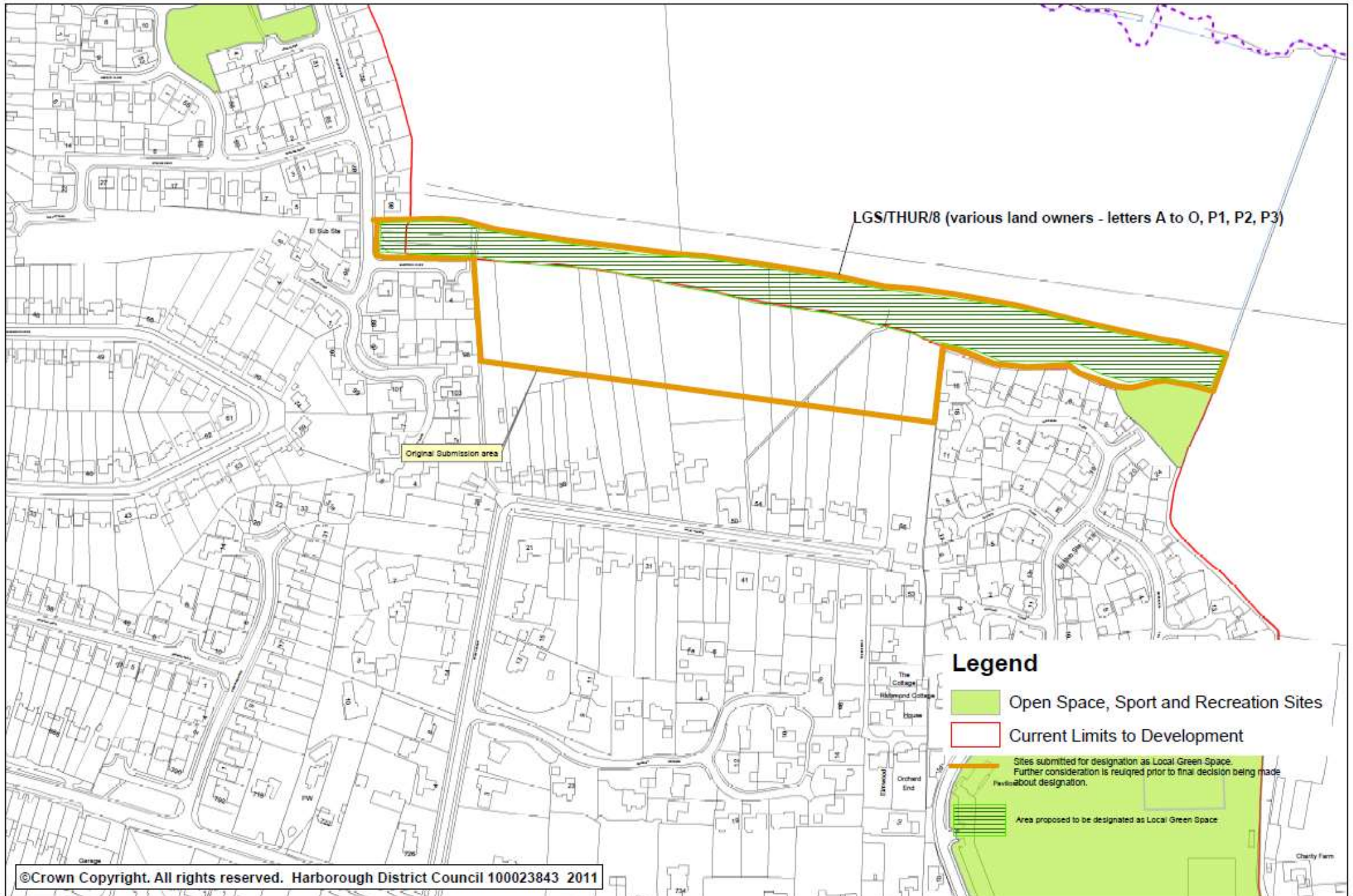
LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Stoughton 1



LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Theddingworth



LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Thurnby



LGS, Open Space, Sport and Recreation Sites - Thurnby

