

# Swinford Neighbourhood Plan



## Local Green Spaces

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When parishioners of Swinford completed a questionnaire at the start of the neighbourhood planning process a number of points emerged very clearly. One was that parishioners valued highly the green spaces which separate buildings in the village and which enhance the cultural importance of the village setting. In particular the 'Glebe' (opposite the church in the centre of the village) was identified as land that a significant number of parishioners wish to have as a preserved open space. The Parish Council have identified seven such spaces which they believe are of significance and important to the context and layout of the village. They reflect the historical, agricultural heritage of the village as well as its close connection to the nearby Stanford Hall estate.

Each of the sites has been tested against NPPF Local Green Space criteria as follows:

1. where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
2. 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;
3. where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

In most cases the references to the criteria are embedded within the text. However to make it clearer the criteria are referenced against each proposed site.

**LGS 1 'The Glebe' (play area)**



The land for the play area is part of the glebe strip in the centre of the village (241 Environmental inventory). Installed and funded by a local community group the area is well maintained and used extensively by village children.

**Meeting NPPF criteria**

1. The green space described is in the centre of the village.
2. It is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.
3. The area is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

**LGS1A ‘The Glebe’**



The Glebe is a small meadow or paddock, historically part of the medieval village layout, with earthworks suggestive of house platforms but also more recent agricultural use. Currently sheep grazed, sloping and undulating. There is a richly biodiverse pond which also acts as a retention feature for surface water from the local area. The pond is a breeding site for great crested newts. An adjoining barn is a bat roosting area (L&R priority species) and there are 4 BAP species bird records.

Access via a permissive path.

The area is a locally highly significant historical, ecological and cultural site, it scored highly in the recent neighbourhood plan questionnaire as an area to be preserved as a village ‘green space’. It was included

in the designated Swinford Conservation Area in 1975. The description justifying designation included the following statement:-

“The southern side of the core quadrilateral between the roads to Stanford and Rugby is significant. The south side of the road has a wide grass verge with a Walnut tree; a long stretch of mud wall is behind. .... Behind this mud wall and along the Rugby Road and Stanford Road the settlement is more open with orchards, paddocks and farmsteads. The open undeveloped space between the two roads is significant and makes a major contribution to the setting.....”

Proposed **community asset** (application submitted 2016)

**Recommended as LGS** in HDC draft local plan

**Meeting NPPF criteria**

1. The green space is in the centre of the village.
2. It has particular local significance, because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of its wildlife.
3. This green area is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

### **LGS 2 The Orchard**

Old orchard with mown grass and fruit trees, bounded on two sides by an important, partly historic mud wall. This site has been an orchard since at least 1886 (OS 6" map) and is one of the areas referred to in the conservation designation statement of 1975

‘Behind this mud wall and along the Rugby Road and Stanford Road the settlement is more open with orchards, paddocks and farmsteads. The open undeveloped space between



the two roads is significant and makes a major contribution to the setting.....”

### **Meeting NPPF criteria**

1. The green space is in the centre of the village sitting alongside ‘The Glebe (play area)’ and ‘The Glebe’. Together with the wide highway verge ‘The Village Green’ these green spaces are the heart of the village.
2. The orchard has particular local significance, because of its beauty, historic significance and contribution to the tranquillity of the village.
3. This green area is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

### **LGS 4 The Paddock, Stanford Road**

This area is an old paddock, currently ungrazed and partly overgrown with nettles, brambles etc. There is a group of mature lime trees in overgrown hedge on west boundary. The hedge conceals an historic ornamental gateway, originally access to avenue (site 076/085) to Stanford Hall. The paddock has a cultural significance to the village as the site of the 1977 Queen's Jubilee celebration. There is evidence of this in village photographs.



There is access via a public footpath X5.

Biodiversity includes 2 recorded BAP species birds.

*Maintenance of the footpath and management of the whole of this locally important historic site would restore its amenity value and benefit local biodiversity and the built environment landscape*

### **Meeting NPPF criteria**

1. This paddock is part of the group of open spaces that are central to the village.
2. It has particular local historic significance, because of its connection to the Stanford Hall Estate (access to 'The Avenue' via a bridle path). It has some cultural significance (see above) and in its current state is home to a range of wildlife (see above).
3. This green area is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

### **LGS 6 The Village Green**

Wide green roadside sward in the centre of the village (seen in the picture stretching between Rugby Road and the Play Area and The Orchard) It has an ancient walnut tree, other trees and bench seating.



There are community gardens and grassed area maintained and mown by community volunteers. This space is regularly used as a 'village green' for community events. It is part of the highly valued group of open spaces in the centre of the village, including the Glebe (241) and Children's Play Area (252).

**Proposed as LGS in HDC draft local plan**

#### **Meeting NPPF criteria**

1. The green space is in the centre of the village sitting alongside 'The Glebe (play area)', 'The Glebe', and the 'Old Orchard'. Together these green spaces are the heart of the village.
2. The green has particular local significance, because of its beauty, recreational use and contribution to the tranquillity of the village.
3. This green area is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.