

# PULBOROUGH PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2014 - 2031

## LOCAL GREEN SPACES STUDY (Appendix for Policy 14)



# **Local Green Spaces in Pulborough Parish**

## **Introduction**

Pulborough Parish is located in the western part of Horsham District in the County of West Sussex and lies partially within the South Downs National Park. The River Arun forms part of the western and southern boundaries and the crossing of the Arun overlooked by Church Hill is said to be where the main settlement originated. The A29 and A283 main roads cross within the parish and the main railway line along the Arun valley between the south coast and London has a well-used station in the parish. There are four other settlements included in the parish besides Pulborough; these are Codmore Hill, Marehill, North Heath and Nutbourne.

The majority of the housing is located to the south of the Parish with the remainder being predominantly agricultural farmland or woodland with generally established but sparse housing.

The built-up area of the Parish has two conservation areas; Church Place and Lower Street. The distinct hamlet of Nutbourne also has a conservation area.

As part of the household survey carried out in the summer of 2014, residents were asked to identify green spaces that were of importance to the Parish. These results, combined with knowledge acquired through previous consultations, has identified a number of areas within or adjoining the built up areas of the settlements that are considered valuable green spaces for the community that should be protected from future development and therefore under the Neighbourhood Plan should be designated as Local Green Spaces.

These are summarised as :-

- i. Main Recreation Ground including Bowling Club and Pocket Park
- ii. Cousins Way Recreation Ground including Allotment Site
- iii. Rivermead Nature Reserve
- iv. East Glebe Field
- v. West Glebe Field
- vi. Marehill Common
- vii. Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground

## **Suitability Appraisal**

In support of the summary of these sites on page 2, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group assessed their viability using the following criteria :-

- (a) Historical significance
- (b) Recreational value
- (c) Tranquility
- (d) Wildlife

All the described sites meet the above criteria in one or more cases and a reference to those criteria is appended to each site in the foregoing texts on pages 4 to 10 inclusive.

All sites are in close proximity to the community or to the adjoining hamlets that they serve.

None of the sites identified have any outstanding planning permissions nor are they allocated for development.

Both the East Glebe Field and the West Glebe Field have been submitted under the Call for Sites for partial development. The conclusions submitted alongside this Local Green Space Study excluded both sites under one or more of the criteria listed above. There are further constraints to these 2 sites contained within the Site Assessment Report, in particular their close proximity to Listed Buildings and to their location within the Conservation Area.

Policy 11, which is contained within the Pre-Submission Plan, makes specific reference to the West glebe Field. Proposals will be supported to extend the graveyard and to lay out a new public footpath whilst at the same time prioritizing the openness afforded by its designation as a Local Green space, as shown on the map on page 11 of this Study.

i. Main Recreation Ground including Bowling Club

Situated at the heart of the built-up area of the parish, this land provides space for the playing of football, cricket, stoolball and green bowls. The site also incorporates the existing sports pavilion which provides both changing and social facilities for the sports clubs. The site is owned by the Parish Council and is recognised to be of importance as a local green space; it will be preserved for sports and community events. The site includes two Public Rights of Way.



The Main Recreation Ground also includes a Multi Sports Facility (MSF)



and a children's play area providing a range of equipment for children to the age of 12,

and outdoor gym equipment for the use of all ages.





ii. Cousins Way Recreation Ground including Allotment Site

The site is also owned by the Parish Council. The Cousins Way Recreation Ground is used for football and has also periodically accommodated both a funfair and a circus. It is also locally recognised as an important green space by dog walkers.



The Allotments site is managed by the Parish Council and accommodates 40 plots; it is currently fully occupied.



iii. Rivermead Nature Reserve



This site is owned on a long term lease by Pulborough Parish Council. The Parish Council has recently introduced a 5 year management plan and is working to improve accessibility into the site, and to promote its title of nature reserve so that the peace and tranquility can be accessed by all.

It is an important local green space that provides connectivity and Public Rights of Way access to the Brooks and the South Downs National Park.





iv. East Glebe Field



This site is owned by the Diocese of Chichester and incorporates a vital Public Right of Way footpath that connects the commercial areas in London Road & Lower Street with the main housing areas. The footpath across forms part of the WildArt Trail opened in July 2019.

It is also the venue for the Annual Harvest Fair, a well supported community event.



The field is appreciated by the community for its tranquility and as one of the only remaining vantage points for all to have beautiful far reaching views of the South Downs.

v. West Glebe Field



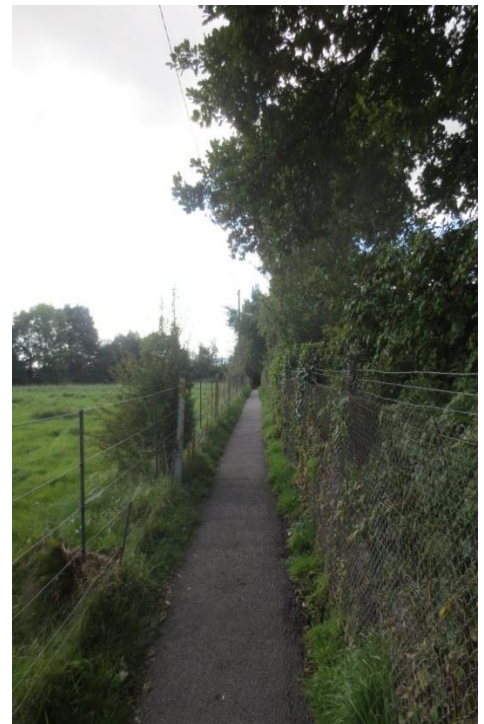
This site is also owned by the Diocese of Chichester with a section that has been leased out in the past for horse grazing.

The Public Right of Way, known as the Cinder Path, that runs along the western side of the field provides the main pedestrian access to the railway station and also forms part of the WildArt Trail.

The site is also within the Church Place conservation area and is home to much wildlife and flora.

The area was assessed and a report prepared by Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre entitled Land at Glebe Field, Pulborough (ref ESD/04/313) and notable species included :-

Slow-worm  
Snakes - grass and adder  
Pipistrelle bat  
Water vole



Many plants were also recorded including 5 types of lichen, southern polypody, sulphur cinquefoil and yellow vetch to name a few.

The lichens in the area have also been noted by Francis Rose MBE (an English field botanist and conservationist).

Finally, the West Glebe Field has been identified as one of the 10 most important sites in the country for the stag beetle, which is increasingly threatened. A report on this by the Sussex expert Colin Pratt was sent to Horsham District Council some years ago.



vi. Marehill Common

Marehill Common is a small green space at the centre of the settlement of Marehill. The common is maintained by local residents for recreational use (primarily as a play area for local children, for neighbourhood events and occasional visitor parking) whilst at the same time maintaining a rural feel and space/habitat for wildlife. Residents and walkers also traverse the common to get from Batts Lane to Broomers Hill Lane.



vii. Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground

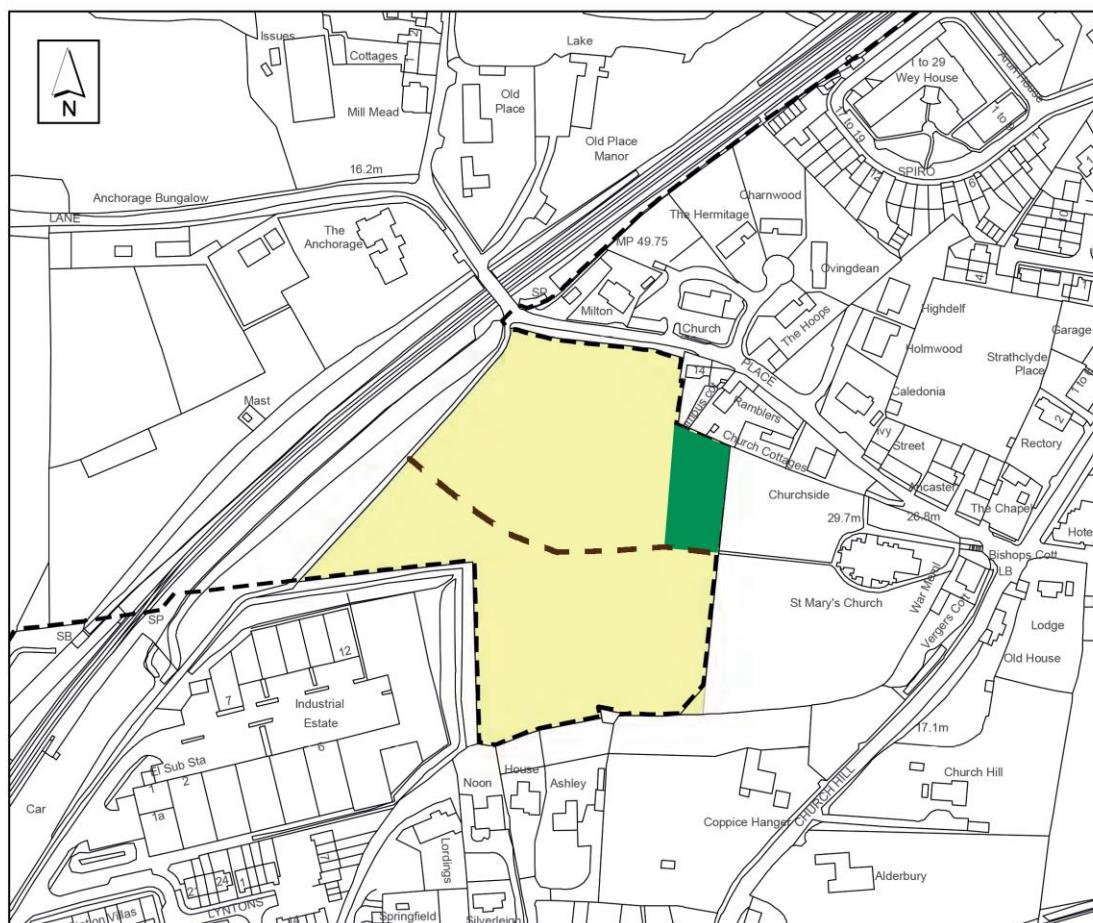
Nutbourne Common is registered common land and is designated Open Access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Public access is permissive on the site. The common is about four acres in size. There is a Public Right of Way that goes through it and there are some informal paths on it too. This area was gifted to the Parish Council through an inclosure award in 1855.

In recent years, The Parish Council has been working with local volunteers and the South Downs National Park Authority to return the area to its heathland state and promote the growth of heather. In a report by Bruce Middleton, Area Heath Manager for the SDNPA in 2014, it was noted that although Nutbourne Common is just outside the National Park, the Authority is happy to support the Parish Council in the future management of the site because of the important heath interest.





# SA - 087 : Pulborough west Glebe, Church Place, Pulborough



Scale : 1:2500

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