

# **Denstone Village**

**Local Green Space Assessment**

**Updated August 2023**

# Local Green Space Assessment

## Introduction

This report forms part of the evidence base for designation of Local Green Space in the emerging Denstone Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out the designated Local Green Spaces in the made Plan and proposed additional space for designation.

## National Policy

The National Planning Policy Framework 2021 sets out the criteria for designating Local Green Space, As follows:

*101. The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should 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 updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.*

*102. The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:*

*a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*

*b) 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*

*c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

*103. Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.*

The following Local Green Spaces have been tested against these criteria. It is recognised that the 2 current designated Local Green Space LGS-A Former Railway Line and LGS-B Oliver's Green were tested against earlier versions of the NPPF. They have been through examination and their rationale for designation has been examined and updated to reflect the current NPPF 2021 policy requirements. Both are still found to meet policy requirements and are therefore proposed to carry forward into the reviewed version of the Neighbourhood Plan.

## Analysis of Sites

The following is an analysis of each site demonstrating how they meet the NPPF policy requirements for designation. The additional Local Green Space has been to informal consultation with the wider public in Spring 2023 and consultation with the landowner (Denstone Parish Council). There has been no response to give reason not to take this additional space forward to Regulation 14 consultation.

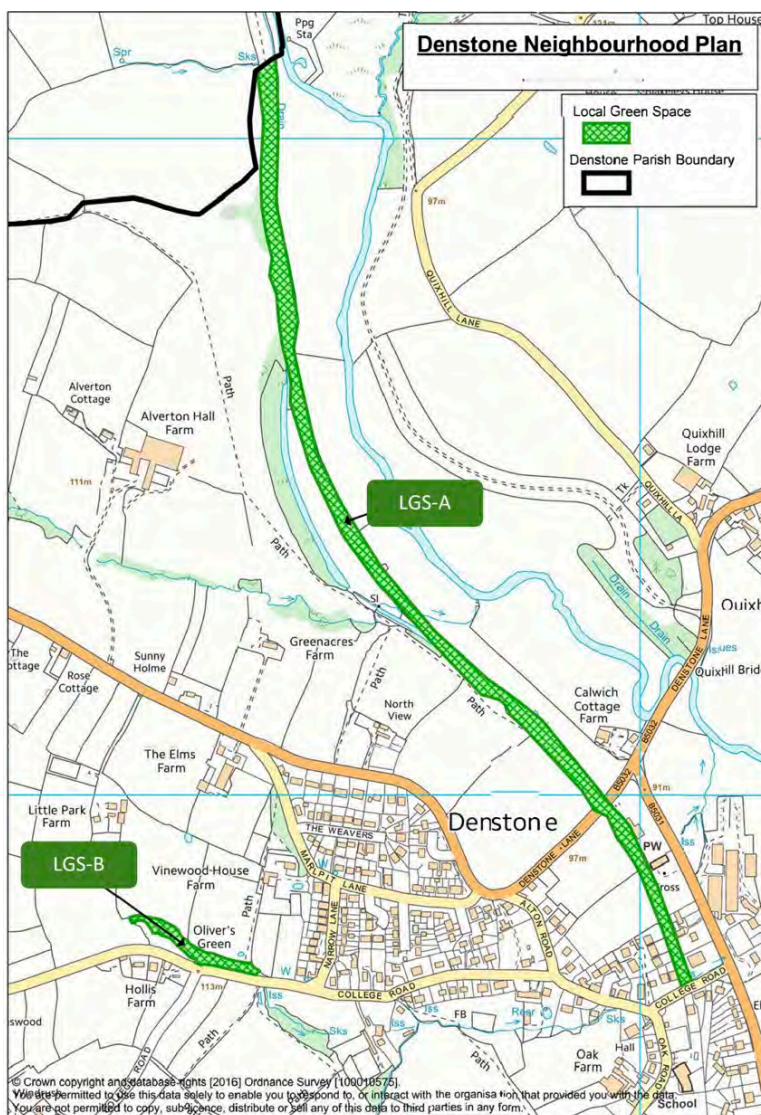
## LGS-A: The linear walkway on the route of the former Churnet Valley Railway line

Former Churnet Valley Railway  
College Road,  
Denstone,  
Staffordshire

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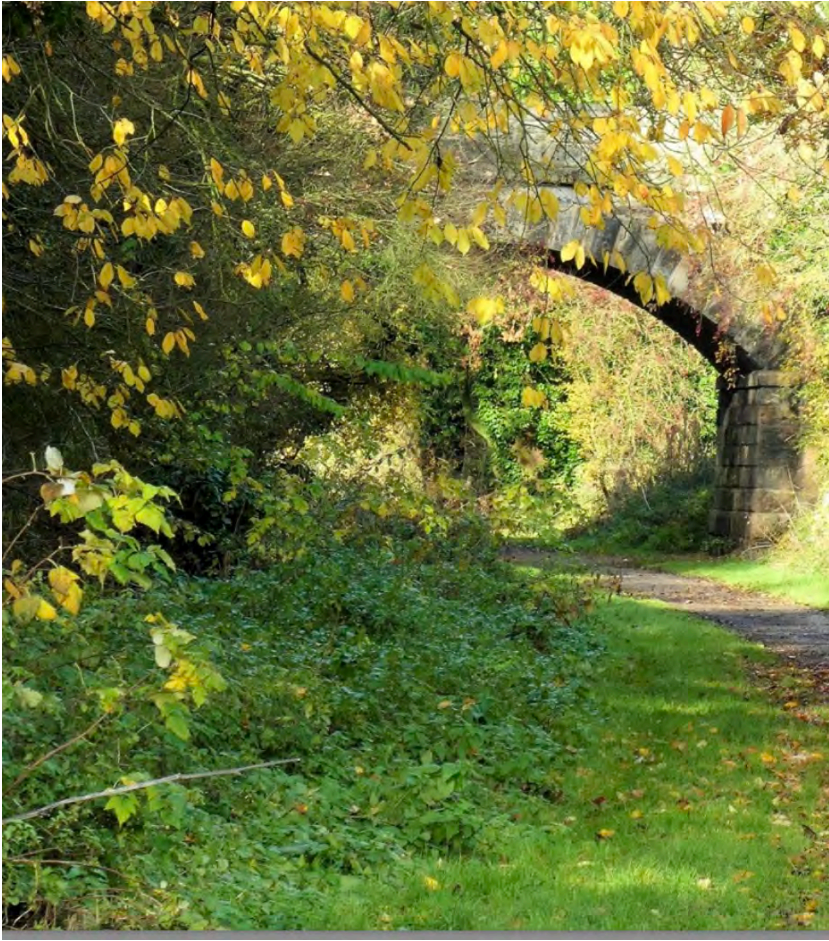
## Plan

The following plan shows the Local Green Space marked LGS-A.



## Suitability for LGS Designation

<p><b>Special Community Value</b></p>	<p><b>Health and Well-Being:</b>  This Local Green space provides significant opportunity for not only local residents, but many visitors to the area to enjoy recreational activities such as walking, rambling, cycling along this old railway line. This is a significant active travel, traffic free route linking along the Churnet Valley to the villages of Alton and Froghall. The route also joins onto the Staffordshire Way to create a well-publicised 10 mile circular walk in the area. Shorter routes taking in the former railway line have also been promoted through the Staffordshire County Council community paths initiative.</p> <p>The area is also frequently used for picnics and family get togethers as there are benches and picnic spaces along the route.</p> <p><b>Heritage:</b>  The Churnet Valley Line opened in 1849 and ran from North Rode in Cheshire to Uttoxeter in East Staffordshire. Today many parts are active travel routes including a stretch from Leek to Rudyard Lake. Part is still operational as a heritage railway (Churnet Valley Railway) that joins from Froghall on the stretch to Denstone. Parts of the original station are still in situ at Denstone.</p> <p><b>Natural Environment:</b>  The DEFRA interactive mapping data shows the Local Green Space as priority habitats for floodplain grazing marsh and deciduous woodland. This also has an important connection for habitat connectivity.</p>
<p><b>Area of space (Ha)</b></p>	<p>Approx. 4.07ha</p>
<p><b>Planning permissions or site allocations</b></p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>Other Designations</b></p>	<p>Includes priority habitats for floodplain grazing marsh and deciduous woodland.</p>
<p><b>Not an extensive tract of land</b></p>	<p>Not an extensive tract of land.</p>
<p><b>Close to the community it serves</b></p>	<p>The active travel route is accessible from many parts of the Neighbourhood Area, used as part of circular walks in the area.</p>



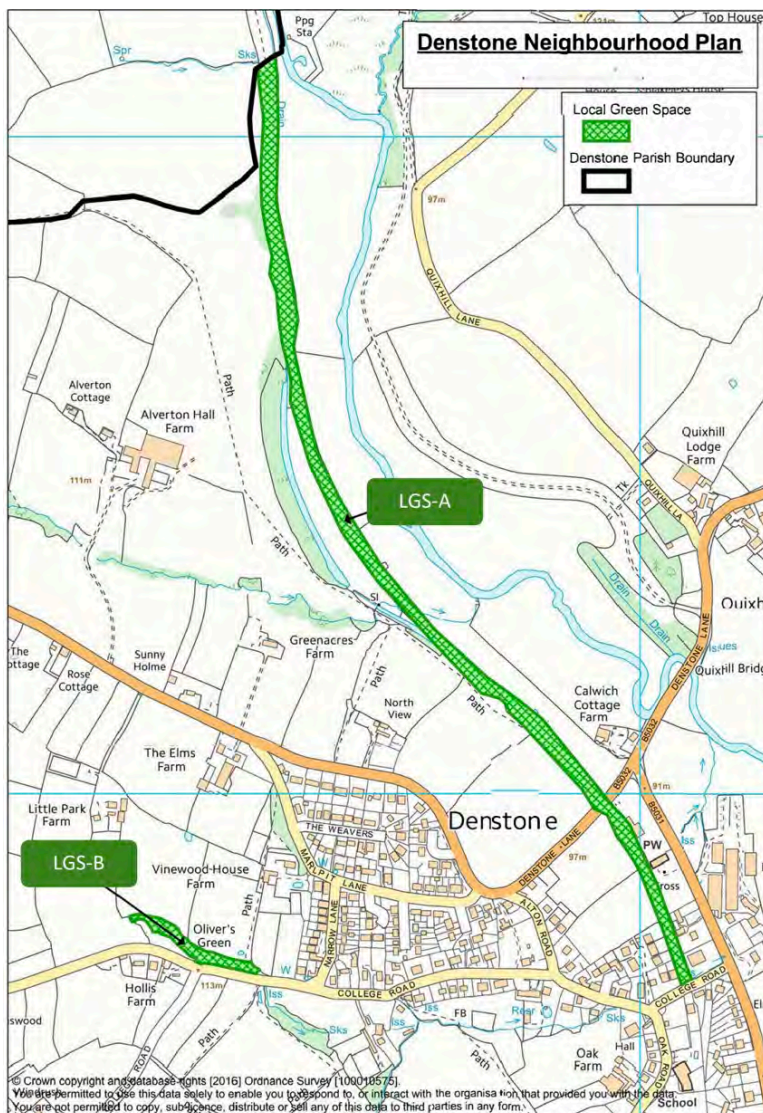
## LGS-B: Oliver's Green, off College Road

Oliver's Green,  
College Road,  
Denstone,  
Staffordshire

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## Plan

The following plan shows the Local Green Space marked LGS-B.



## Suitability for LGS Designation

<p><b>Special Community Value</b></p>	<p><b>Health and Well-being:</b>            Oliver's Green is one of the highlighted features on a circular walk promoted through the Staffordshire County Council community paths initiative on 'walks around Denstone'. There are 2 public footpaths that pass-through Oliver's Green that lead from the Village up to Windy Arbour (Denstone 29) and Marlpit Lane (Denstone 21).</p> <p><b>Heritage:</b>            Agricultural was the predominate industry before the railway line and canal which improved accessibility and led to the growth of the rural parish. At Oliver's Green there was a pinfold where stray animals were tethered to a 'pinning stone'. In 1900 a fine of 6d had to be paid before animals were released. An important feature of the original village, it was situated at the junction of 2 pack-horse routes.</p> <p><b>Natural Environment:</b>            The Local Green Space is now covered by a variety of mature trees, providing an important wildlife corridor linking to other wooded areas and substantial mature hedgerows that cross the area.</p>
<p><b>Area of space (Ha)</b></p>	<p>Approx. 0.41ha</p>
<p><b>Planning permissions or site allocations</b></p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>Other Designations</b></p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>Not an extensive tract of land</b></p>	<p>Not an extensive tract of land.</p>
<p><b>Close to the community it serves</b></p>	<p>Located within Denstone village, it is accessible from the road and by 2 public footpaths. The site forms part of local circular walks in the area.</p>



## LGS-C: Denstone Meadow

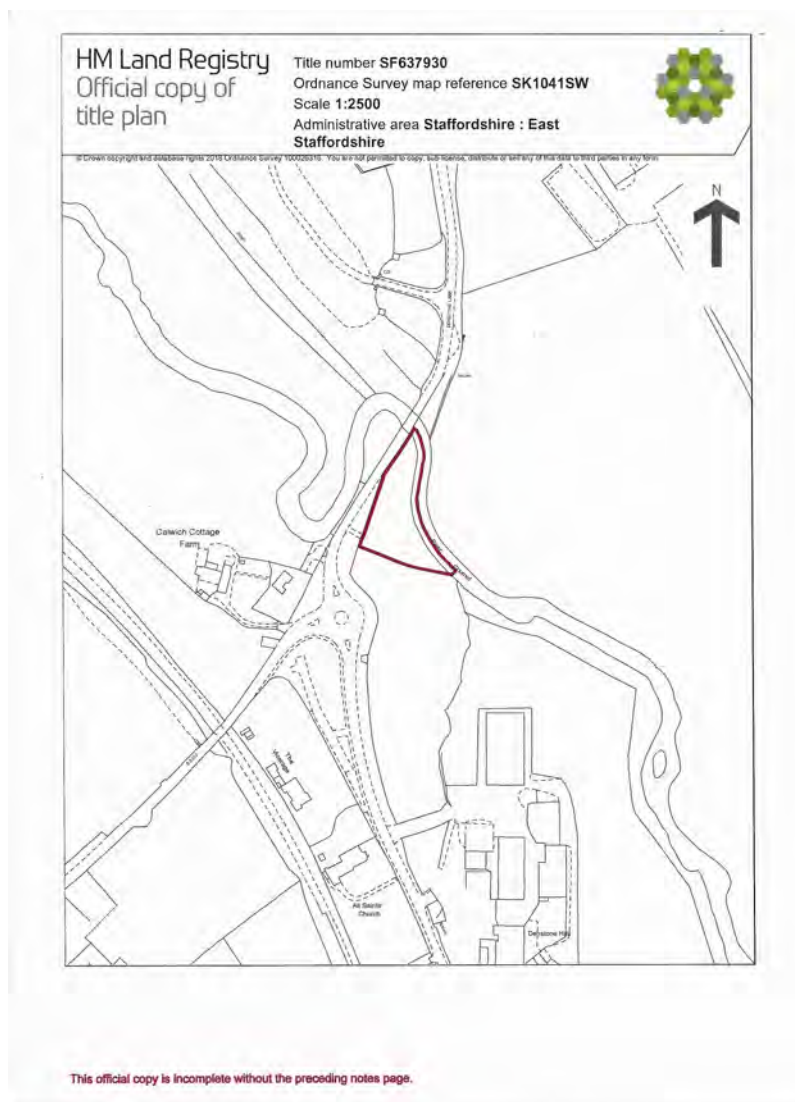
Denstone Meadow,  
Denstone Lane,  
Denstone,  
Staffordshire

What 3 words location: mend//words//basin

OS Map Reference: SK1041SW

## Plan

The following plan shows the Local Green Space marked LGS-C.





## Suitability for LGS Designation

<p><b>Special Community Value</b></p>	<p>Health and Well-being: Denstone Meadow is a space owned by Denstone Parish Council that is utilised as a quiet space for residents of the village to sit and relax and use the open wildlife area as a space to remember and contemplate. It is easily accessible on foot from the village, located to the north-east of the main settlement.</p> <p>Some members of the village also have licences to fish the river along this stretch. The River Churnet is host to a range of fish with those fishing this stretch reporting species including Barbel, Bitterling, Bleak and Brown Trout.</p> <p>Natural Environment: There have been a number of experts who have helped with the design and maintenance of the area including the Environment Agency who have assisted with advice on reprofiling of the riverbank. The site forms part of the natural floodplain of the River Churnet and supports a diverse range of wildlife and habitat in the river corridor.</p> <p>Staffordshire Wildlife Trust have supported the Parish Council, taking soil samples that have been assessed by Salford University. These have been used to inform management of this type of landscape and better understand the biodiversity of the plants and grasses in the meadow. The site is a managed wildflower meadow.</p>
<p><b>Area of space (Ha)</b></p>	<p>2900 sq meters</p>
<p><b>Planning permissions or site allocations</b></p>	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>Other Designations</b></p>	<p>Flood zone 3.</p>
<p><b>Not an extensive tract of land</b></p>	<p>Not an extensive tract of land.</p>
<p><b>Close to the community it serves.</b></p>	<p>The Meadow is a short walk away from the centre of the Village.</p>



## **Conclusions**

Considering each Local Green Space against the NPPF 2021, each space positively meets the criteria. It is recommended that the 2 designated Local Green Spaces, Former Railway Line and Oliver's Green are carried forward into the revised Plan and the additional Space of Denstone Meadow is also designated in the revised Plan.

The East Staffordshire Council interactive map of Local Green Spaces in the Denstone Neighbourhood Area should be updated to accurately reflect the three Local Green Space designations.