

Local Green Spaces (Areas considered, in the Regulation 15 Plan and forward, only Space 2 is included as an LGS on the Plan)

Space	Local Significance				
	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife
1. Graveyard/ Churchyard and land behind towards Mope Woods	The local Community has expressed a strong desire to protect land. The residents' survey indicated that 91% of respondents wanted to retain the land around the churchyard and graveyard. Wickham Bishops Community Voice was formed to keep land as open space. There were over 60 objection letters were received in relation to the planning applications in recent years, as residents value the space very highly. The previous application for development was refused by the Inspector at appeal (see below) for reasons including the loss of open space and to the detriment of the rural nature of the village.				
<i>PICTURES</i>	<p>This land is at the highest point of village, allowing uninterrupted views to the spire of St Bartholomew's Church from surrounding areas. The iconic spire when viewed from Witham town and Hatfield Peverel parish, stands as an outstanding landmark, in isolation, surrounded by trees.</p> <p>Any development on this area of land would impact adversely upon those views from both the West and North of the village (see viewpoints map 6 P19).</p> <p>The land is an open grassland space on the edge of the village, enhancing its rural nature and character on the settlement boundary.</p>	<p>The graveyard, on both sides of Church Road, has historic significance as a final resting place for villagers since St. Bartholomew's was built in 1850.</p> <p>The graveyard to the north of Church Road has the most recent graves and memorials and is therefore the area most used by villagers to visit the resting place of their loved ones.</p> <p>There continue to be interments of deceased local residents so many people within the village visit graves and memorials.</p>	<p>There is a permissive bridleway across the land which has been in use for at least 50 years (marked on the map 6 as a track).</p> <p>Although the land is not accessible, the open green space and surrounding trees provide a beneficial value to those visiting St. Bartholomew's and the graveyard as part of the quiet rural character of this far end of Church Road.</p> <p>The site contributes to the tranquillity of the wider area in this part of the village.</p> <p>The Planning Inspector's report at the latest appeal indicates that: Development would alter the open character of the edge of the village.</p>	<p>The site is important due to the proximity to the local graveyard and church yard, which has demonstrable community value as a location for peace, calm and tranquillity for those visiting lost loved ones.</p> <p>The Planning Inspector's report at the latest appeal indicates: The land is outside of the DSB and that planning permission would only be granted where the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside is not adversely affected and provided it meets at least one of the exceptions listed.</p>	<p>Grassland habitat for a number of uncommon bird species including buzzards, sparrow hawks, greater spotted woodpeckers and great crested newts (as confirmed by EWT biodiversity audits – add dates).</p> <p>The rare Luna Yellow Underwing moth, identified in adjacent gardens during a night time survey (on 16 & 17 September 2018), which identified 44 different species of moth over two nights (see data file). This moth is rare outside the Breck and lives in rough, acidic grassland. This location is well outside its normal geographical range and its identification in Essex is to be celebrated.</p>

			The site's open and undeveloped nature is clearly appreciated and valued by those who live in and around the area.		<p>The open grassland is an important feeding area for a number Buzzards, with up to 7 of these large birds of prey sighted on a single day during summer months.</p> <p>There are nesting sites for Tawny Owls in surrounding woods and trees, including in the adjacent ancient woodlands of Mope and Chantry woods which link to the northern edge of the site.</p>
2. Land surrounding Handley's Lane	The land is significant due to its proximity adjacent to Handley's Lane. The route is an important pedestrian, cycle and horse rider route from the centre of the village towards Great Totham and other non-vehicular routes. In the residents' survey, 96% of respondents identified the playing fields as important for their recreational value and as open spaces. 98% of residents responded that they wanted to keep this whole area as an open and green space.				
	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife
<i>PICTURES</i>	<p>Handley's Lane has overhanging trees which act as tunnel to the path, creating a beautiful wooded feel to the route.</p> <p>This is a wide non-vehicular route, accessible to all pedestrians, including those using wheelchairs or pushchairs, area with wooded feel.</p> <p>Development on either side of Handley's Lane would be an unwelcome</p>	<p>The Handleys Lane route has been in existence for more than two centuries as a link from the cottages near Kelvedon Road, and Little Braxted, to the shops in Wickham Bishops.</p> <p>The route has always been well-used by pedestrians and horse riders as part of the rural scene of the village.</p> <p>It is an important area in terms of maintaining the</p>	<p>Handley's Lane is much-used as a footpath and cycleway connecting Kelvedon Road, to The Street and the playing fields to the West of the Lane.</p> <p>It is a non-vehicular byway regularly used by dog walkers and horse riders.</p> <p>It is a route to the doctors' surgery in Kelvedon Road, and the primary school in</p>	<p>The woodland setting and grasslands adjacent to the byway add to the tranquil and relaxing location of Handley's Lane.</p> <p>The Lane allows a quiet, peaceful walk from the village centre to the more rural areas of Kelvedon Road, Beacon Hill and beyond.</p> <p>The site forms part of the swathe of green space between Tiptree Road,</p>	<p>The hedges across the fields running North West from Handleys Lane towards Tiptree Road act as a green corridor, connecting the Ancient Woodland of Chantry Woods with the Southern and Eastern open green spaces and farmland of the village.</p> <p>The site is an important location for native trees lining the Lane including</p>

	<p>intrusion into the undeveloped countryside and Ancient woodlands to the North and West.</p> <p>Development on either side of Handley's Lane would detract from the rural nature and beauty of this lane.</p> <p>There are picturesque views identified as valuable and to be protected within this site (see viewpoints map 6 P21).</p>	<p>open and Arcadian feel of local area created over the period of its historical development.</p>	<p>Great Totham, avoiding the main roads.</p> <p>The land is well-used and of clear value to the local community through its regular use by the public as an important part of the connectivity network of footpaths and bridleways used within the village for safe walking avoiding busy roads.</p> <p>STRAVA Data shows: By April 2019, 153 runners recorded 964 runs along Handleys Lane. Reasons for preferring Handleys Lane were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tranquillity • Accessing the countryside and escaping the built-up environment • Unlike most paths – no close boarded fencing, just hedging • Safety, familiarity • Wide and mostly good surface <p>Handleys Lane is extremely popular with runners and more so than comparable routes around Wickham Bishops. It is seen as unique in being enclosed by hedging rather than</p>	<p>across Handleys Lane and across the sports fields towards Kelvedon Road and Rainbow Field, with views far beyond.</p> <p>The peacefulness and open space of this whole area is valued by residents.</p> <p>Development would have an urbanising effect on the rural character of the area and would be detrimental to its tranquil nature.</p>	<p>oak, beech and horse chestnut.</p> <p>One of the fields has an area of sedge and wetland plants.</p> <p>Identified as a "Habitat of significant importance in England" as a "Rush Pasture" EWT biodiversity audits – (Dec 2018 & May 2019).</p> <p>There is also a significant level of lichen cover on the trees and on the ground in some areas of the site, indicative of its high air quality.</p> <p>There are nesting sites for Tawny Owls and bats in surrounding woods and trees.</p> <p>Bird and mammal species identified include hedgehogs and raptors (as confirmed by EWT biodiversity audits – Dec 2018 & May 2019).</p> <p>Reptile species identified included Slow worms (as confirmed by EWT biodiversity audits – Dec 2018 & May 2019).</p>
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