

## Appendix 10 Designated Local Green Spaces

### Overview

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2012, sets out the government's planning policies for England.

Paragraphs 76 to 78 introduce a Local Green Space (LGS) designation to protect local green areas of special importance to local communities.

This enables communities, in particular circumstances, to identify and protect areas that are of value to them through neighbourhood plans.

LGS is designated by the planning authority, in our case Wiltshire Council, and once it is in place, it is subject to the same strong development restrictions as Green Belt, ruling out new development except in special circumstances.

There are particular criteria which must be fulfilled in order for LGS designation to be possible:

- 1) **The land has to be 'reasonably close to the community it serves'.**
- 2) **The land has to be 'demonstrably special to a local community'.**

Evidence must be provided of the land's value to and use by the local community to show that it holds a particular local significance. The land must fulfil one or more of the following criteria:

- a. **Beauty**

This relates to the visual attractiveness of the site, and its contribution to landscape, character and or setting of the settlement. The LGS would need to contribute to local identity, character of the area and a sense of place, and make an important contribution to the physical form and layout of the settlement. It may link up with other open spaces and allow views through or beyond the settlement which are valued locally.

- b. **Historic significance**

The land should provide a setting for, and allow views of, heritage assets or other locally-valued landmarks. It may be necessary to research historic records from the County Archaeologist or National or Local Records Office.

- c. **Recreational value**

It must have local significance for recreation, perhaps through the variety of activities it supports, and be of value to the community.

- d. **Tranquility**

Some authorities have an existing tranquility map showing areas that provide an oasis of calm and a space for quiet reflection.

- e. **Richness of wildlife**

This might include the value of its habitat, and priority areas may have been identified by the council. It may require some objective evidence, such as a designation, like a wildlife site or Local Nature Reserve.

- 3) **The land needs to be 'local in character, not an extensive tract of land'.**

The criteria may differ between settlements depending on their physical size and population. The areas would normally be fairly self-contained with clearly-defined edges.

There are a number of green spaces with public and/or permissive access around the parish which the responses to the residents' questionnaire in 2019 showed are highly valued. The greatly increased use of the spaces by residents of both the parish and of the wider local area during the 2020/21 pandemic has underlined that finding. It is therefore appropriate to designate these as Local Green Spaces. The locations of the areas are shown in green and are numbered 1 to 5 on the map in Figure 1 below, and a description of how each meets the above criteria follows this in the corresponding numbered sections. The area marked 6 is the location of the River Bourne Community Farm and a note about this area is added at the end. The maps should be taken as indicative. For definitive mapping of the indicated areas please refer to land registry and other official sources.

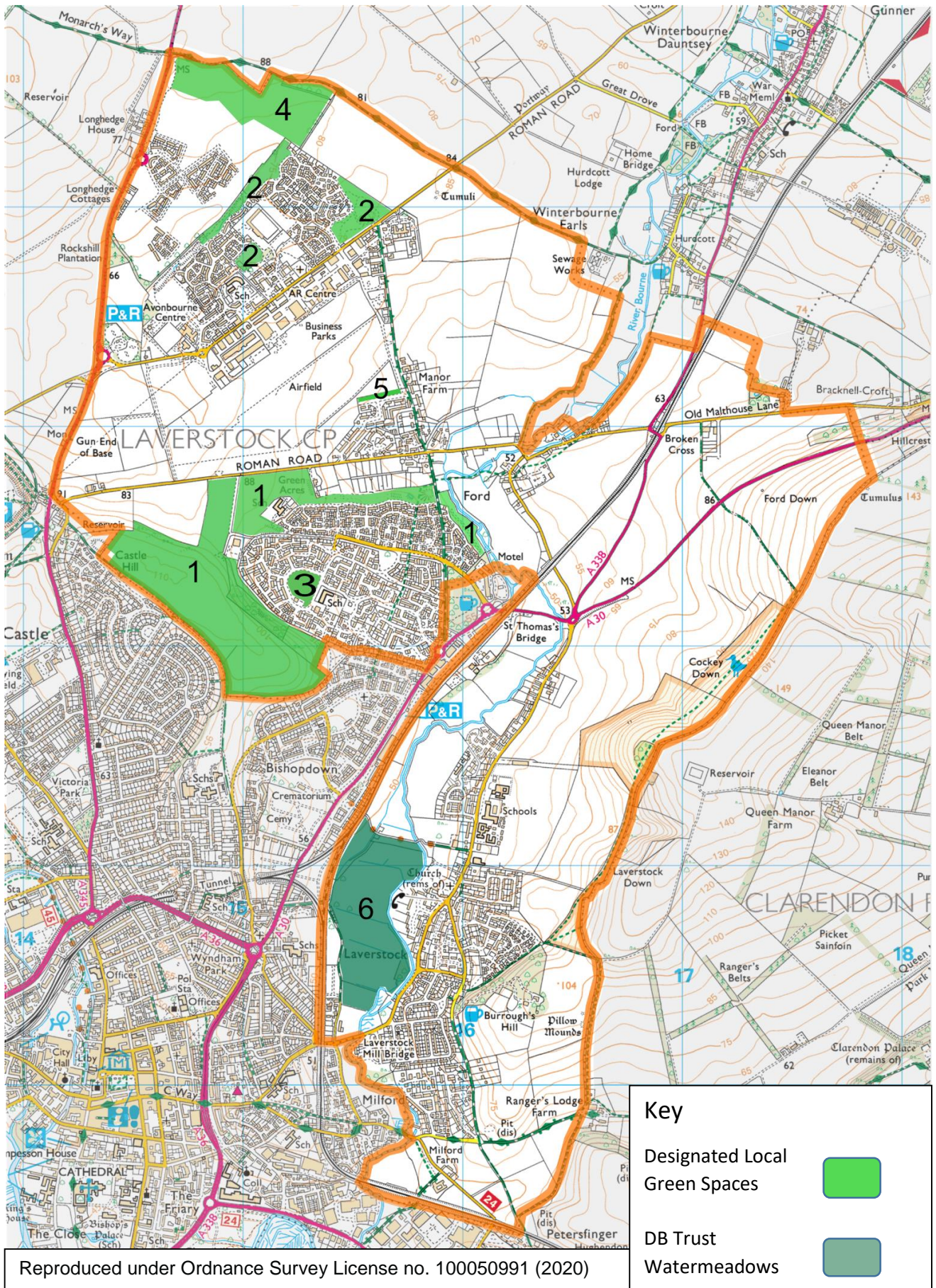
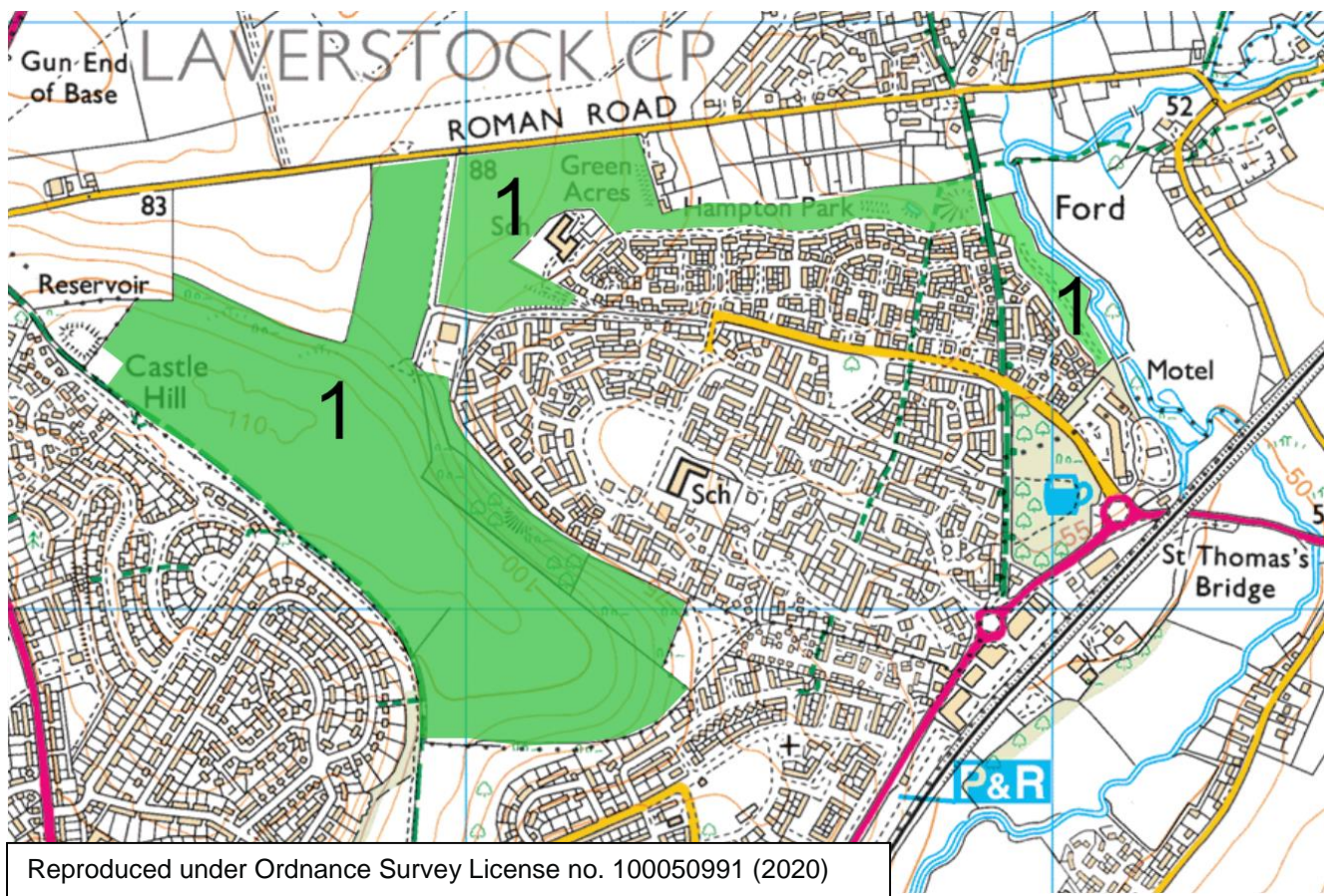


Figure 1 Designated Local Green Spaces

## 1 Castle Hill Country Park

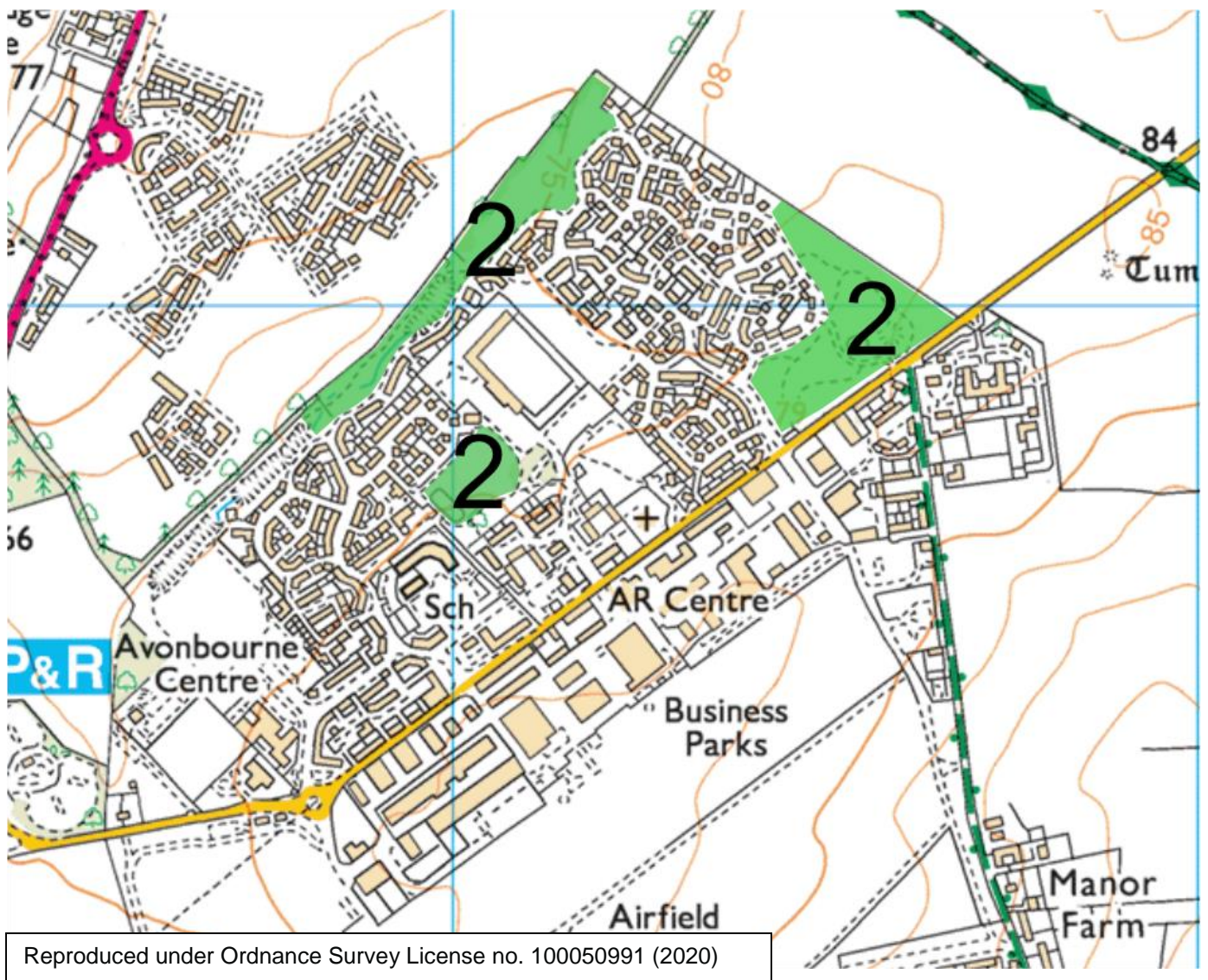


The Park was given over to the Parish Council as part of the Riverdown Park housing development by BDW Homes. It extends to 55 hectares surrounding much of the Bishopdown Farm/Hampton Park/Riverdown Park community, with the Greentrees Primary School junior site adjacent to the middle number 1 in the map. It has numerous access points and links into the footpath network, so serves not only local residents but also those from the wider parish and Salisbury communities. Its upper reaches are traditional downland with a thriving population of skylarks, raptors and other bird species and a wide variety of wild flowers. Other parts have been planted with native trees and hedgerows and there are two community orchards with traditional local varieties of fruit trees. Stock fencing is in place in some areas to permit occasional grazing. A management plan is in place to maintain these and other aspects of the park.

Recreational facilities include an extensive network of permissive paths, many of which are Hoggin surfaced with restricted gradients for accessibility. These paths afford views in many directions over the neighbouring downs to the east, Salisbury Plain to the north, Old Sarum Castle to the west and Salisbury Cathedral to the south. There are also several play parks, a multi use games area, a furnished picnic area, a trim trail, an extensive mountain bike trail and an enclosed dog exercise area, catering for most ages and interests. An iron age themed group of earthworks provides a further play space for youngsters, celebrating the long history and rich archaeology of the area.

In the residents survey 91% agreed that the community owned open spaces, such as Castle Hill Country Park should be legally protected from future development, with no one disagreeing. 55% of parish residents and 89% of the local residents indicated that they use the park (and this was before the surfaced path network was in place).

## 2 Old Sarum Green Spaces

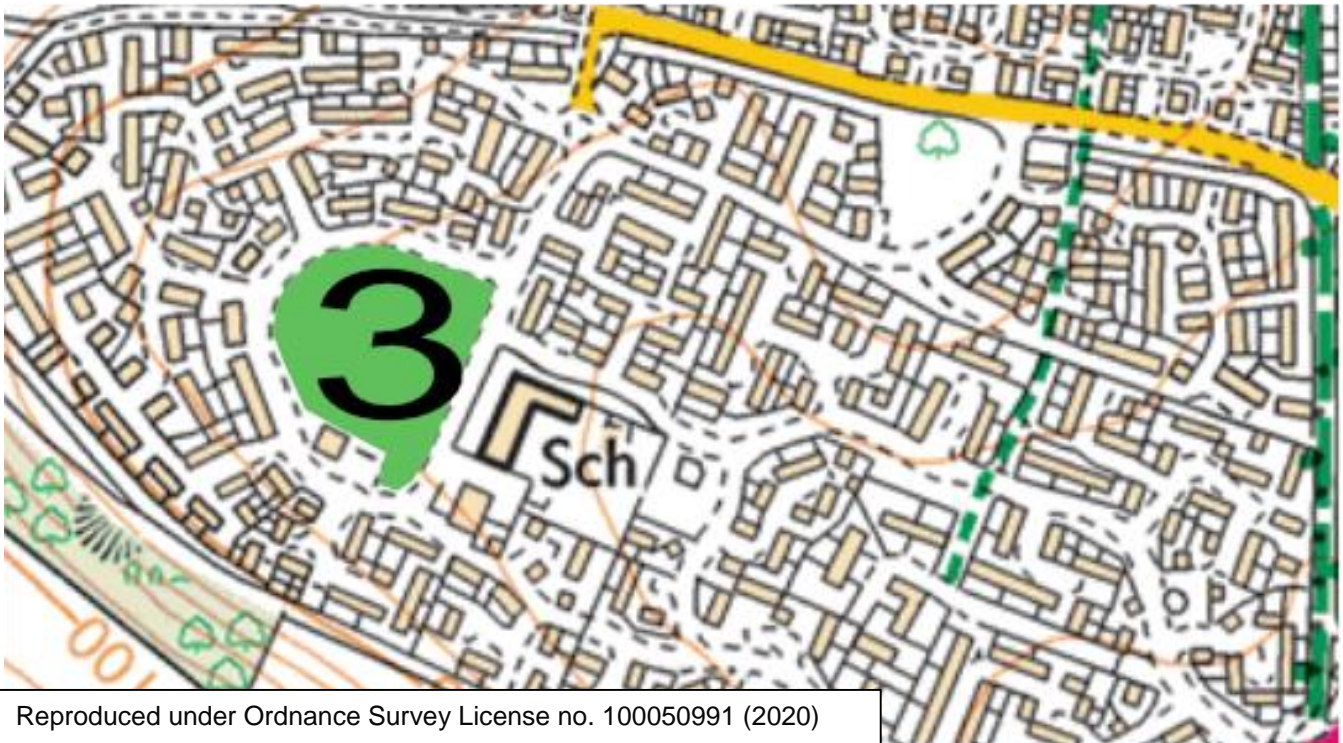


These green spaces were given over to the council by Persimmon as part of the Old Sarum mixed development. They comprise:

- a strip of Sustainable Urban Drainage ponds to the north west, which is largely mown grass, fringed by an old established hedge and along which are grass footpaths. The area connects with Longhedge green space (see section 5) at its northeast corner, providing an extensive area for walking and jogging.
- a grass recreation area, including a large play area, in the centre of the estate which is adjacent to the primary school and the community centre.
- a grass, tree and hedgerow area, including another play area, in the north east corner, known as Old Sarum country park. This has views out into open country to the north and is crossed by a tarmac and several Hoggin paths, which are very popular for younger children riding bikes.

In the residents survey 91% agreed that the community owned open spaces, such as these areas should be legally protected from future development, with no one disagreeing. 66% of parish residents and 92% of the local residents indicated that they use the areas.

### 3 Hampton Park Green



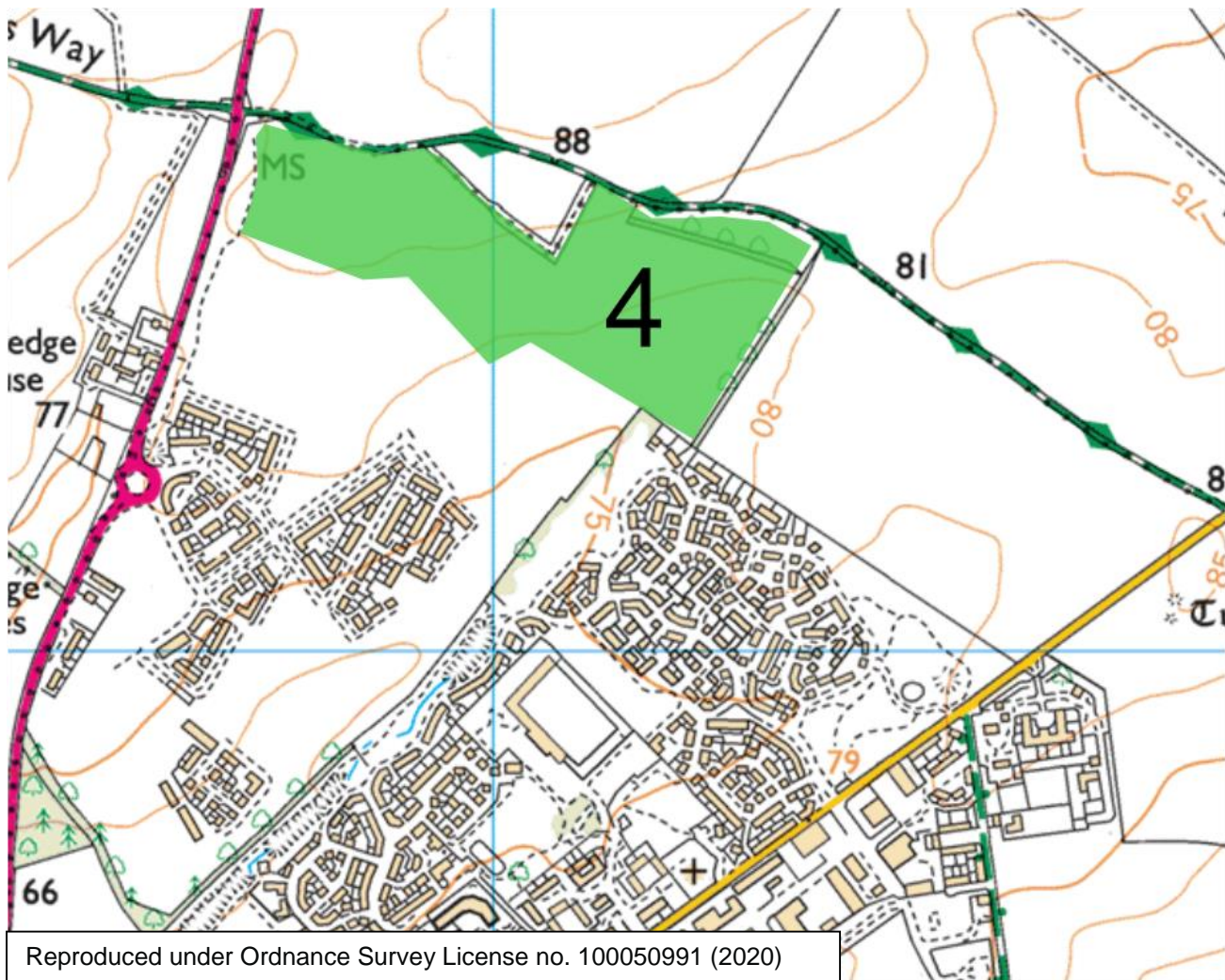
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This green space was given over to Wiltshire Council during the development of Bishopdown Farm and Hampton Park, which surround it. It provides a large mown area of grass, surrounded by maturing trees, which is used for a variety of recreational activities, and includes a substantial play area. Fronting onto the green is a pavilion providing a focal point for community activities, including a toddler group. Also adjacent is the infant site of Greentrees Primary School.

In the residents survey 91% agreed that the community owned open spaces, such as these areas should be legally protected from future development, with no one disagreeing. 88% of the local residents indicated that they value this area.

## 4 Longhedge Green Space



This area is in the process of being given over to Parish Council ownership as part of the Longhedge Village mixed development, which is still in progress. In spite of this, local residents, from both Longhedge and Old Sarum have been using the area for a while for walking and jogging, and for gaining access to the Monarch's Way long distance path which runs along part of its northern boundary. When established, it will have a network of paths and will provide a valuable wildlife habitat, having established hedgerows to the north and east and a large SUDS pond in the south east. It provides views into open country to the north and to Old Sarum Castle to the south. It also connects to the Old Sarum green space as explained in section 2.

In the residents survey 91% agreed that the community owned open spaces, such as these areas should be legally protected from future development, with no one disagreeing. 84% of the local residents (Old Sarum and Longhedge) indicated that they value this area.

## 5 Manor Farm Road Green, Ford



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The properties in Manor Farm Road, along the northern edge of which this green area lies, are occupied by both military and private owners. The Green area is currently owned by the Ministry of Defence, having been retained by them when they sold the airfield, which lies to the northwest. It is the only open and level green area of Ford available for recreation to both adults and children. As such it is hugely valued since other areas in Ford are smaller and less open. It is an area well used by children for physical activity and is particularly popular for ball games. It is also regularly used by dog walkers and runners and it is a convenient point from which the airfield activity can be safely viewed, as it has an uninterrupted outlook over it. Recognising these benefits, it was designated as an asset of community value some years ago, and it is therefore believed appropriate to also designate it as a Local Green Space.

## Footnote

### 6 Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust Watermeadows

In the Residents Survey referred to above, the River Bourne Community Farm and Devenish Bradshaw Trust Watermeadows on Cow Lane, the latter marked 6 on the main map, were together identified as a highly valued and much visited open space. 88% of parish residents and 97% of Laverstock residents indicated that they use the area. Livestock farming and haymaking on these water meadows continues a tradition going back to at least mediaeval times and probably earlier. The community farm, based on land owned by the Parish Council along the lower western edge of the site is open to visitors most days, engages in educational activities and community events and has a nursery school on site. The visitor centre has a small animal collection and a falconry centre, with hawks being flown on the meadows. These watermeadows along the River Bourne are owned by the Devenish Bradshaw Trust, a local charitable trust, and leased to the farm for livestock grazing. The Trust is enhancing the wildlife and access opportunities on the land in partnership with the Farm and other local organisations. The farm attracts visitors from a much wider area than just Salisbury and the meadows have a network of permissive paths and managed open access land which all these groups and the wider community use for quiet exercise, dog walking and wildlife watching.

The grassland of the watermeadows has been identified as being an example of Coastal and Floodplain wet grassland, a Protected Habitat of considerable wildlife value. The River Bourne is part of the Hampshire Avon River system which is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Area of Conservation, and is a chalk stream with flora and fauna which is internationally important for its wildlife value. A river dipping platform on land adjacent to the watermeadows, currently in private ownership, is a popular facility for people to study the rich wildlife of the River. There are views from the meadows across to the Laverstock and Cockey Downs (the latter is also an SSSI), and self-guided trails lead from the farm to these and other local attractions.

The Devenish Bradshaw Trust's land has an ownership clause that prevents any commercial development. The Trust also has a number of charitable objectives to protect and enhance the meadow and riverine habitats and to provide opportunities for quiet recreation that is compatible with this. Since the Trust's objectives ensure that the land will remain as watermeadows for community enjoyment it is unnecessary to designate this area as a Local Green Space.

Other equally valuable watermeadows are to be found upstream and downstream of the marked area but most are in private ownership with limited access.