

Northhill Parish Green Infrastructure Plan

September 2016



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NORTHILL PARISH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Introduction:

The Northill Parish Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan is one of more than 35 parish and town GI plans to have been produced across Central Bedfordshire.

The production of the Northill Parish GI Plan has been funded by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and facilitated by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

The production of the GI Plan was requested by Northill Parish Council and the Northill Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group; both to be a valuable tool in its own right as a planning document, and to inform policies and objectives in the emerging Northill Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

BRCC was appointed to facilitate the production of this Plan as it is a charity that works with local communities and landowners to conserve and enhance the landscape, wildlife and history in this area. At the heart of BRCC's work is the belief that the best results are achieved by empowering local communities, giving them a say in issues that affect them. BRCC has over 60 years experience of community development support and facilitating community consultation; and has nearly 20 years experience of planning and delivering green infrastructure projects in east Bedfordshire.

The need for GI Planning has been identified at all levels, from central government, through regional bodies (the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy), to County and District levels. The Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic GI Plan was produced in 2007 by the Bedfordshire & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium and the Mid Bedfordshire GI Plan was completed in 2008. Parish and Town GI Plans are a valuable tool for planners, committees, developers and communities themselves. They can help inform important decisions and help local people identify what is important to them, and what they would like to happen in the future. Parish and Town GI Plans have been used to support funding bids, helping people make important improvements to their local environment, and they also provide a snapshot of the local environment.

It should be acknowledged that not all of the aspirations identified will be delivered, because there are many other influencing factors, such as the views of landowners, existing planning permissions and allocations, potential future land use allocations and the cost of implementation. The value of this GI plan lies in the fact that it has been produced by local residents for their own community. It can help inform planning decisions and be used as a mechanism to identify where financial benefits from development should be directed. It cannot be used as a tool to prevent development but may influence considerations in the planning process. All aspirations which gained community support have been included; however, it remains a community owned document which, whilst endorsed by CBC, has not been formally adopted. The plan as a whole is based on a robust approach to mapping and implementing a high quality GI network for the existing, and future, residents of the parish of Northill.

Endorsement by Northill Parish Council:

Northill Parish Council is happy to endorse this Green Infrastructure Plan, which has been produced by current residents of the parish, for this and future generations. In endorsing this Plan, the Parish Council confirms its support for the concept of GI Planning and the methodology used to produce the Plan. In addition, the Parish Council will seek to be an active partner in the delivery of this Plan, leading and assisting the implementation of those actions which fall into the remit and plans of the Council.

The Parish Council will regularly review the Plan, reporting to the community activity undertaken and planned, both by the Council and others, towards implementing the Plan.

Endorsement by Northill Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

The Northill Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group endorses this Green Infrastructure Plan, and its valuable input into the parish's Neighbourhood Plan. It identifies the aspirations that are important to the community of Northill parish, which when actioned, will enhance the green infrastructure and open spaces that we are fortunate to enjoy.

Endorsement by Central Bedfordshire Council:

Central Bedfordshire Council recognises the need to provide a framework for green infrastructure provision in the District to meet the needs of existing and new residents and help create sustainable communities. In 2008, Mid Beds District Council produced a district-wide GI plan which has informed the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and other Local Development Documents. The production of this parish-level GI Plan for Northill gives added detail and together with the views of local people adds value to, and compliments, the Mid Beds District GI Plan and the Strategic GI Plan for Bedfordshire and Luton which was produced in 2007. All levels of GI Plan, including this Northill GI Plan, will be used by the Authority in considering development proposals and assisting with the creation of green infrastructure assets.

Support from BRCC:

BRCC will support the community of Northill in implementing this Plan where appropriate and feasible, providing advice, support in securing funding and leading practical works.

Definition of Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure is the network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features which provide:

- a healthy and diverse environment
- attractive places to live and visit
- a good quality of life
- a sustainable future

Green Infrastructure assets include:

- Accessible green space
- Country parks
- Green corridors
- Urban parks and gardens
- Habitats for wildlife including nature reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife Sites.
- Historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Waterways and water bodies, including flooded quarries
- Public rights of way and cycleways
- Allotments
- Children's play space
- Formal sports facilities
- Cemeteries

It is important to plan the GI network in the same way that we plan other networks and facilities, so that we can safeguard and enhance the environment and meet the needs of a wide range of people, both now and in the future. Green infrastructure also provides social and economic benefits, including:

- Places that can be used as a focus for community activity and events
- Opportunities to keep fit and healthy
- Helps support the local economy, including village shops, pubs and B&Bs
- Links between town and country helping people in rural areas to access facilities
- Helps reduce the use of cars

Green Infrastructure Themes

Green Infrastructure is composed of 5 themes; landscape, history, biodiversity, access and open space. These themes are presented separately to enable the different elements of GI to be considered both individually in detail and as part of the integrated GI network.

The Living Networks pack of maps identifies the existing GI assets for each of the above themes. The Living Network maps for the parish of Northill can be viewed in Appendix A.

Aims of this Plan:

To identify the key existing natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, accessible greenspace and rights of way and to plan new features that will provide a connected network of green infrastructure for the benefit of present and future generations.

Objectives

To create a comprehensive document that will assist the local community to:

- Protect and where possible enhance the landscape, biodiversity and the historic environment
- Improve access and links for people and wildlife
- Provide a multi functional green infrastructure network
- Provide a source of information and guidance for planners, landowners and developers in formulating land use plans
- Promote community involvement
- Identify projects and produce an action plan to implement projects.

Links to other GI related plans

The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan

The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (2007) identifies 11 strategic GI corridors across the county. The parish of Northill lies at the intersection of two of these corridors – the River Ivel Valley and the Greensand Ridge – and as such is a significant component of Bedfordshire's GI network.

The Mid Bedfordshire GI Plan

The Mid Bedfordshire GI Plan (2008) identifies a network for protecting and enhancing GI across the whole of the former Mid Beds District. This Network is broken down into a series of six 'areas', each with an 'Action List' of potential projects to help deliver the Network. As with the Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan, Northill lies at the intersection of two of these areas, identified as the Ivel Valley and Greensand Ridge. Although none of the actions in the Action List fall directly within the parish of Northill (with the exceptions the Greensand Ridge Walk (G10) and Cycle Route (G11) passing through the parish), its location again confirms it as a significant component of the District's GI network.

CBC Leisure Strategy

Central Bedfordshire Council are currently finalising their Leisure Strategy, which is replacing the 2008 PPG17 Study.

The details below are initial figures which are subject to change following detailed consultation being undertaken prior to adoption of the Leisure Strategy in 2016.

Based on national standards for levels of provision; the draft CBC figures indicate that across the parish there is a slight deficit of large, formal recreation areas; but a significant surplus of large, informal recreation areas. The figures also indicate a surplus of small amenity spaces, but a deficit of both children's play areas and allotments.

However, given the number of communities which make up the parish, the true picture is less clear than these headline figures.

The presence of a large playing field in Upper Caldecote means that the settlement has a surplus, rather than a deficit of large, formal recreation areas. Conversely, the lack of playing fields in other settlements in the parish means the level of deficit here is more significant.

In regard to large, informal recreation areas; Upper Caldecote is more poorly provided for than other settlements; so while a significant surplus exists across the parish as a whole, this is not the case in Upper Caldecote.

Methodology & Community Involvement

A methodology for the production of Parish Green Infrastructure Plans was developed in 2007 and 2008 by the PGIP Working Group and endorsed by the Beds & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium. This standard methodology was adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council to produce a portfolio of 20 commissioned GI Plans in 2009/10; and has been used ever since.

As with all GI Plans, two community workshops were held, to which local stakeholders and the wider community were invited. At the first workshop (February 2015), a map pack summarising all of the information currently known about the parish's GI assets was presented; and consultees were asked to use this information to identify aspirations for enhancing and adding to the existing local GI. At the second workshop (September 2015), these aspirations were reviewed, added to and prioritised. Between the two workshops a drop-in session for the whole community was held (June 2015), to increase the level and range of input into the plan.

Attendance of the 3 consultation activities totalled 108.

Across the 3 consultation activities, there was an exact 50:50 split between male and female attendees. The gender breakdown of attendees at each activity is given below.

Workshop 1		Drop-in		Workshop 2		Totals	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
19	17	28	24	7	13	54	54
36		52		20		108	

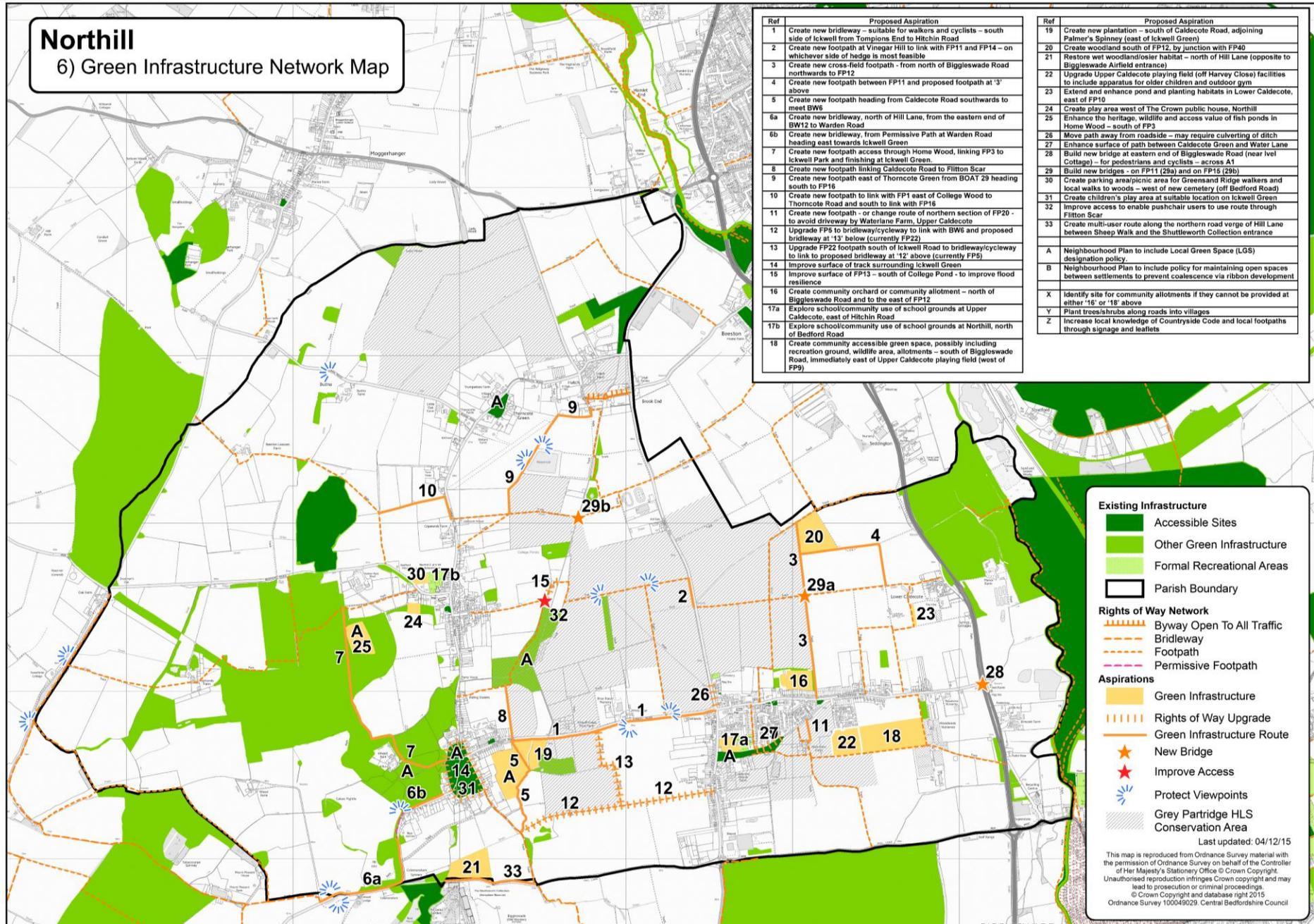
As with many PGIPs, the majority of attendees were over the age of 45. The age breakdown of attendees at each activity is given below.

	Under 18		18-24		25-44		45-59		60-74		75+		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Activity													
Workshop 1	1	1	1	0	3	3	5	4	7	6	4	1	36
Drop-in	1	2	0	0	2	2	9	8	13	9	3	3	52
Workshop 2	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	4	3	3	1	3	20
	5		1		14		34		43		15		108

Also, as with many PGIP's, the majority of attendees had lived in the parish for more than 10 years. The breakdown of length of residence of attendees at each activity is given below.

	<1 yr		1-5 yrs		6-10 yrs		11-25 yrs		>25 yrs		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Activity											
Workshop 1	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	9	9	6	(36)
Drop-in	0	0	2	1	1	4	9	10	15	10	(52)
Workshop 2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	8	4	4	20
	0		3		8		49		48		108

GI Plan Map The map below shows the aspirations identified by the community for future provision & enhancement of their Green Infrastructure.



The table in the above map is repeated below for clarity, with each numbered aspiration relating to a point on the map.

Ref.	Aspiration
1	Create new bridleway – suitable for walkers and cyclists – south side of Ickwell from Tompions End to Hitchin Road
2	Create new footpath at Vinegar Hill to link with FP11 and FP14 – on whichever side of hedge is most feasible
3	Create new cross-field footpath - from north of Biggleswade Road northwards to FP12
4	Create new footpath between FP11 and proposed footpath at '3' above
5	Create new footpath heading from Caldecote Road southwards to meet BW6
6a	Create new footpath, north of Hill Lane, from the eastern end of BW12 to Warden Road
6b	Create new footpath, from Permissive Path at Warden Road heading east towards Ickwell Green
7	Create new footpath access thru' Home Wood, linking FP3 to Ickwell Park and finishing at Ickwell Green.
8	Create new footpath linking Caldecote Road to Flitton Scar
9	Create new footpath east of Thorncote Green from BOAT 29 heading south to FP16
10	Create new footpath to link with FP1 east of College Wood to Thorncote Road and south to link with FP16
11	Create new footpath - or change route of northern section of FP20 - to avoid driveway by Waterlane Farm, Upper Caldecote
12	Upgrade FP5 to bridleway/cycleway to link with BW6 and proposed bridleway at '13' below (currently FP22)
13	Upgrade FP22 footpath south of Ickwell Road to bridleway/cycleway to link to proposed bridleway at '12' above (currently FP5)
14	Improve surface of track surrounding Ickwell Green
15	Improve surface of FP13 – south of College Pond - to improve flood resilience
16	Create community orchard or community allotment – north of Biggleswade Road and to the east of FP12
17a	Explore school/community use of school grounds at Upper Caldecote, east of Hitchin Road
17b	Explore school/community use of school grounds at Northill, north of Bedford Road
18	Create community accessible green space, possibly including recreation ground, wildlife area, allotments – south of Biggleswade Road, immediately east of Upper Caldecote playing field (west of FP9)
19	Create new plantation – south of Caldecote Road, adjoining Palmer's Spinney (east of Ickwell Green)
20	Create woodland south of FP12, by junction with FP40
21	Restore wet woodland / osier habitat – north of Hill Lane (opposite to Biggleswade Airfield entrance)
22	Upgrade Upper Caldecote playing field (off Harvey Close) facilities to include apparatus for older children and outdoor gym
23	Extend and enhance pond and planting habitats in Lower Caldecote, east of FP10
24	Create play area to the west of the Crown public house, Northill
25	Enhance the heritage, wildlife and access value of fish ponds in Home Wood – south of FP3
26	Move path away from roadside – may require culverting of ditch
27	Enhance surface of path between Caldecote Green and Water Lane

28	Build new bridge at eastern end of Biggleswade Road (near Ivel Cottage) for pedestrians and cyclists – across A1
29	Build new bridges – on FP11 (29a) and FP15 (29b) (both completed prior to adoption of Plan)
30	Create parking area/picnic area for Greensand Ridge walkers and local walks to woods – west of new cemetery (off Bedford Road)
31	Create children's play area at suitable location on Ickwell Green
32	Improve access to enable pushchair users to use route through Flitton Scar
33	Create multi-user route along the northern road verge of Hill Lane between Sheep Walk and the Shuttleworth Collection entrance
A	Neighbourhood Plan to include Local Green Space (LGS) designation policy
B	Neighbourhood Plan to include policy for maintaining open spaces between settlements to prevent coalescence via ribbon development
X	Identify site for community allotments if they cannot be provided at either '16' or '18' above
Y	Plant trees/shrubs along roads into villages
Z	Increase local knowledge of Countryside Code and local footpaths through signage and leaflets

Where future built developments are proposed on land where GI aspirations have been identified, consideration should be given as to whether the aspiration(s) can be delivered either as part of a potential built development, or whether an alternative location for the aspiration(s) can be found. Such developments may contribute, either financially or through direct works, to the implementation of GI aspirations.

Note from Northill P3 Group

Whilst endorsing this Green Infrastructure Plan, the aspiration for a bridleway between Upper Caldecote and Ickwell is not wholly in accord with the findings from the Northill Parish Neighbourhood Plan Workshops, where a footway is preferred. The P3 Group will continue efforts to bring a link to fruition in the coming years, whilst acknowledging the wishes determined by the Neighbourhood Plan Workshop findings.

Priorities

At the final workshop, two prioritisation activities were undertaken.

Groups were asked to discuss the aspirations and identify and rank their top 5 aspirations. Top ranked aspirations were given a score of 5 points, with the 2nd aspiration scoring 4 points, etc. The scores from the 4 groups were then collated to give an overall list of priorities, as identified by the groups. See below for priorities as identified by the groups.

Priority Ranking	Aspiration Reference	Priority Aspirations as identified by Workshop Groups
1	30	Create parking area/picnic area for Greensand Ridge walkers and local walks to woods – west of new cemetery (off Bedford Road)
2	1	Create new bridleway – suitable for walkers and cyclists – south side of Ickwell from Tompions End to Hitchin Road
3	2	Create new footpath at Vinegar Hill to link with FP11 and FP14 – on whichever side of hedge is most feasible
4	33	Create multi-user route along the northern road verge of Hill Lane between Sheep Walk and the Shuttleworth Collection entrance
5	14	Improve surface of track surrounding Ickwell Green

Individuals were also asked to identify their top 5 priority aspirations. The purpose of this second prioritisation activity was to ensure that quieter group members, or those whose views were in a minority in their groups, had an equal say. Individuals were each given 5 'votes' and instructed to use only 1 vote per aspiration, to avoid skewed results. See below for priorities as identified by

Priority Ranking	Aspiration Reference	Priority Aspirations as identified by Individuals
1	30	Create parking area/picnic area for Greensand Ridge walkers and local walks to woods – west of new cemetery (off Bedford Road)
2	1	Create new bridleway – suitable for walkers and cyclists – south side of Ickwell from Tompions End to Hitchin Road
3	14	Improve surface of track surrounding Ickwell Green
4	2	Create new footpath at Vinegar Hill to link with FP11 and FP14 – on whichever side of hedge is most feasible
5	33	Create multi-user route along the northern road verge of Hill Lane between Sheep Walk and the Shuttleworth Collection entrance

The same top 5 priorities were identified by both groups and individuals, with the 1st and 2nd ranked in the same order.

This two-part prioritisation exercise shows a significant level of agreement between the groups and individuals, giving a high level of confidence in the results.

In addition to the above individual prioritised aspirations, a further priority agreed at the workshop was the designation of a number of Local Green Spaces through the Northill Parish Neighbourhood Plan (see page 11).

Local Green Space Designation

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. A new designation to protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities has been introduced. The Local Green Space designation will allow communities to identify and protect areas that are of value to the community through local and neighbourhood plans.

The designation should only be used:

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

In addition to the prioritisation of the individual aspirations, a further priority agreed at the workshop was the Local Green Space (LGS) designation of the following sites:

- Ickwell Green
- Caldecote Green
- Thorncote Green
- Flitton Scar
- Fish pond area within Home Wood
- Ickwell Bury parkland
- Land east of Ickwell Green and west of Palmers Spinney

The Northill Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are encouraged to seek Local Green Space Designation for the above sites through the Neighbourhood Plan.

Northhill Parish Green Infrastructure Plan Action Plan

- [1] Lead Partner Organisation / individual taking the lead in the planning and implementation of the aspiration (See key below table)
 [2] Other Partners Other organisations to be involved in the planning and implementation of the aspiration
 [3] Resourcing Likely level of funding needed: Low (achievable with no or minimal funding), Medium (achievable with moderate new funding), High (achievable with significant new funding)
 [4] Timescale Likely date of implementation: Short 2016-17; Medium 2018-20; Long 2021+

NPC Northhill Parish Council
 NP3 Northhill P3 Group
 CBC Central Bedfordshire Council
 NPAA Northhill Parish Allotment Association

NPNPSG Northhill Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
 BRCC Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity
 LO Land Owner

CP Community Priority

Ref	Aspiration	Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
1 CP	Create new bridleway – suitable for walkers and cyclists – south side of Ickwell from Tompions End to Hitchin Road	CBC	LO's NP3			
2 CP	Create new footpath at Vinegar Hill to link with FP11 and FP14 – on whichever side of hedge is most feasible	CBC	NP3	Tesco “Bags of Help” grant, via Groundwork	July 2017	NPC informed on 18.04.16
3	Create new cross-field footpath - from north of Biggleswade Road northwards to FP12	CBC	LO's NP3			
4	Create new footpath between FP11 and proposed footpath at '3' above	CBC	LO's NP3			
5	Create new footpath heading from Caldecote Road southwards to meet BW6	CBC	LO NP3			Landowner could be approached re. intermittent permissive path
6a	Create new footpath, north of Hill Lane, from the eastern end of BW12 to Warden Road	CBC	LO NP3			

6b	Create new footpath, from Permissive Path at Warden Road heading east towards Ickwell Green	CBC	NP3 Warden Road residents			
7	Create new footpath access thru' Home Wood, linking FP3 to Ickwell Park and finishing at Ickwell Green.	CBC	LO NP3			
8	Create new footpath linking Caldecote Road to Flitton Scar	CBC	LO NP3			
9	Create new footpath east of Thorncote Green from BOAT 29 heading south to FP16	CBC	LO's NP3			
10	Create new footpath to link with FP1 east of College Wood to Thorncote Road and south to link with FP16	CBC	LO's NP3			
11	Create new footpath - or change route of northern section of FP20 - to avoid driveway by Waterlane Farm, Upper Caldecote	CBC			FP20 already diverted	
12	Upgrade FP5 to bridleway/cycleway to link with BW6 and proposed bridleway at '13' below (currently FP22)	CBC	LO's NP3 Local residents			
13	Upgrade FP22 footpath south of Ickwell Road to bridleway/cycleway to link to proposed bridleway at '12' above (currently FP5)	CBC	LO's NP3			
14 CP	Improve surface of track surrounding Ickwell Green	NPC	Ickwell Residents Association	? A possible CBC Green Infrastructure Planning Obligations proposal for 2017? (2016 already allocated)		NPC has set up a working party to consider action to take
15	Improve surface of FP13 – south of College Pond - to improve flood resilience	CBC	LO's			Currently being worked on
16	Create community orchard or community allotment – north of Biggleswade Road and to the east of FP12	LO NPAA	NP3 NPC			

17a	Explore school/community use of school grounds at Upper Caldecote, east of Hitchin Road	CBC School	School Governors Diocese of St Albans			
17b	Explore school/community use of school grounds at Northill, north of Bedford Road	CBC School	School Governors			
18	Create community accessible green space, possibly including recreation ground, wildlife area, allotments – south of Biggleswade Road, immediately east of Upper Caldecote playing field (west of FP9)	LO NPAA	NPC			
19	Create new plantation – south of Caldecote Road, adjoining Palmer's Spinney (east of Ickwell Green)	LO's	NP3			
20	Create woodland south of FP12, by junction with FP40	LO's	NP3			
21	Restore wet woodland / osier habitat – north of Hill Lane (opposite to Biggleswade Airfield entrance)	Shuttleworth Trust / Collection	BRCC Conservation Group			
22	Upgrade Upper Caldecote playing field (off Harvey Close) facilities to include apparatus for older children and outdoor gym	PFA	NPNP NPC			
23	Extend and enhance pond and planting habitats in Lower Caldecote, east of FP10	LO	LC residents NP3			
24	Create play area to the west of the Crown public house, Northill	Greene King	NPNP NPC			
25	Enhance the heritage, wildlife and access value of fish ponds in Home Wood – south of FP3	Forestry Commission	BRCC NPC NP3 NPNPSG	Investigate if grants available – consult BRCC		
26	Move path away from roadside – may require culverting of ditch	Residents (ditch belongs to the neighbouring Pound Close residents)	CBC NPC NPNPSG Anglian Water			
27	Enhance surface of path between Caldecote Green	NPC				

	and Water Lane					
28	Build new bridge at eastern end of Biggleswade Road (near Ivel Cottage) for pedestrians and cyclists – across A1	Highways England	NPNPSG Parish Plan			
29	Build new bridges – on FP11 (29a) and FP15 (29b) (both completed prior to adoption of Plan)	CBC	NP3 Conservation groups Ivel Drainage Board			Completed
30 CP	Create parking area/picnic area for Greensand Ridge walkers and local walks to woods – west of new cemetery (off Bedford Road)	LO's CBC	BRCC Greensand Ridge Project NP3	Greensand Ridge Project "Secret of the Sands"		Landowner currently considering as Potential Housing Site
31	Create children's play area at suitable location on Ickwell Green	NPC	Ickwell Green Residents Association			
32	Improve access to enable pushchair users to use route through Flitton Scar	CBC	NP3			
33 CP	Create multi-user route along the northern road verge of Hill Lane between Sheep Walk and the Shuttleworth Collection entrance	Shuttleworth Trust Highways England				
A	Neighbourhood Plan to include Local Green Space (LGS) designation policy.	NPNPSG NPC			Neighbourhood Plan scheduled for completion Winter 2016/17	
B	Neighbourhood Plan to include policy for maintaining open spaces between settlements to prevent coalescence via ribbon development	NPNPSG			Neighbourhood Plan scheduled for completion Winter 2016/17	
X	Identify site for community allotments if they cannot be provided at either '16' or '18' above	NPC NPAA				

Y	Plant trees/shrubs along roads into villages	NPC				
Z	Increase local knowledge of Countryside Code and local footpaths through signage and leaflets	CBC NPC				

Contents

Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and managed network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features which meet the needs of existing and new communities by providing:

- **an essential environmental foundation and support system**
- **a healthy and diverse environment**
- **attractive places to live and visit and a good quality of life**
- **a sustainable future**

*Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic Green
Infrastructure Plan, February 2007*

1) Context Map

2) Landscape Map

The landscape map shows the position of contours within your parish. It also has the areas at risk from a 1% chance flood from a river marked. Contours and flood zones can be useful when creating green infrastructure corridors.

3) Biodiversity Map

This map shows the location of designated sites, important habitats and opportunities to enhance wildlife in Northhill parish.

Wholly within the parish are four County Wildlife Sites (CWS) called College Wood CWS; Home Wood, Northhill CWS; Ickwell Bury CWS and Warren Villas CWS. Sheerhatch Wood CWS is also partially within the parish. The River Ivel borders part of the eastern edge of the parish and has also been recognized as a CWS (called Rivers Ivel and Hiz CWS).

(Biggleswade Common CWS; Swiss Garden Woodland CWS and Palmers Wood CWS also adjoin the parish on the eastern and southern edges, as do the Local Geological Sites called Broom Quarry LGS and River Ivel, Biggleswade LGS which were recognized for their geodiversity interests).

County Wildlife Sites are sites that have been recognized as important for wildlife when assessed against a set of criteria. The selection guidelines consider aspects of the site such as size, diversity, rarity, fragility, typicalness and recorded history. Recognition as a CWS does not confer protection on the site, or right of access, however for any significant change of land use the planning authorities will expect the wildlife interest to be taken into account alongside other normal planning considerations. Local conservation organisations may comment on planning applications that could affect a CWS.

Within the parish there are approximately 71 hectares of land that have probably been grassland for around 25 years or more. These inter-link with scrub, hedgerows, copses and woodlands to provide a network used by a wide range of plants and animals. The River Ivel forms an important north-south corridor for wildlife and the woodlands help make this one of the more wooded areas of Bedfordshire.

Green infrastructure planning can help to link or buffer existing wildlife sites, providing them with increased protection from harmful activities and making their wildlife populations more sustainable. The Biodiversity Network suggests where this could be most beneficial. If you would like further information or advice about the wildlife in your parish, please contact The Wildlife Trust (01234 364213 or bedfordshire@wildlifebcn.org). The Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre (BRMC) has a wealth of records about the species seen in your parish and is beginning to compile habitat

data. If you would like to access this resource please contact them (01234 355435 or brmc@bedsbionet.org.uk).

4) Historic Map

A variety of historic sites are shown on this map. Integrating these sites into green infrastructure plans can help to preserve parish history. The numbers next to most of the site boundaries represent locations in the Historic Environment Record (HER) which is maintained at Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Chicksands. The table below gives a brief summary of each numbered site; more details are available from the HER, along with historic maps of your parish. Due to the scale of this map only Listed Buildings are shown, however, there are many other historically important buildings recorded. For advice or further information about historic areas in your parish please contact the Historic Environment Information Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council (01234 228072 or Stephen.coleman@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or use the online Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Number	Feature
425	ROMAN BURIALS Ickwell
426	SILVER COINS OF HENRY VIII
429	SUPPOSED EARTHWORKS & MOTTE/FISHPONDS
430	ROMAN POTTERY AND BONE Home Wood
438	ICKWELL BURY Ickwell
456	?MOAT S of Old House Ickwell
640	RIDGE AND FURROW
640	RIDGE AND FURROW
640	RIDGE AND FURROW
706	'ROMAN ROAD'
738	'ROMAN ROAD'
1499	CROPMARKS
1814	CROPMARKS Elm Farm
2875	GRAVEL PITS
2985	MANOR FARM
2987	MANOR FARM Upper Caldecote
3161	WINDMILL (site of)
3371	?MOAT Calves Pightle
3452	C17 TILE
3527	CROPMARKS N of Manor Farm
3528	CROPMARKS
6690	BRICK AND TILE WORKS N. of Caldecote Rd Ickwell
6995	ICKWELL PARK
8259	SHEERHATCH WOOD
9093	CROPMARKS S of Upper Caldecote
9701	LANDSCAPED GROUNDS Beeston Leasoes
9797	OLD ROADS S Moggerhanger
9835	EARTHWORKS E of Beeston
11984	ROMAN ROAD CROPMARKS SW of Girtford Bridge
13204	COLLEGE WOOD Ancient Woodland
13205	HOME WOOD Ancient Woodland
13974	CROPMARKS & ENCLOSURES
14131	DEADMAN'S CROSS

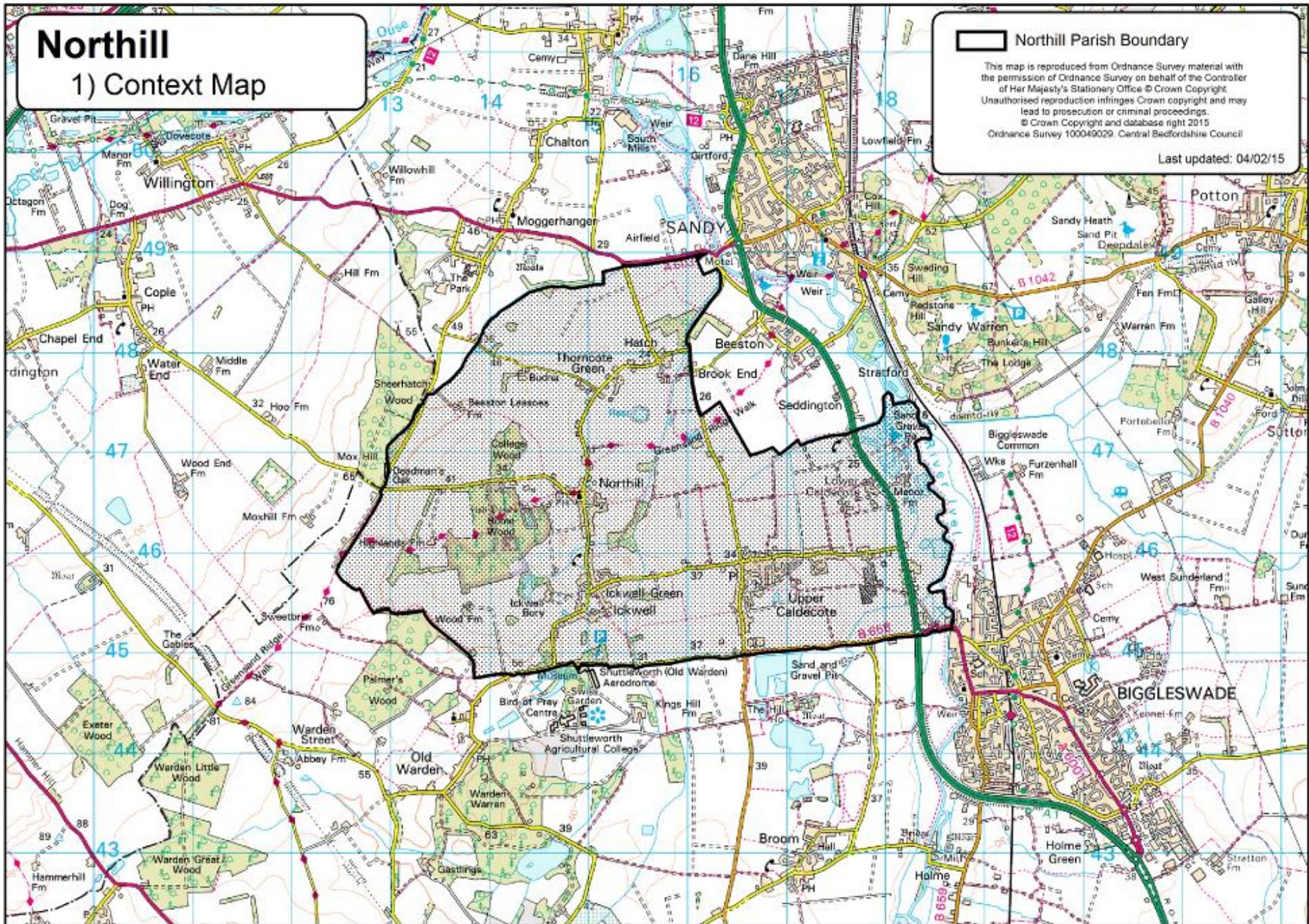
Number	Feature
14908	PONDS in Orchard of Northill College
15093	RING DITCH CROPMARK, N. of Hatch
15094	LINEAR CROPMARK, N. of Brook End
15126	LINEAR CROPMARKS, S of Calves Pightle
15181	NAVIGATION LOCK, NE of Manor Farm
15297	WHARF, Ivel Navigation
15371	FISHPOND, Sand Lane
15371	FISHPOND, Sand Lane
15372	COLLEGE PONDS
15373	CROPMARKS, N of College Ponds
15378	CROPMARKS, Vinegar Hill
15991	MEDIEVAL SEAL DIE, Upper Caldecote Playing Field
15992	ROMAN COIN + MOSAIC, SE of Moggerhanger
15993	ROMAN COINS, Copelands Farm
15994	MED/ PMED BUCKLE, 3 Garner Close
16189	COIN from MANOR FARM, Caldecote
16206	FLINT ARROWHEAD, Caldecote Road, near Upper Caldecote
16210	LEAD ALLOY WEIGHT, Brookend Cottages, Hatch, near Sandy
16212	CROPMARKS & ROMAN FINDS, N of Budna Farm
16771	CROPMARKS, SE of Moggerhanger village
16772	MOAT, W of College Wood
16773	?CROPMARKS, SW of College Wood
16787	CROPMARKS,ROMAN FINDS & INHUMATION, SE of Ickwell
16855	CROPMARKS, S of Hatch
17126	HATCH MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT
17127	THORNCOTE GREEN MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT

5) Open Space, Access and Recreation Map

This map shows the positions of open spaces (e.g. golf courses, recreation grounds or school playing fields) within your parish. Not all of them are accessible to the public. Rights of Way are key to providing access to open spaces within green infrastructure plans. When creating networks access barriers, such as busy roads, would need to be considered.

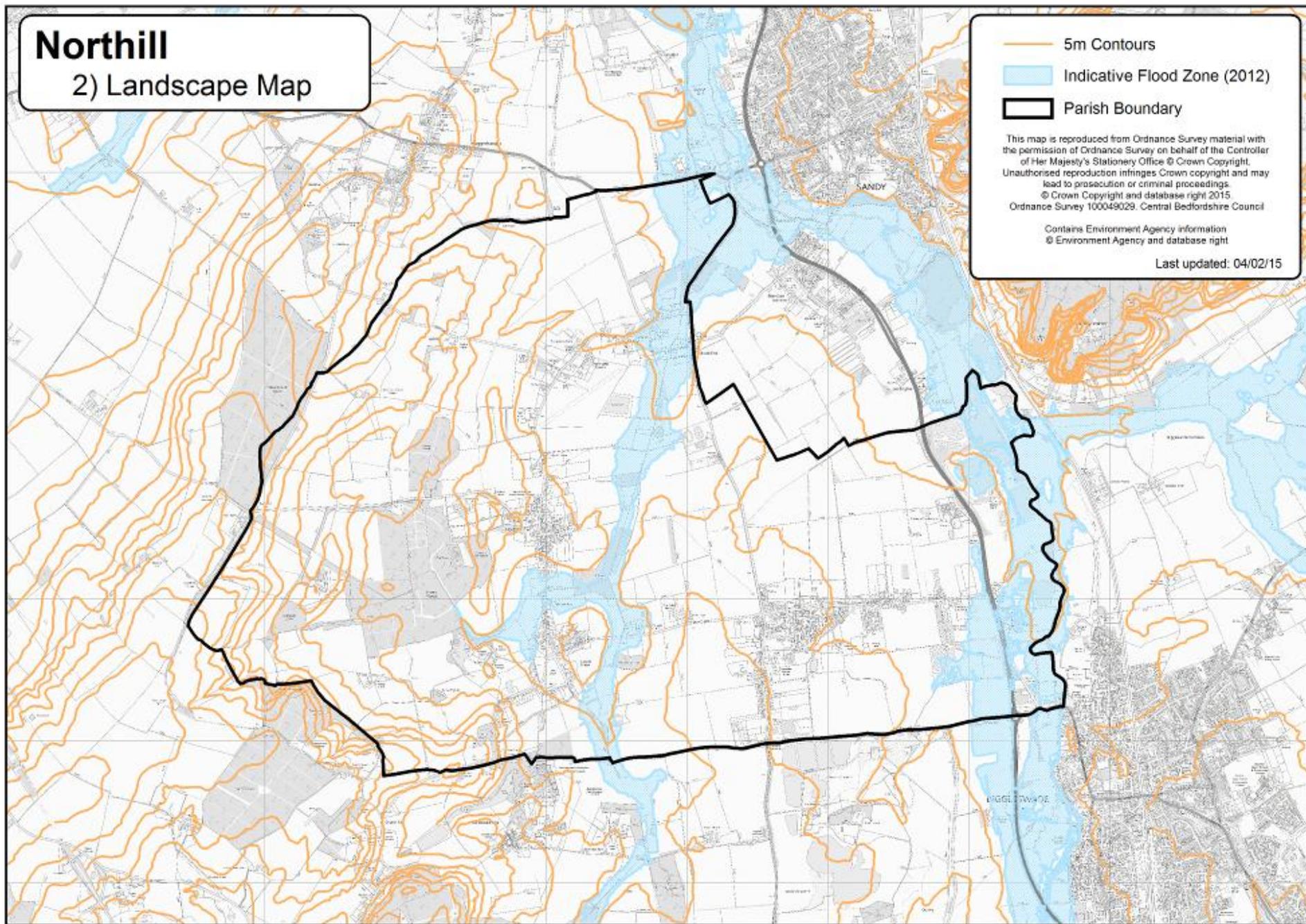
Northill

1) Context Map



Northhill

2) Landscape Map



Northhill

3) Biodiversity Map

Recognized Wildlife Sites

Four County Wildlife Sites (CWS) lie completely within the parish, and one partially. A sixth (the River Ivel) forms part of the eastern border of the parish

Permanent Grassland

Approx 71 hectares of land in the parish are thought to have been grassland throughout the last 25 years.

- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- County Wildlife Site
- Local Geological Site
- Biodiversity Opportunity Network
- Permanent Grassland
- Parish Boundary

Last updated: 04/02/15

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Biodiversity Network

The network has been created to suggest where biodiversity enhancements would be most beneficial. The aim is to buffer and link existing wildlife rich areas, creating a landscape through which species can move. This will make populations more sustainable and help them respond to climate change. Within the network there is a range of options which would benefit biodiversity, from creating new habitats to improving existing hedgerows.

Northhill

5) Access, Open Space and Recreation Map

- Accessible Sites
- Formal Recreational Areas
- Other Green Infrastructure
- Parish Boundary
- Rights of Way**
 - Byway Open to All Traffic
 - Bridleway
 - Footpath
 - Permissive Footpath

Last updated: 04/02/15

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BIGGLESWADE