

Living Networks

Sutton Parish

Green Infrastructure Plan

2020

SUTTON PARISH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2020

Contents

Introduction	2
Context	3
Endorsements	4
Definition of Green Infrastructure	5
GI Themed Maps and Map Information	6
Main green spaces in Sutton	14
Aims of this Plan	15
Links to other GI related plans	16
Methodology & Community Involvement	17
Sutton Parish GI Aspirations Map	18
Sutton Parish GI Plan Aspirations Table	19
Prioritisation Activities	21
Extracts from Sutton Neighbourhood Plan Survey 2019	23
Local Green Space Designation	25
Sutton Parish GI Plan Action Plan	26
Proposed Local Green Space designations	29

SUTTON PARISH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2020

Introduction

The Sutton Parish Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan is one of more than 40 parish and town GI plans to have been produced across Bedfordshire.

The production of the Sutton Parish GI Plan has been funded by Sutton Parish Council (with the help of a grant) and facilitated by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

The production of the GI Plan was requested by Sutton Parish Council both to be a valuable tool in its own right as a planning document, and to inform policies and objectives in the emerging Sutton 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 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. 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, while acknowledged by Central Bedfordshire Council, 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 Sutton.

Context

Sutton is a rural parish with a small, picturesque linear village at its centre. Sutton village is 2km south of the small market town of Pottton, some 5km south-east of Sandy and 4km north-east of Biggleswade.

In 2019, Sutton parish had approximately 123 dwellings, the majority situated in the village, with several outlying farmhouses. The population of Sutton parish was approximately 232 adults. In common with other settlements in Central Bedfordshire, Sutton is experiencing housing growth; in Sutton's case much of this is infill and conversion of agricultural buildings.

The parish is, and has been for centuries, primarily an agricultural one, with a great deal of farmland surrounding the village. The centre of the village is a conservation area, with many historical buildings and features. Pottton Brook, a tributary of the River Ivel, runs through the parish and is crossed by a grade II* listed 13th century packhorse bridge in the centre of the village; adjacent to this, the road is forded for vehicular traffic.

Sutton sits at the edge of the Greensand Ridge area, an elevated landscape that forms the eastern most part of a long ridge. There is a varied landscape pattern with open heathland, arable cropping, plantation and deciduous woodland. Much of the north-west of Sutton parish sits within the Greensand Ridge Nature Improvement Area. Sutton is bordered to the east by the Dunton Clay Vale, a valley with an elevated ridge with some expansive views and enclosed lower slopes. The land is mostly used for intensive arable cropping. To the west is Biggleswade Common and the RSPB reserve at Sandy Heath.

The north of Sutton parish, including Sutton Park (the former manor house and historical parkland of John of Gaunt and the Burgoyne family) is retained as attractive parkland in the form of two 18 hole golf courses, with many mature trees and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of John O'Gaunt's Hill.

The fertility of Sutton's soils has been acknowledged for centuries. The Victorian County History for Bedfordshire records that the Romans had over 4,000 acres of Sutton under cultivation, and the land was farmed consistently through the Saxon period to the eighteenth century when the land was systematically improved and the wooded "belts" were planted. Sutton's importance over the ages has been founded on two factors – the unique mixtures of soils and the abundance of ground water and small water courses. From the greensand hills in the north-west corner of the parish, well drained sandy soils gradually merge into (i) the alluvial soils of Biggleswade Common and the Ivel Valley to the west; and (ii) the Dunton Clay Vale to the south. As a result, most of the soils of Sutton are classified as Grade 1 with minor pockets of Grade 2.

The hills to the north and east of Sutton and in the adjoining parishes of Pottton and Eyeworth form a natural basin that funnels water through the underlying greensand towards the Ivel Valley to the west. Evidence of an underlying aquifer is provided by the number of small streams and permanently wet ditches that feed into Pottton Brook. As a consequence of the varieties of soils and the abundance of ground water the fields of Sutton have proved productive despite annual and longer-term climate variations.

Sutton parish has diverse wildlife and habitats, including mammals such as otters, water voles, deer (including white fallow deer), grey squirrels (including the black mutation of grey squirrels), badgers and bats. Sutton contains several important habitats for insects, including over 360 species of moths, including the White Spotted Pinion Moth. The area also has a wide range of birds, including several water birds such as kingfishers and little egrets, along with sand martins, greater spotted woodpeckers, green woodpeckers, barn owls, tawny owls and little owls.

Endorsements

Endorsement by Sutton Parish Council:

Sutton 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 Sutton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee:

Sutton Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee is pleased to endorse this Green Infrastructure Plan. It has been produced using an agreed and well developed process involving current residents in a series of focussed working groups. As such it represents their more detailed views on how the issues previously identified can be addressed in the future. It sets a clear plan for the future that will be supported by Local Planning Policies in the forthcoming Sutton Neighbourhood Plan.

Support from BRCC:

BRCC will support the community of Sutton 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

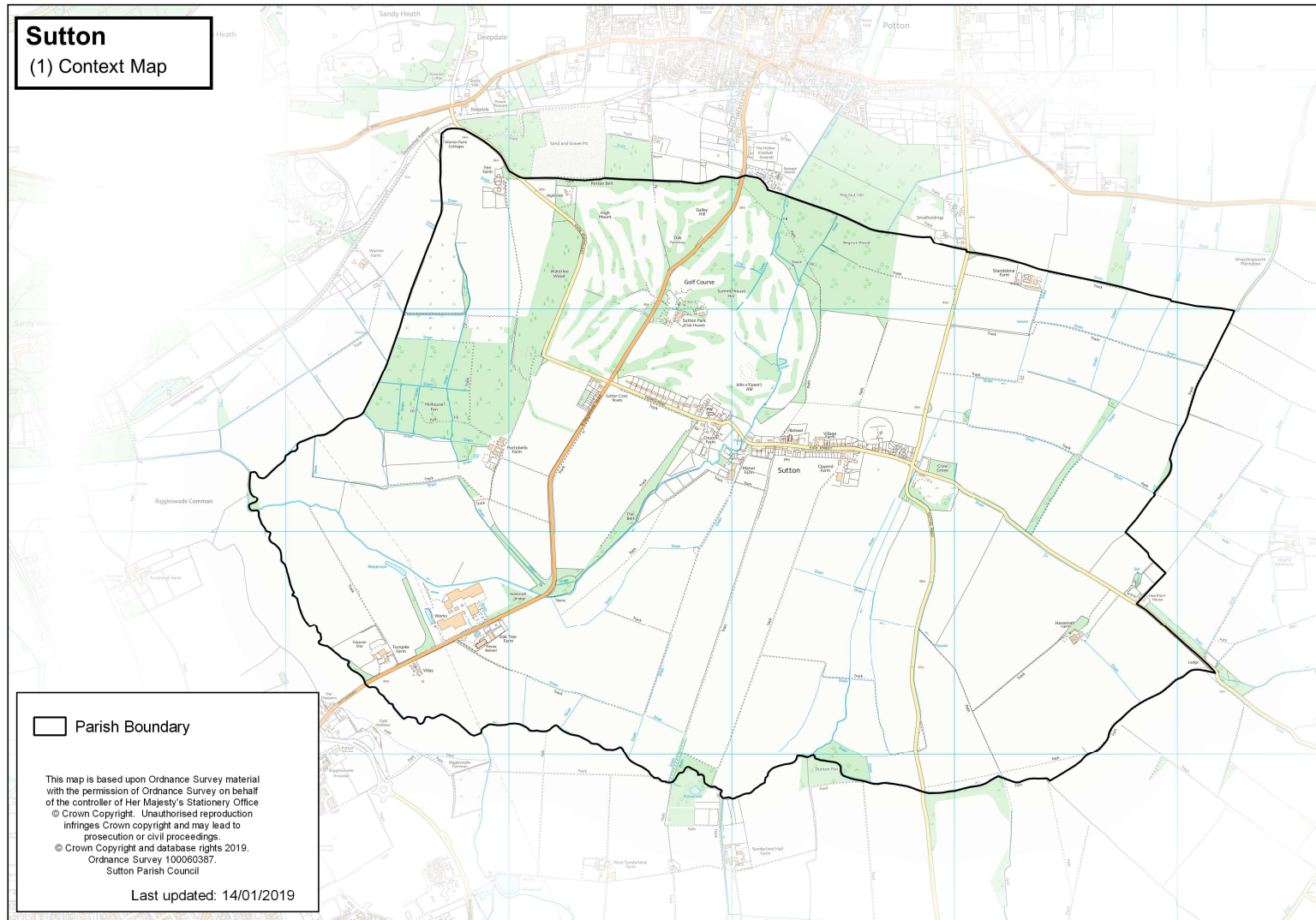
Green Infrastructure Themes

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.

GI Themed Maps and Map Information

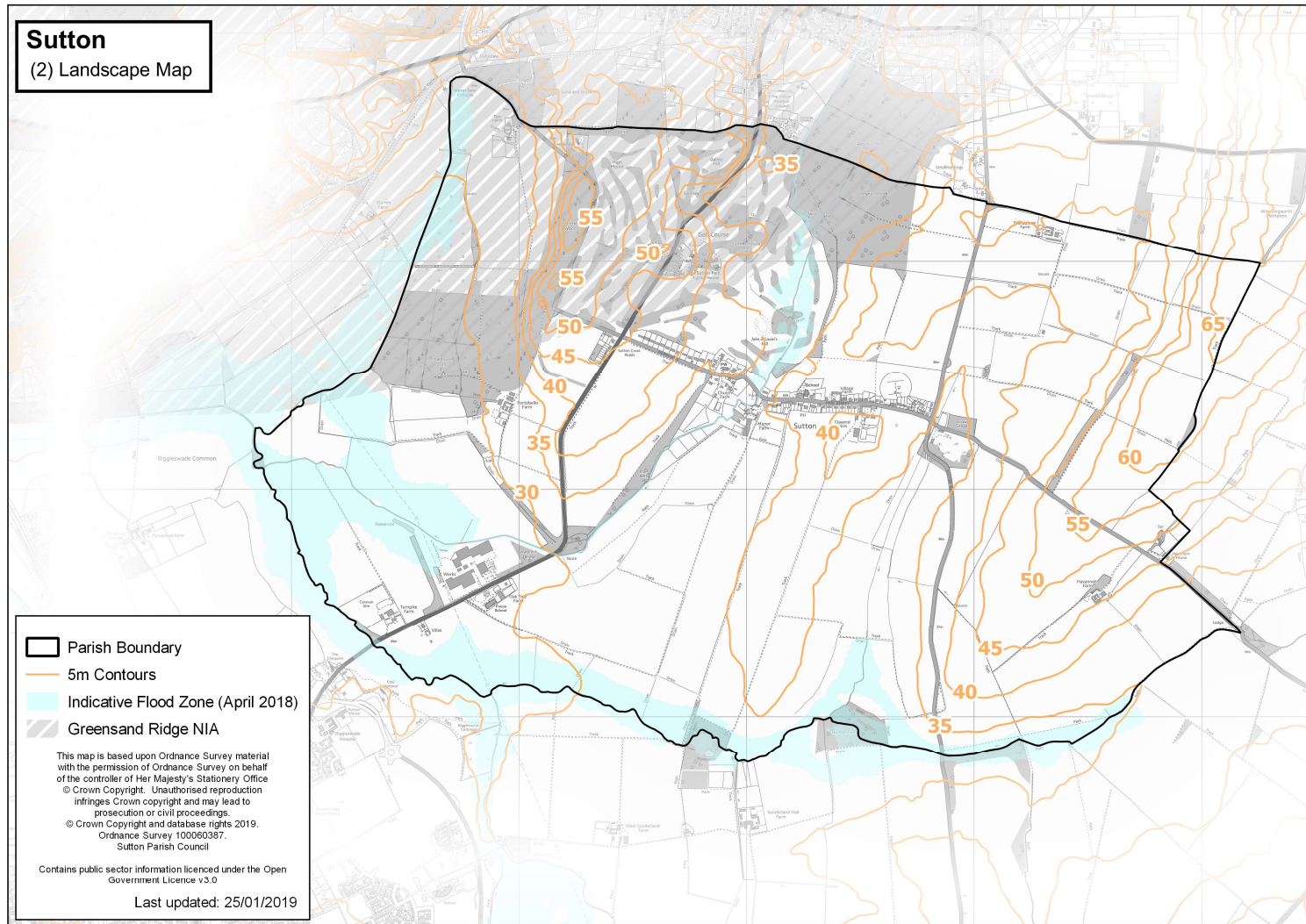
Context Map (Figure 1)

The Context map shows Sutton in relation to the villages, road routes and countryside that surround the parish.



Landscape Map (Figure 2)

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. Also marked is the Greensand Ridge Nature Improvement Area (NIA), a locally determined NIA where there are significant opportunities and benefits for biodiversity.



Biodiversity Map (Figure 3)

This map shows the locations of County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) and important habitats within the parish of Sutton. There are three CWS within, or partly within, the parish. Sutton Fen and Woods CWS in the north west of the parish contains a mix of wet woodland and conifer plantation, 8 hectares of which is ancient woodland, on sandy and peaty soils on the Greensand Ridge. There is also a pond within the site, fringed with common reed, bracken and bramble with some downy birch and goat willow. Along part of the north western boundary of the parish runs the Carthagea Bridleway CWS which is important for Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths) because of the presence of scrub, Elm and Biologically Significant Trees.

Beyond the parish boundary, but important because of their proximity to the parish, are three further CWS and a Local Geological Site (LGS). Adjacent to the parish boundary north of the Carthagea Bridleway CWS is Deepdale Quarry LGS, a former quarry with a long, north-south trending cliff developed in the Lower Cretaceous Woburn Sands Formation. To the north and west of Deepdale Quarry runs Sandy Disused Railway CWS, a length of disused railway line supporting grassland on sands and gravels. This site is an important corridor between adjacent CWS including Bunkers Hill to the west and Biggleswade Common, which is adjacent to the south west of the parish boundary, with a very small area within the parish. Biggleswade Common CWS is a very large area of neutral grassland with ditches on valley gravels and alluvium in the Ivel Valley, the site also includes semi-natural and plantation woodlands, hedges and a pond. The entire site is grazed to varying degrees at different times of year and by a mixture of horses and cattle.

Not all of the sites listed above have public access and are in private ownership, but where they do this has been shown on the map.

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 are approximately 23 hectares of land that were identified as semi-improved neutral grassland in the late 1980s and may have remained as grassland since then.

Species records of note include birds from Sutton Fen and Woods CWS; amphibians (Smooth Newt and Common Frog), mammals (including Water Vole – last recorded in 2015, Yellow Necked Mouse, Otter, Muntjac, Stoat and Weasel) around Sutton village and near the golf course and a wide variety of insects, with over 360 species of moth, including the White Spotted Pinion Moth. There are a scattering of other notable records including the Harvest Mouse, although this hasn't been recorded in the parish for over 10 years.

The register of ancient and veteran trees maintained by the Woodland Trust does not show any trees within the parish, though there is a 600 year old oak on the 8th fairway of John O'Gaunt Golf Club, and there are many large old oak trees throughout the former Sutton Park.

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).

Sutton

(3) Biodiversity Map

Recognised Wildlife Sites

Three County Wildlife Sites (CWS) lie wholly, or partially, within the parish. They are not publicly accessible, unless there is access via public footpaths.

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 to respond to climate change. Within the network there are a range of options which could benefit biodiversity, from creating new habitats to improving existing hedgerows.

-  Parish Boundary
-  County Wildlife Sites
-  Local Geological Site
-  Ancient Woodland
-  Deciduous Woodland
-  Wood pasture and Parkland
-  Water
-  Wet Woodland
-  Neutral Grassland
-  Biodiversity Opportunity Network

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Permanent Grassland

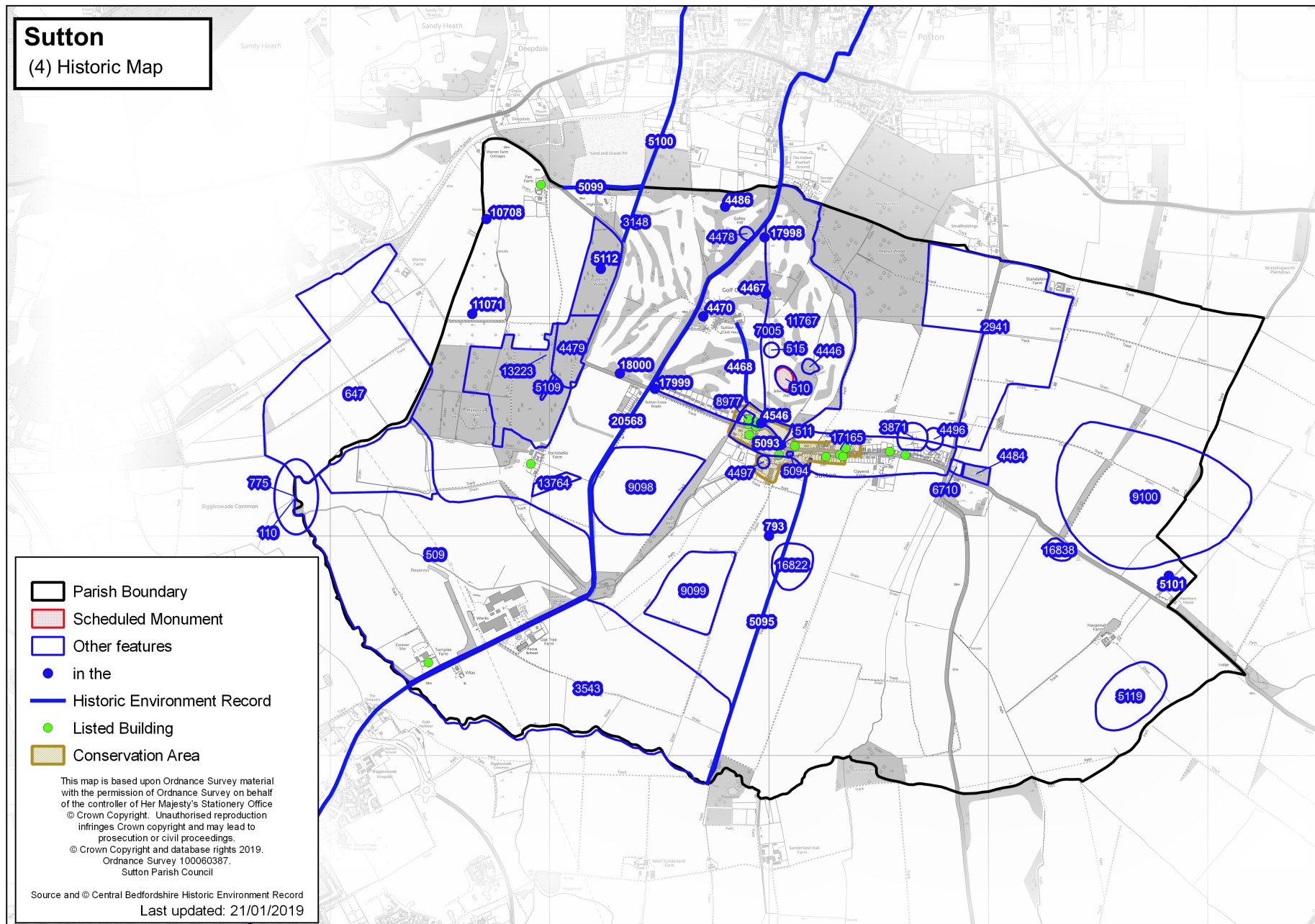
Approx 23 hectares of land in the parish may have been grassland throughout the last 25 years.

Historic Environment Map (Figure 4)

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 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 and also other sites and finds. For advice or further information about historic areas or finds in your parish please contact the Historic Environment Information Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council (0300 300 6027 or her@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or use the online Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

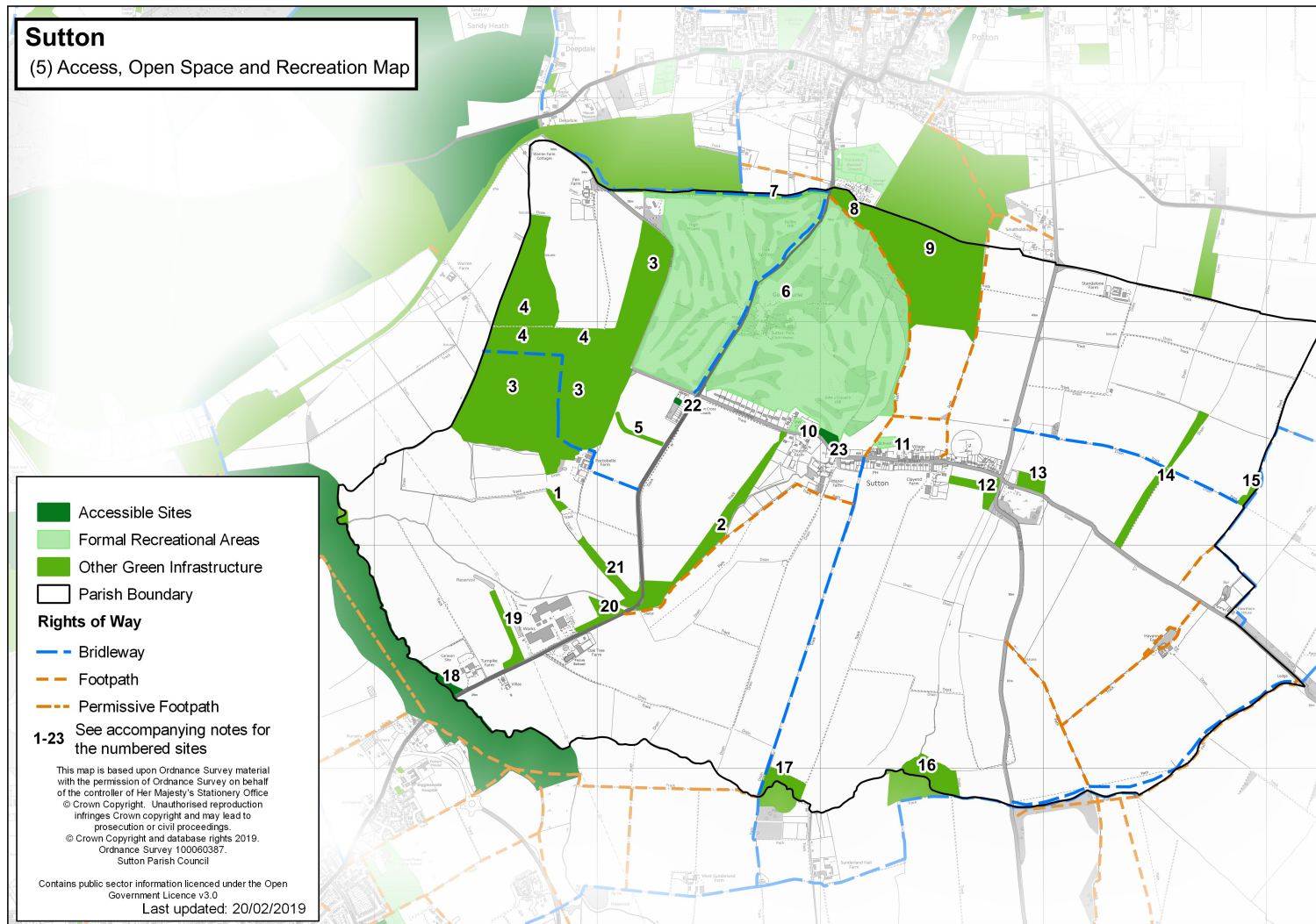
Number	Feature
110	EARTHWORKS (?KINWICK MEDIEVAL VILLAGE), in south west of Sutton parish
509	ENCLOSURE AND LINEAR CROPMARKS (?KINWICK MEDIEVAL VILLAGE), in south west of Sutton parish
510	JOHN O'GAUNT'S HILL, medieval manor site. Scheduled Monument.
511	PACKHORSE BRIDGE, Scheduled Monument.
515	SITE OF SUTTON MANOR/HOUSE
647	LINEAR CROPMARKS, Sandy/Sutton boundary
775	DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE, Kinwick
793	WENSLOW, POSSIBLE BURIAL MOUND
2941	CROPMARKS OF PREHISTORIC ENCLOSURES, RING DITCH AND PIT ALIGNMENT, south west of Standalone Farm
3148	WINDMILL MOUND, Sutton Mill
3543	LINEAR AND ENCLOSURE CROPMARKS, in south west of Sutton Parish
3871	WALLED GARDEN
4446	FISHPONDS, Sutton Park
4467	DOGS CEMETERY, Sutton Park
4468	HOLLOW WAY, from Church past Sutton Park House
4470	HOLLOW WAY, west of Sutton Park House
4478	OLD SAND PIT, Galley Hill
4479	OLD SAND PIT, Waterloo Wood
4484	CROW GROVE, ancient woodland
4486	GALLEY HILL (POSSIBLE SITE OF GALLOWS)
4496	VILLAGE DUMP
4497	RUBBISH DUMP
4546	HOLY WELL, Rectory
5093	SUTTON FORD
5094	CATTLE POUND AT FORD
5095	FORMER ROAD, NOW BRIDLEWAY, south of village
5099	HOLLOW WAY, west of Mill House
5100	FORMER ROAD, past Mill to Woodbury
5101	MIDDLEWELLS SPRING
5109	EARTHWORK BANK through Waterloo Wood
5112	PRISONER OF WAR CAMP, Waterloo Wood
5119	ENCLOSURE CROPMARK, south east of Havannah Farm
6710	CLAY PIT, Clay End

Number	Feature
7005	SUTTON PARK
8977	ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCHYARD
9098	ENCLOSURE AND TRACKWAY CROPMARKS, south of Sutton Cross Roads
9099	RING DITCH AND LINEAR CROPMARKS, south west of Manor Farm
9100	ENCLOSURE AND TRACKWAY CROPMARKS, north of Sutton-Eyeworth Road
10708	PROCESSIONING STONE
11071	POSSIBLE BOMB CRATER
11767	EARTHWORKS, Sutton Park
13223	WATERLOO WOOD, Ancient Woodland
13764	?TRACKWAY CROPMARKS, SE of Portobello Farm
16822	ENCLOSURE CROPMARK, south of Manor Farm
16838	RING DITCH CROPMARK, north west of Havannah Farm
17165	SUTTON HISTORIC VILLAGE CORE
17998	WW2 ARMY CAMP
17999	WW2 TRENCHES, Sutton Crossroads
18000	SITE OF WW2 PILLBOX
20568	TURNPIKE ROAD, Biggleswade to Ramsey



Open Space, Access and Recreation Map (Figure 5)

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. The main (illustrated and labelled) greenspaces are summarized below the map.



Main greenspaces in Sutton

No.	Name	Publicly accessible?	Area (Hectares)
1	Woodland	No	0.28
2	Linear woodland (The Belt)	No	4.13
3	Sutton Fen and Woods CWS	No	38.28
4	Tree Nursery	No	13.95
5	Woodland	No	0.37
6	John O'Gaunt Golf Club	No (except as a member)	158.4
7	Carthagea Bridleway CWS	No	1.86
8	Woodland area adjacent to Pegnut Wood and John O'Gaunt Golf Club	No	1.81
9	Pegnut Wood	No	38.86 (17.63 within Sutton Parish)
10	All Saint's Churchyard	Yes	0.28
11	Sutton Lower School Playing Field	No	0.37
12	Woodland	No	1.03
13	Crow Grove	No	0.81
14	Woodland	No	1.89
15	Woodland	No	0.50
16	Dunton Fen	No	4.57 (2.29 within Sutton Parish)
17	Woodland	No	2.63 (1.21 within Sutton Parish)
18	Biggleswade Common CWS	Yes	124.53 (0.33 within Sutton Parish)
19	Woodland	No	0.97
20	Woodland	No	0.95
21	Linear woodland (The Belt)	No	1.49
22	Sutton Crossroads Play Area	Yes	0.06
23	Church Field	Yes	0.50

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 a broad, spatial vision for green infrastructure across the area and highlights 11 strategic GI corridors across the county. The parish of Sutton lies on the shared border of the Ivel River Valley and Greensand Ridge Corridors.

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', with Sutton lying within the Greensand Ridge area.

CBC Leisure Strategy

In March 2014 Central Bedfordshire Council adopted its Leisure Strategy, which comprises three facility-based chapters and replaces the 2008 PPG17 Study. Chapter 2: the Recreation and Open Space Strategy, focuses on the provision of nine types of open space, which are:

- Countryside Recreation
- Urban Parks
- Informal Recreation
- Large Formal Recreation Areas
- Small Amenity Spaces
- Facilities for Children
- Facilities for Young People
- Allotments
- Cemeteries & Burial Grounds

Chapter 2 assessed the current provision of each of the nine open space types and, utilising national guidance and local requirements, it established a set of local standards to guide future provision of open space on both a strategic and local level in Central Bedfordshire.

To define open space provision on a parish level, a Parish Schedule has been created for each parish in Central Bedfordshire. It identifies current provision, shortfalls or surpluses against the local standards and priorities.

Based on national standards for levels of provision; the CBC Leisure Strategy figures for 2017 indicate that across the parish of Sutton there is a deficiency in countryside recreation sites and large recreation areas (both formal and informal), although the Sandy RSPB reserve – consisting of 220 hectares of woodland, heath and acid grassland - is located within a 20 minute drive time.

There is limited access to small amenity spaces. The only facilities are Sutton Crossroads play area and the Church Field play area, and only the latter site has play equipment provision for young people (swings, walking beams and a small wooden structure).

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 (now the Beds & Luton Local Nature Partnership). This standard methodology has been used to produce 40 parish-level GI Plans across Bedfordshire.

As with all GI Plans, two community workshops were held, to which local stakeholders and the wider community were invited. At the first workshop (4 February 2019), 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 (26 March 2019), these aspirations were reviewed, added to and prioritised. Between the two workshops a drop-in session for the whole community was held (2 March 2019), to increase the level and range of input into the plan. Attendance at the 3 consultation activities totalled 69.

Across the 3 consultation activities, there were good numbers of both male and female attendees, though with a slightly higher representation of males. 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
14	14	11	6	13	11	38	31

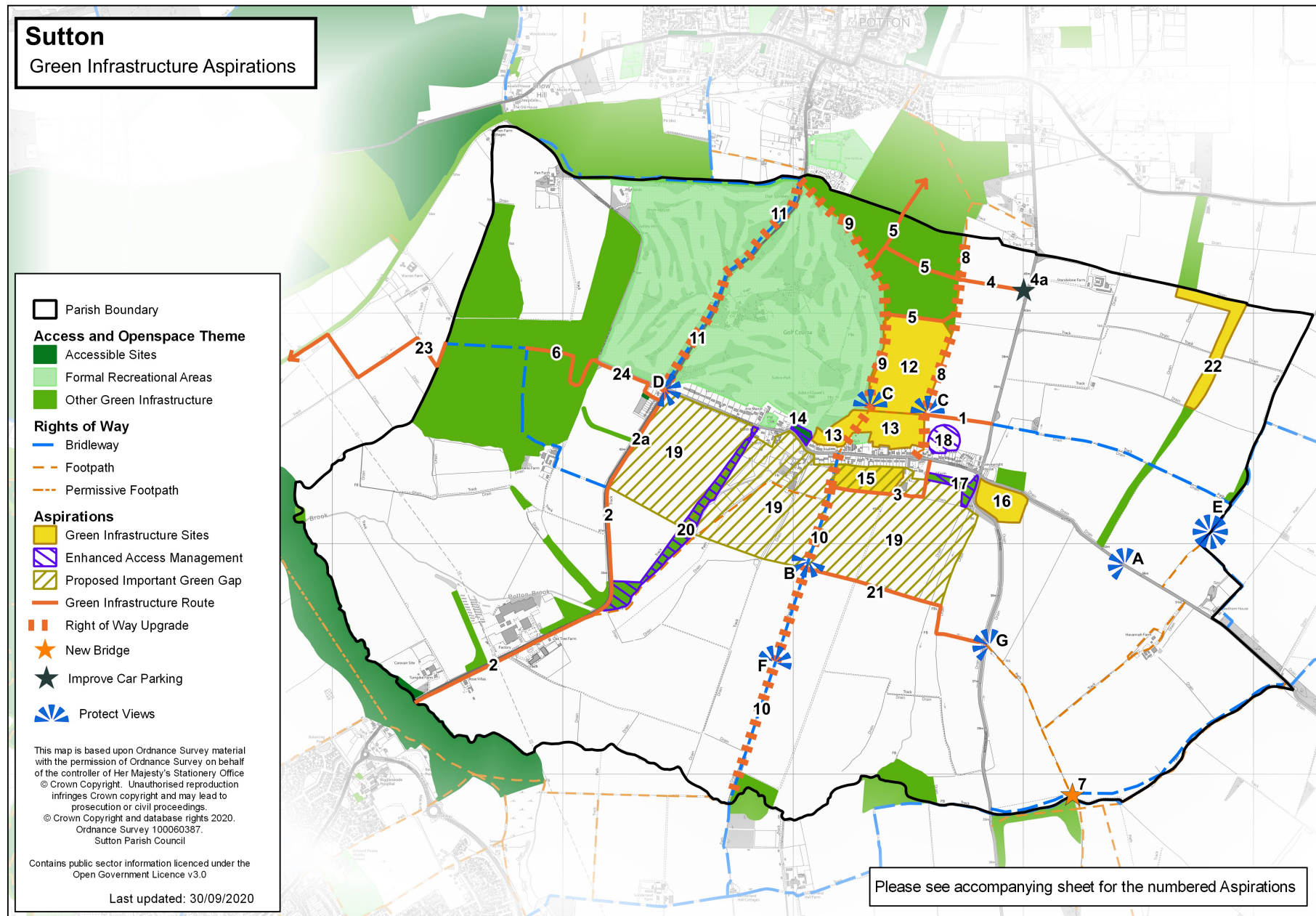
As with many PGIPs, the majority of attendees were over the age of 45. The age breakdown of attendees at the two workshops and the drop-in is given below.

	Under 18		18-24		25-44		45 -59		60-74		75+		Total
Activity	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Workshop 1	1	1	0	0	1	0	5	6	7	4	0	3	28
Drop-in	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	1	6	1	0	17
Workshop 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	6	4	1	1	24

Also, as with many PGIP's, the majority of attendees had lived in the parish for more than 11 years. The breakdown of length of residence of attendees at the two workshops is given below.

	<1 yr		1-5 yrs		6-10 yrs		11-25 yrs		>25 yrs		Total
Activity	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Workshop 1	0	1	1	0	2	2	5	4	6	7	28
Drop-in	0	1	0	0	1	1	5	6	0	3	17
Workshop 2	2	1	1	1	1	0	4	4	5	5	24

Sutton Parish Green Infrastructure Aspirations Map 2020



Ref.	Aspirational GI Enhancements
1	Create footpath / bridleway to link FP11 to Sutton Road and on to BW6
2	Create cycleway alongside Biggleswade Road from Sutton crossroads to Biggleswade Common
2a	Enable northern section of Aspiration 2 (between BW8 and BW9) to also be available to horse riders
3	Create footpath to link BW3 (Lantern Lane) to High Street, east of Clayend Farm
4	Create footpath to link FP2 at Pegnut Wood with car park – with height restriction - at Aspiration 4a
4a	Enhance car park on Sutton Road, west of Standalone Farm - <u>if</u> footpath at Aspiration 4 is created
5	Reinstate public access routes within Pegnut Wood
6	Create new bridleway to link corner of Carthage Road with BW9 and Aspiration 23
7	Install bridleway footbridge to link FP7 and BW10 to Dunton's BW17 and FP1
8	Upgrade footpath to cycleway from High Street northwards towards Potton
9	Upgrade footpath to cycleway from High Street northwards to Biggleswade Road
10	Improve condition of BW3 (Lantern Lane) to enable cycling
11	Improve condition of BW8 alongside Biggleswade Road to enable cycling
12	Extend Pegnut Wood southwards
13	Create accessible greenspace for quiet / informal recreation
14	Enhance and protect accessible greenspace
15	Create publicly accessible greenspace
16	Create community orchard on derelict nursery site, east of Sutton Road (opposite High Street)
17	Provide public access in Millennium Wood
18	Enhance and protect Bear Garden heritage site
19	Create 'important green gap' with appropriate strategic tree planting to south of village
20	Seek enhanced management of 'The Belt' (linear woodland) for wildlife conservation
21	Create new footpath to link Sutton Road to BW3 (Lantern Lane)

22	Create woodland belt to link existing woodland belts east of Standalone Farm as an important wildlife corridor
23	Link BW9 to old railway line and on to RSPB and Biggleswade Common, as a bridleway
24	Create an off-road footpath to connect Sutton crossroads, through the playing field, to proposed new footpath at Aspiration 6
Important views	
A	Sutton Hill towards village
B	Looking south along BW3 (Lantern Lane)
C	Views towards Pegnut Wood and Potton from north of village
D	View into village along Church Road
E	Views east towards Cambridge and Royston, and west to Greensand Ridge
F	View from BW3 (Lantern Lane) northwards to village
G	View north-westwards from Sutton Road to village
General	
	Protect and enhance hedgerows for biodiversity

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.

Prioritisation activities

At the final workshop, three 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 5 groups were then collated to give an overall list of priorities. The results of this activity resulted in the identification of 4 clear top aspirations as agreed in the groups, are shown below.

Priority Ranking	Aspiration Reference	Priority Aspirations as identified by Workshop Groups
1st	19	Create 'important green gap' with appropriate strategic tree planting to south of village
2nd	13	Create accessible greenspace for quiet / informal recreation
3rd	10	Improve condition of BW3 (Lantern Lane) to enable cycling
4th	15	Create publicly accessible greenspace

Individuals were also asked to identify their top 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 the clear top six priorities as identified by individuals.

It is noted that there is a close correlation between the priorities of the groups and the individuals.

Priority Ranking	Aspiration Reference	Priority Aspirations as identified by Individuals
1st	10	Improve condition of BW3 (Lantern Lane) to enable cycling
2nd	19	Create 'important green gap' with appropriate strategic tree planting to south of village
3rd	13	Create accessible greenspace for quiet / informal recreation
4th	15	Create publicly accessible greenspace
5th	12	Extend Pegnut Wood southwards
6th	2	Create cycleway along Biggleswade Road from Sutton crossroads to Biggleswade Common

Important Green Spaces

Similar to the above exercises, groups were also asked to identify and rank their most important green spaces in the parish. The results of this activity, shown below in table form, provide a clear consensus as to the groups' top five most important spaces.

Priority ranking	Site	Ref. number on Map 5	Grid reference
1	Church Field	23	TL220474
2	Pegnut Wood	9	TL225483
3	John O'Gaunt Golf Club	6	TL218481
4	Linear woodland (The Belt)	2	TL215470
5	Millennium Wood	12	TL227472

Extracts from Sutton Neighbourhood Plan survey 2019

At the same time as the Sutton Green Infrastructure Plan consultation activities, the wider ranging Neighbourhood Plan (NP) questionnaire was distributed to parish residents. Due to the nature of the two consultation surveys there are a number of linked themes and it is recognised in the responses received that there is significant consistency between the Plans.

The following extracts from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire highlight the importance given to specific features in the parish and the priorities of respondents with regard to access, development and additional ideas to benefit the parish.

Importance of features of Sutton's past	Percentage of NP respondents who viewed this feature as extremely important
The packhorse bridge	94%
The ford	90%
All Saints Church and churchyard	71%

Importance of preservation of other features	Percentage of NP respondents who viewed this as extremely important
Church Field (by the ford)	85%
Pegnut Wood	81%
The Belt (linear woodland)	77%
Millennium Wood	67%
The golf course	63%
Sutton Crossroads Playing Field	36%

If suitable routes were available would you walk / cycle to...	Percentage of NP respondents who selected particular destinations
Potton	86%
Biggleswade	53%
Sandy	36%

Lantern Lane (BW3) should be...	Percentage of NP respondents in agreement with particular option
Retained as a dedicated 'green' route for walkers, cyclists and horses	94%
Improved to a 'green' permeable surfaced footpath/ bridleway/ cycleway	66%
Upgraded to a highway / road	1%

Most frequently used public footpaths / bridleways in Sutton (as reported by NP respondents)	
FP1 (east of golf course)	83%
FP2 (by old post office)	69%
BW3 (Lantern Lane)	63%
FP11 (behind Village)	43%
FP4 (behind Manor Farm)	42%
BW8 (beside B1040)	40%

Mitigating effects of new major development	Percentage of NP respondents who 'strongly agreed'
Screening with trees	91%
Maintain an agreed gap	90%

Other changes / ideas to benefit Sutton (put forward by NP respondents)
Community allotments
Nature conservation - enhance areas to encourage wildlife, maintain and enlarge woodlands to encourage the diverse wildlife
A green space / 'important green gap' all around Sutton (north as well as south)
Village tidy-up days
A Village Green
A new cycle way / footpath created alongside new rail link (if in parish)
Outdoor gym in Church field
Enhanced biological links to woods and green spaces outside the village
Co-ordination with neighbouring Plans as regards local paths, bridleways & cycle ways

Local Green Space (LGS) 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.

It should be noted that designation as a Local Green Space does not confer any additional rights of access.

In addition to the prioritisation of the complete set of aspirations, a further over-arching priority agreed at the workshop was to propose that the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan seeks Local Green Space (LGS) designation on the parish's most important green spaces.

The Sutton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee is encouraged to assess the parish's most important green spaces against the LGS criteria and where appropriate to seek LGS designation.

The LGS assessment (later in this document) has been undertaken using a pilot exercise being developed by GI Planning practitioners in Bedfordshire. The assessment tool has been developed (using local experience in Bedfordshire and best practice from elsewhere in the country) as a methodology for identifying spaces suitable for designation as Local Green Spaces (LGS) according to the criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and subsequent Government guidance (Planning Practice Guidance: Local Green Space designation).

Sutton Parish Green Infrastructure Plan Action Plan

Likely date of implementation: Short 2020-22; Medium 2023-25; Long 2026+

BRCC Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
1	Create footpath / bridleway to link FP11 to Sutton Road and on to BW6	SPC	CBC	M	S	SPC to liaise with LO / CBC
2	Create cycleway alongside Biggleswade Road from Sutton crossroads to Biggleswade Common	SPC	CBC	H	M	SPC to liaise with LO / CBC
2a	Enable northern section of Aspiration 2 (between BW8 and BW9) to also be available to horse riders	SPC	CBC	H	M	SPC to liaise with LO / CBC
3	Create footpath to link BW3 (Lantern Lane) to High Street, east of Clayend Farm	SPC	CBC LO	M	?	SPC to liaise with LO / CBC
4	Create footpath to link FP2 at Pegnut Wood with car park – with height restriction - at Aspiration 6	SPC	CBC	M	S-M	SPC to liaise with LO / CBC
4a	Enhance car park on Sutton Road, west of Standalone Farm - <u>if</u> footpath at Aspiration 4 is created	SPC	CBC	M	S-M	SPC to liaise with LO / CBC
5	Reinstate public access routes within Pegnut Wood	SPC	LO's PTC	L	S-M	SPC to liaise with LO
6	Create new bridleway to link corner of Carthagena Road with BW9 and Aspiration 23	SPC	CBC LO	L	S-M	SPC to liaise with CBC and LO

7	Install bridleway footbridge to link FP7 and BW10 to Dunton's BW17 and FP1	SPC	CBC LO's	M	M	SPC to liaise with Dunton PC, CBC and LO
8	Upgrade footpath to cycleway from High Street northwards towards Potton	SPC	CBC / LO	M	M	SPC to liaise with CBC and LO
9	Upgrade footpath to cycleway from High Street northwards to Biggleswade Road	SPC	CBC / LO	M	M	SPC to liaise with CBC and LO
10	Improve condition of BW3 (Lantern Lane) to enable cycling	SPC	CBC LO	M	M	SPC to liaise with CBC and LO
11	Improve condition of BW8 alongside Biggleswade Road to enable cycling	SPC	CBC / LO	M	M	SPC to liaise with CBC and LO
12	Extend Pegnut Wood southwards	SPC	CBC / LO	M	L	SPC to liaise with CBC / LO
13	Create accessible greenspace for quiet / informal recreation	SPC	CBC	L	L	SPC to liaise with CBC / LO
14	Enhance and protect accessible greenspace	SPC	(LO)	L	S	SPC to liaise with CBC and LO
15	Create publicly accessible greenspace	SPC	CBC CG2 LO	M	M-L	SPC to liaise with LO
16	Create community orchard on derelict nursery site, east of Sutton Road (opposite High St.)	SPC	LO	M-H	M-L	SPC to liaise with LO
17	Provide public access in Millennium Wood	SPC	LO	L	M-L	SPC to liaise with LO
18	Enhance and protect Bear Garden heritage site	SPC	LO	M	M-L	SPC to liaise with LO
19	Create an 'important green gap' with appropriate strategic tree planting	SPC	LO's	M	M-L	SPC to define policy and liaise with LO
20	Seek enhanced management of 'The Belt' (linear woodland) for wildlife conservation	SPC	CBC / LO	L	S-M	SPC to liaise with LO
21	Create new footpath to link Sutton Road to BW3 (Lantern Lane)	SPC	CBC LO	L-M	M-L	SPC to liaise with CBC and LO

22	Create woodland belt to link existing woodland belts east of Standalone Farm as an important wildlife corridor	SPC	LO	M	M-L	SPC to liaise with LO
23	Link BW9 to old railway line and on to RSPB and Biggleswade Common, as a bridleway	SPC	CBC LO	L-M	M	SPC to liaise with CBC and LO
24	Create an off-road footpath to connect Sutton crossroads, through the playing field, to proposed new footpath at Aspiration 6	SPC	CBC LO	L-M	M	SPC to liaise with CBC and LO
General aspiration						
	Protect, enhance and link hedgerows for biodiversity	SPC		LO'S BRCC		SPC to liaise with LO's and other partners

Proposed Local Green Space Designations for Sutton



**This report is an assessment of sites identified, by the local community, in the
Sutton Green Infrastructure Plan to be considered for
Local Green Space Designation within the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan**



October 2019

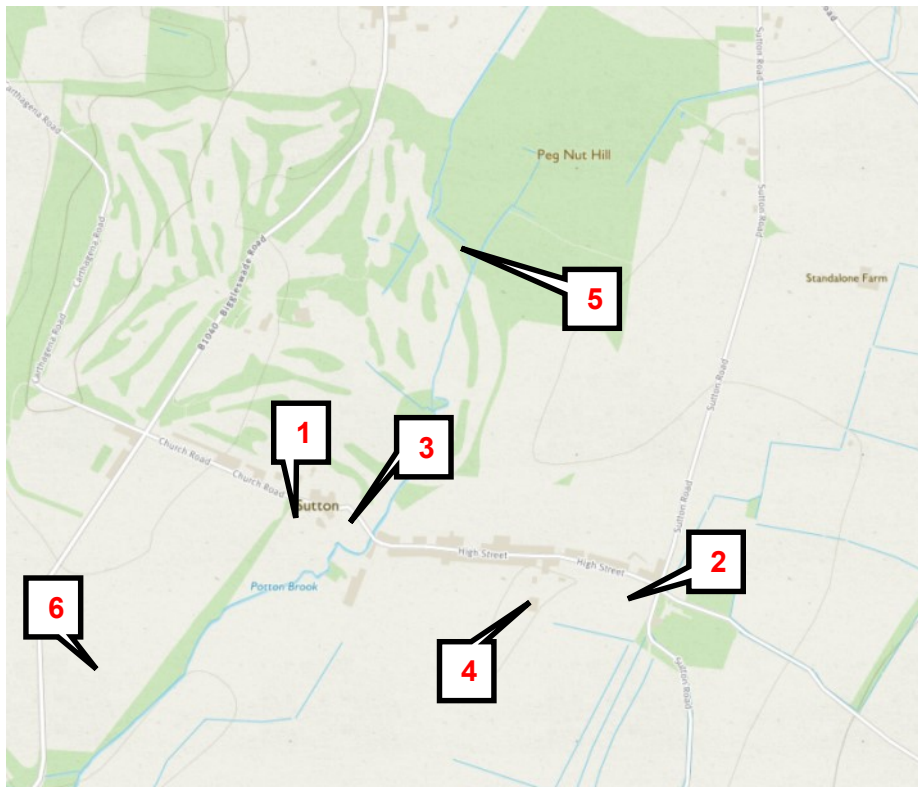
SUTTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – LGS ASSESSMENT

Stage 1 Assessment

The stage 1 assessment is designed to filter out which sites - proposed for LGS Designation by the 2019 Sutton GI Plan - do not meet the basic LGS eligibility criteria. Sites which have current planning permission, or have been allocated for development, or have an existing designation giving the same level of protection as a LGS designation, do not meet the criteria and are not carried forward to the stage 2 assessment.

Most important green spaces	Current Planning Permission?	Allocated for Development?	Already Designated?	Pass to Stage 2?
1. Church Field	No	No	No	Y
2. Crow Grove	No	No	No	Y
3. Lower School Playing Field	No	No	No	Y
4. Millennium Wood	No	No	No	Y
5. Pegnut Wood (south)	No	No	No	Y
6. The Belt (Woodland)	No	No	No	Y

Possible LGS's – to undergo stage 2 assessment



Site numbers relate to the table on the previous page.

See individual site assessments for detailed locations/ boundaries.

Stage 2 Assessment – Overall Summary

Stage 2 Assessment

Site	Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special	Locally Significant*	Recommend for Designation?
1. Church Field	0.45 ha	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Crow Grove	0.85 ha	Y	N	N	N
3. Lower School Playing Field	0.38 ha	Y	Y	Y	N
4. Millennium Wood	1.00 ha	Y	Y	Y	Y
5. Pegnut Wood (south)	18.25ha	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. The Belt (Woodland)	5.53 ha	Y	Y	Y	Y

Stage 2 Assessment – Individual Site Assessments


The Stage 2 assessment assesses whether the proposed LGS meets the following criteria:


1. The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character
2. The space is within close proximity of the community it serves
3. The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.


The 3rd of these criteria is sub-divided into:


- a. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty
- b. The proposed space is of particular local historic significance
- c. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value
- d. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity
- e. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its wildlife
- f. The proposed space is of particular local significance for another reason

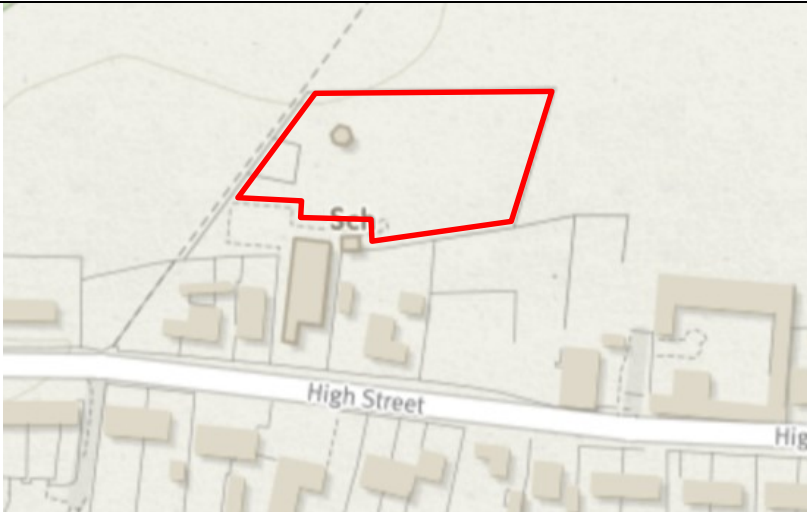
To meet the Stage 2 assessment criteria, a space has to fulfil criteria 1 and 2; and at least 1 of the a-f components of criteria 3.


Site Name	Church Field
Site Map	
Site Area	0.45 ha
Site Location	<p>This site is located within the village, bordered by Potton Brook, the mediaeval packhorse bridge and near All Saints Parish Church. Located between the church and the John O'Gaunt PH, it is in the heart of the village.</p>
Site Description	<p>The site is a small, gently sloping, grass field, bordered on three sides by mature trees and hedges and on the fourth side by Potton Brook. It is open to the public and has a small amount of play equipment in one corner.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The hedges, trees and brook which form the boundaries; and the medieval packhorse bridge in the south east corner of the site all contribute to the beauty of this site.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The Packhorse bridge in the south east corner of the site is a 14th or 15th century double arched bridge over Potton Brook, a tributary of the River Ivel.</p> <p>Church Field was part of a gift to the Diocese of St Albans by the Burgoynes, on or about the time the village was enclosed (in the early 18th century), in "perpetual lieu of tithes."</p> <p>It was the local 'moot place' where Anglo Saxon courts were held.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>This is a tranquil site. Despite having Church Road along the southern boundary, traffic is slow and quiet due to the ford and s-bend; so peaceful enjoyment of the site is not disturbed.</p>


	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is open to the public as a recreational greenspace and is used for children's play, informal recreation and occasional community events.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>Appropriate management of banks along Potton Brook will benefit Water voles <i>Arvicola amphibious</i>, creating a continuous link for the species into the Henry Smith site.</p> <p>The site is bordered by a hedge and trees which will provide some benefit to a wide range of species.</p> <p>The habitats are continuous with the adjacent Golf Club creating a larger space for wildlife.</p> <p>Wildlife surveys do not appear to have been undertaken on site so a full assessment cannot be undertaken.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>Church Field hosts various community events, including the annual duck race.</p>		
<p>Site Photos</p>			
<p>Not Extensive</p>	<p>Close Proximity</p>	<p>Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant</p>	<p>Recommend for Designation?</p>
<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>


Site Name	Crow Grove
Site Map	
Site Area	0.85 ha
Site Location	This site is located just east of the village. The centre of the site is 100m from the closest houses and within 700m of the centre of the village (John O'Gaunt PH).
Site Description	<p>The trees within this small, mixed deciduous woodland are mostly approx. 25-30 years old; although the site has been woodland for many years.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>Trees and woodland have an intrinsic beauty; and this beauty will increase as the wood matures.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>Crow Grove is one of the oldest woodlands in Sutton.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site is peaceful except for the road along the southern boundary, which seems to be used as a rat-run, with fast vehicles regularly passing by.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site currently has no public access. It does have scope to have a path created within the woodland and for the site to be managed as a small nature reserve.</p>


	<p>Wildlife</p> <p>A small area of mixed native broadleaf woodland with a sparse understory and depleted ground flora. Isolated on the edge of an arable field with sparse hedges giving little connectivity to similar habitat.</p> <p>Wildlife surveys do not appear to have been undertaken on site so a full assessment cannot be undertaken.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>Unknown</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	N	N

Site Name	Sutton Lower School Playing Field
Site Map	
Site Area	0.38 ha
Site Location	This site is located behind houses on the High Street, at the centre of the village, opposite John O'Gaunt PH.
Site Description	<p>This site is a typical school playing field, bordered by hedges and the school buildings/ hard standing.</p> <p>Additional Note: Sutton V.A. Lower School Playing Field is currently in Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) land ownership. School Playing Fields would be subject to DfE approval for change of use. Both CBC and the school state that a designation could impact on the ability to expand the school in the future and is therefore inappropriate for designation as Local Green Space due to the potential impact on future school expansion and future school viability.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The field is not unattractive.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The playing field is a recent addition to the school, and has no historic value.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Being set back from the road and surrounded by arable fields, the site is very peaceful – apart from when full of children!</p>

	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is a recreation area for the school; but is currently not open to the community for wider public use.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The only features of any wildlife interest apparent on site are the boundary hedges and a few mature trees.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>The presence of the school field and the activities it caters for helps to protect the viability of the village school. The presence of the school is integral to the community life of the village; and therefore the school field is of great significance to the village.</p>		
<p>Site Photo</p>			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y	N

Site Name	Millennium Wood
Site Map	
Site Area	1.00 ha
Site Location	This site is located towards the eastern end of the village, south of houses on the High Street. The centre of the site is within 450m of the centre of the village (John O'Gaunt PH).
Site Description	<p>This small native woodland was planted in approx. 2000. Village organisations and individuals paid for some of the trees and assisted in the planting. A seasonally wet pond is located towards the eastern end of the wood,</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>Trees, woodland and ponds have an intrinsic beauty; and this beauty will increase as the wood matures.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The Wood was planted as Sutton's contribution to celebrating the Millennium.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>This is a peaceful site, especially towards the western end, which is furthest away from the road.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site currently has no formalised access, although an informal path</p>

	<p>through the woodland exists. Land for the planting of the woodland was provided by a local farming family; but public access was never formalised and is now denied by the current owner (a developer). Provision of public access in Millennium Wood is identified as a community aspiration (no. 17) in the Sutton GI Plan.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>A densely planted native woodland with trees providing a rich canopy and scrub layer but impoverished ground flora.</p> <p>The regimented rows of even age plants and lack of open space within the woodland will limit its wildlife potential but with correct management it could flourish.</p> <p>The pond is potentially of high wildlife value.</p> <p>Wildlife surveys do not appear to have been undertaken on site so a full assessment cannot be undertaken.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>Unknown</p>		
<p>Site Photos</p>			
<p>Not Extensive</p>	<p>Close Proximity</p>	<p>Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant</p>	<p>Recommend for Designation?</p>
<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>

Site Name	Pegnut Wood (south)
Site Map	
Site Area	18.25ha – area of the site within the parish of Sutton
Site Location	This site is located to the north of the village. The centre of the site is within 850m of the centre of the village (John O'Gaunt PH). The parish boundary forms the northern perimeter of the proposed LGS.
Site Description	<p>Pegnut Wood was planted primarily as a poplar plantation, although has areas of more native tree and shrub species. The site has one public footpath that runs down the eastern boundary of the wood and one public footpath that runs across the south west corner.</p> <p>The Potton GI Plan identified the whole of the site as an important area; however as a Neighbourhood Plan can only designate LGS's within its own parish, this assessment relates only to the portion of the whole site (approx. 50%) which falls within Sutton. A historic parish boundary hedge, which passes through the centre of Pegnut Wood, would be the northern boundary of the LGS.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>Woodland has an intrinsic beauty. Although planted as a formal crop plantation, many of the poplars have succumbed to disease and the site is evolving into a more natural woodland, with areas of open grass and native shrub regeneration. The presence of watercourses and old boundary hedges add to the beauty of the site.</p> <p>The site borders and offers views of the attractive John O'Gaunt golf club.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>Named after the pignut plant which grew in the area.</p>

Recreational Value

The site has a good network of paths – including some Public Rights of Way, and is very well used by local walkers and dog walkers. The current status of these non-PRoW paths is unclear and their reinstatement/ formalisation is identified as a community aspiration (no. 5) in the Sutton GI Plan.

The Potton-Sutton Circular Walk and the North Beds Heritage Trail pass through the site.

Tranquillity

Pegnut Wood has, for Central Bedfordshire, a high degree of tranquillity. It is not bordered on any sides by roads, set between arable farm land, paddocks and a golf course. There are no other nearby sources of noise to impact upon the quietness of the site.

Wildlife

A number of priority bird species are recorded during the breeding season, although no breeding bird surveys have been undertaken that might confirm breeding. Species include: Lesser spotted woodpecker *Dryobates minor*, Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, Song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, Marsh tit *Poecile palustris* and Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*.


The wood is also notable for foraging bats, including Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus* and Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*, both important species in the county, and unknown *Myotis* species. There are a number of suitable trees within the wood that might also provide valuable roosting and breeding opportunity.

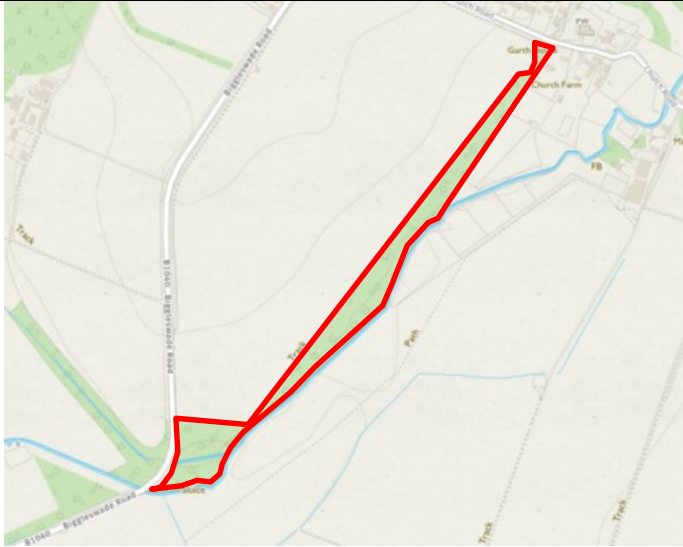
The dead and decaying wood provides important habitat for saproxilic invertebrate fauna and potential nest and roosting opportunity for birds and bats.



Appropriate management of banks along Potton Brook will benefit Water voles *Arvicola amphibious*, creating a continuous link for the species into the Henry Smith site.

Significant for another reason

This site is identified as the 2nd most important green space in the parish within the Sutton GI Plan.

Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y	Y

Site Name	The Belt
Site Map	
Site Area	5.53 ha
Site Location	This linear site is located to the south west of the village. The northern end of the site abuts Church Road. The centre of the site is within 800m of the centre of the village (John O'Gaunt PH).
Site Description	<p>The feature is a linear woodland, bordering Potton Brook and leading south west from the village centre.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site has an intrinsic woodland beauty and is an attractive landscape feature, especially when viewed from the B1040 in the north west of the parish.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>After gifting land to the Diocese of St Albans the Burgoyne improved the remainder of their holdings and one of their improvements was to plant wind breaks, locally termed "belts".</p> <p>The Tree Belt named on parish maps seems to date from the early 18th century and is probably the last remaining example of a belt in its original form, but parts of several others also remain.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site is largely quiet, becoming more tranquil towards the north east end, moving away from the busy B1040.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p>

<p>There is no public access within the tree belt, although a Public Footpath does follow part of the eastern boundary. Informal access into the woodland has been gained by local residents for many years.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>A long linear area of mixed native broadleaf woodland. The woodland is an important wildlife corridor in an arable setting, helping to link nearby woodland and hedgerow habitats.</p> <p>Wildlife surveys do not appear to have been undertaken on site so a full assessment cannot be undertaken. However, this site contains extensive badger activity consisting of several setts.</p> <p>Potton Brook, an important tributary of the River Ivel County Wildlife Site, runs alongside the woodland. Otters pass through the brook and are likely to use the wider woodland.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>One of Sutton's traditional crops has been onions and the fine soils on the greensand ridge (Portobello Farm and environs) were ideal for the purpose. However, there are times between crops when the fields are bare and when these corresponded with dry, windy conditions the result could be, what the locals call, a "fen blow" when the fine soil is picked up and blown away. There can be little doubt that the Tree Belt shown on maps was planted to protect the fields from soil erosion by high winds. Secondary purposes may have been to trap windblown soil and protect the village from dust storms.</p>			
<p>Site Photos</p> <div>   </div>			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y	Y

Final Proposed Local Green Space Designations

Sites assessed and proposed for LGS Designation with the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan	
Church Field	
Millennium Wood	
Pegnut Wood (south)	
The Belt (Woodland)	
Sites assessed and not proposed for LGS Designation with the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan	
Sutton V.A. Lower School Playing Field	
Sites assessed and considered to not meet LGS criteria	
Crow Grove	

This assessment has been undertaken by Cliff Andrews, BRCC's Head of Supporting Communities and Mike Fayers, BRCC's Community & Environment Officer.

Site visits were undertaken during July 2019.

Additional information was obtained from the Sutton Green Infrastructure Plan and members of the Sutton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Cliff Andrews

October 2019.