

# Annex 1: Local Green Spaces Assessment

## An evaluation of Local Green Spaces proposed for the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan



Last updated March 2022

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# Introduction

## Background

Section 8 of the NPPF contains policies that address the designation of land as Local Green Space in neighbourhood plans. This includes paragraph 102 which provides that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

This is supplemented by the NPPG which provides more detailed guidance on Local Green Space designation.

Additionally, Locality has produced a toolkit - "Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces" - which provides further helpful guidance on the designation of Local Green Spaces in neighbourhood plans.

This document has been prepared by reference to the NPPF, NPPG and Locality toolkit.

There are a number of green spaces in Ardleigh Parish that have demonstrable value to the local community. Some of these have already been identified and designated by Tendring District Council in their Local Plan (see, in particular, policy HP4). However, many more exist.

In order to identify those additional spaces in Ardleigh that warrant protection as Local Green Spaces, multi-stage assessments have been conducted.

## Assessment methodology

Site assessments were conducted in multiple stages.

### Stage 1: Nominations

Firstly, the local community was invited to nominate green spaces in Ardleigh of demonstrable value to them.

### Stage 2: Desktop assessments

Desktop assessments were then conducted of each site nominated by the local community.

The assessments were conducted using a matrix based on the Local Green Space assessment tool included in Locality's "Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces"<sup>1</sup>.

This led to a number of sites being discounted immediately. This document provides details of all sites discounted at Stage 2 and the justification for this.

### Stage 3: Field assessments

Field assessments were then conducted of all the remaining sites. Walkover surveys were conducted (using public rights of way) and notes and photographs were taken. A detailed evaluation of every site that passed stage 2 appears in this document. The detailed evaluations provide more critical and thorough consideration of the sites' accordance with the assessment criteria.

### Stage 4: Community & landowner consultation

Once the field assessments had been conducted and the resultant shortlist of sites had been prepared, community consultation was conducted. In addition, all landowners were contacted directly by letter to seek their representations on the proposed nomination of their site<sup>2</sup>. The Parish Council took each consultation response into careful consideration before drawing up the shortlist of sites proposed for designation.

### Stage 5: Outcomes

A list of all the sites assessed appears at the end of the document. Here, you can find information about which sites passed which stages. All of those sites that passed stage 2 proceeded to stage 3. All of those sites that passed stage 3 are proposed for

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<sup>1</sup> The completed desktop site assessments can be found at Appendix A

<sup>2</sup> A copy of the letter sent to landowners appears at appendix C



designation in the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan.

## Stage 1: Nominations

The local community was invited to nominate green spaces located in the Parish that held special value to them. Invitations were predominantly made via social media but also in the Ardleigh Advertiser and on the Parish Council's website.

The local community was directed, in particular, to consider sites with the following values:

- Beauty & tranquility;
- Historic value;
- Recreational value;
- Landscape value; and
- Wildlife value.

The community was advised, however, that the above list was not exhaustive and all sites nominated would be taken into due consideration.

Below is a comprehensive list of all the sites nominated for consideration by the local community.

Space 1 LSA footpath

Space 2 Crop marks SAM

Space 3 Fishing lake

Space 4 Field south of Mary Warner Estate

Space 5 Reservoir land

Space 6 Churn Wood

Space 7 Manor House Meadow

Spaces 8 & 12 (combine)

Woodlands attached to Birch Wood

Space 9 Green Island Gardens

Space 10 Wall's Wood

Space 11 Footpath over A12

Space 13 Hart's Lane orchard

Space 14 Malting Farm Lane footpath

Space 15 [none, miscount]

Space 16 POS for new reservoir

Space 17 The Street verge

Space 18 Lodge Lane verges

Space 19 A12 buffers

Space 20 Bullock Wood

Space 21 footpath new reservoir

Space 22 car park land

Space 23 Glebe Corner land

Space 24 Harwich Rd allotments

Space 25 School field

## Stage 2: Desktop assessments

Desktop assessments were conducted of each nominated site. The assessments were conducted using a matrix based on the following tool which appears in Locality's "Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces":

Site Details		
Site name	Grid Ref.	Description and purpose
Checklist		
Statutory designations (e.g. SSSI)	Site allocations (give details)	Planning permissions (give details)
NPPF Criteria		
Close to the community it serves	Demonstrably special to local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, wildlife, or other)	Local in character and not extensive tract

The completed matrix appears at Appendix A. Based on the results of the matrix, a number of sites were discounted at this stage. Sites were discounted for a variety of reasons, although mainly where existing designations were considered to provide sufficient protection. Each discounted site is described in this section, with clear justification provided for its removal at this stage.

The completed matrix at Appendix A includes the following criteria/information for all sites:

- Site reference;
- Brief overview;

- Historic value;
- Wildlife value;
- Recreational value;
- Landscape value;
- Level of use;
- Allocations or planning permissions;
- Reasonably close;
- Not an extensive tract of land; and
- Existing designations.

The matrix was completed by members of the Working Group with local knowledge of the sites. The following notes were provided by Planning Direct to assist the Working Group to complete the matrix:

Site reference

A name and number to help identify the site plus any map/footpath references.

Brief overview

A summary description of the site, including its key features, value/s and/or uses.

Historic value

Sites with historic value include sites that are unchanged since historic times, sites that provide settings to listed buildings, sites that make a positive contribution to the Conservation Area, sites containing ancient trees and landscape features, sites that provide clues about the settlement's origins/history of development etc.

Wildlife value

Sites with wildlife value include sites that provide important and/or varied wildlife habitats (including woods and water bodies), sites with an abundance of flora/fauna and sites that support residents to experience and enjoy local wildlife (e.g. opportunities for bird watching).

Recreational value

Sites with recreational value include sites that provide opportunities for residents to play, relax and enjoy the outdoors. This is likely to include sites with dedicated recreational facilities (including play equipment and benches), walking routes and very special viewpoints.



### Landscape value

Sites with landscape value include sites that perform important landscape functions, for example, providing green buffers to settlement edges. Sites that are representative of the local landscape character or which afford special views of the landscape (and its key features) will also have landscape value.

### Level of use

Consider the community's use of a site. In what way is it used? How intensively? Is it subject to frequent/daily use by residents? Is it used by a variety of residents and/or for a variety of purposes? If public access is prohibited, what is the value of the site to the local community?

### Allocations or planning permissions

Is the site subject to any existing allocations or permissions that would affect its designation? For example, are there any permissions in place that would undermine the value/s of the site? Are there any historic applications worth noting? Is the site under any development pressure, e.g. it likely to be allocated or developed in the near future?

### Reasonably close

How close is the space to the community it serves? Depending on the scale/nature of the site, the community could be the whole parish, the village or a smaller satellite community (such as the various hamlets). Depending on the scale/nature of the site, it may be relevant to consider whether it is walkable by local residents (normally within c. 800m - 1km and with continuous pavements/footpaths available). If it is not walkable, you may wish to consider whether parking is available and how convenient this is.

### Not an extensive tract of land

Whilst there are no hard and fast rules about size, Local Green Space designation cannot apply to "extensive tracts of land".

Tendring District Council only very recently designated sites in its Local Plan Section 2. The sites already designated in Tendring can be used as a fair guide concerning what size of site would reasonably be considered to constitute an "extensive tract of land". Sites designated as Local Green Spaces in the Tendring District Local Plan Section 2 range from under 1 hectare (e.g. the verge in Ardleigh) to more than 100 hectares in total area (e.g. Holland Haven Country Park in Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands).

The approximate size of the site should be noted here.

### Existing designations

Note here any relevant designations that already apply to the site. This will include: Conservation Area (or adjacent), Local Wildlife Sites, SSSIs, Protected Lanes, Scheduled Ancient Monument/Listed Building. If a site is already subject to protection, consider whether any additional local benefit would be gained by its designation as Local Green Space.

## Sites discounted at stage 2

A number of the nominated sites were discounted following completion and review of the desktop assessments. Each of the sites discounted at stage 2 appears below. Reasons are also provided for the exclusion of each site from further consideration.

In total, 6 sites were discounted at stage 2. The remainder proceeded to stage 3.

### **Public open space associated with new reservoir (Space 16) TM025295**

Overview: a new area of public open space is under construction following planning consent ESS/57/04/TEN for an extension of the Ardleigh Reservoir.



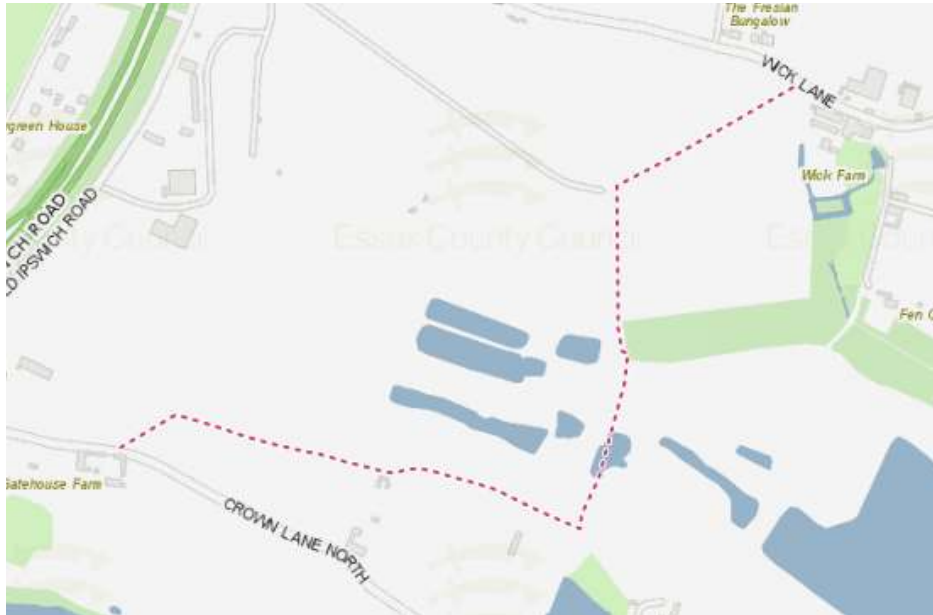
Assessment: This space is anticipated to have substantial community value. It will support recreation and provide habitats for a wide variety of wildlife. It is understood that disabled access to the new reservoir will also be facilitated.

As the space is not yet constructed or available to the public, it is not considered suitable for designation at this time. However, this could be revisited once the space is complete.

DO NOT CARRY FORWARD.

### **Footpath near new reservoir (Space 21) TM032297, PROW 158\_19**

Overview: public footpath connecting Crown Lane North to Wick Lane, passing by the site of the new reservoir.



Assessment: The potential to designate part of this footpath (or land adjacent) has been considered. The area is anticipated to provide special public views of the new reservoir and was put forward on this basis, although it appears likely that the footpath will be redirected.

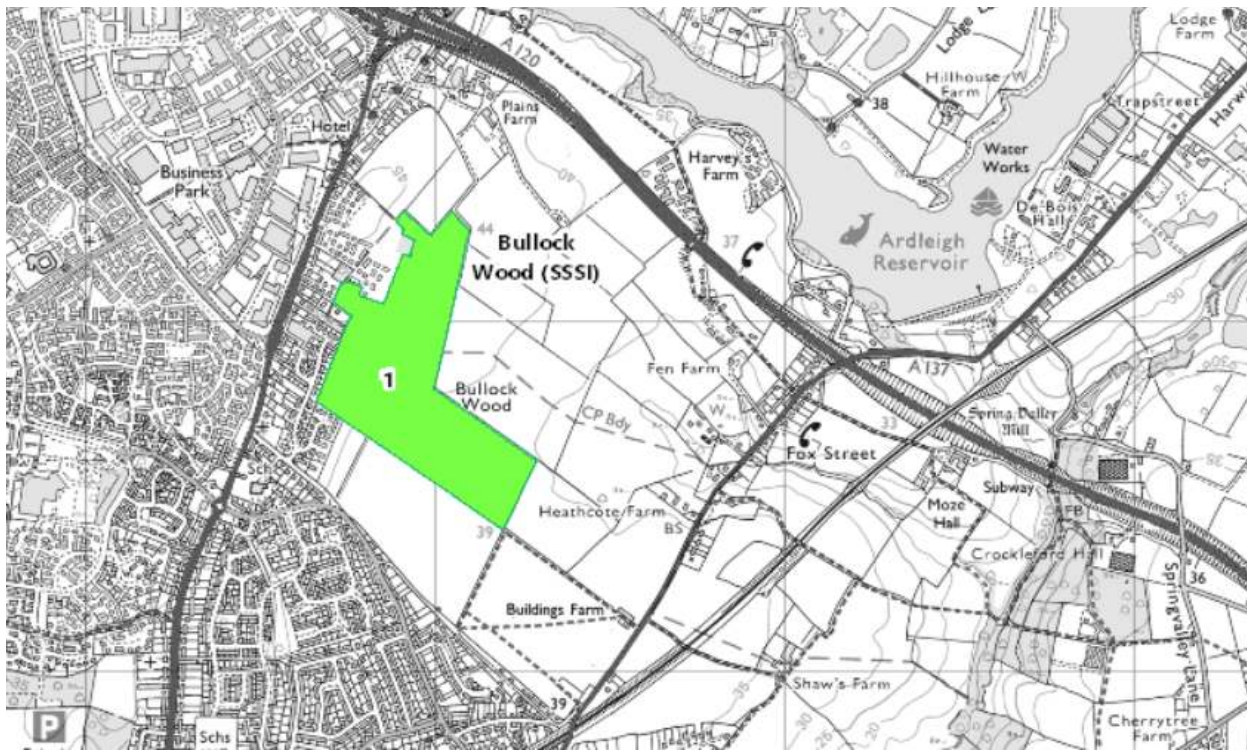
As the new reservoir is still under construction, it would be premature to pursue designation on this basis at this time.

Furthermore, whilst the nearby reservoir is under construction, the amenity value of the footpath and surrounding land is materially reduced. Consequently, it has not been necessary to investigate its special value any further. This could be revisited once the new reservoir is complete.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD.**

## **Bullock Wood (Space 20) TM020285**

Overview: Ancient woodland of c. 23 ha containing a rare mix of trees. Approximately 2/5 of the woodland lies in Ardleigh parish, with the remainder in Colchester. It provides a mature and natural setting to the modern housing estate on Old Ipswich Road (Plains Farm) and a vital buffer between the rural parish of Ardleigh and the urban edge of Colchester. No public access is permitted.



Assessment: This woodland has substantial heritage, wildlife and landscape value. It provides vital separation between the rural parish of Ardleigh and the urban edge of Colchester, preventing their physical coalescence. It provides an invaluable visual and acoustic buffer that prevents this part of Ardleigh from feeling overborne by Colchester.

The whole of Bullock Wood is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), meaning it already benefits from a very high level of national protection.

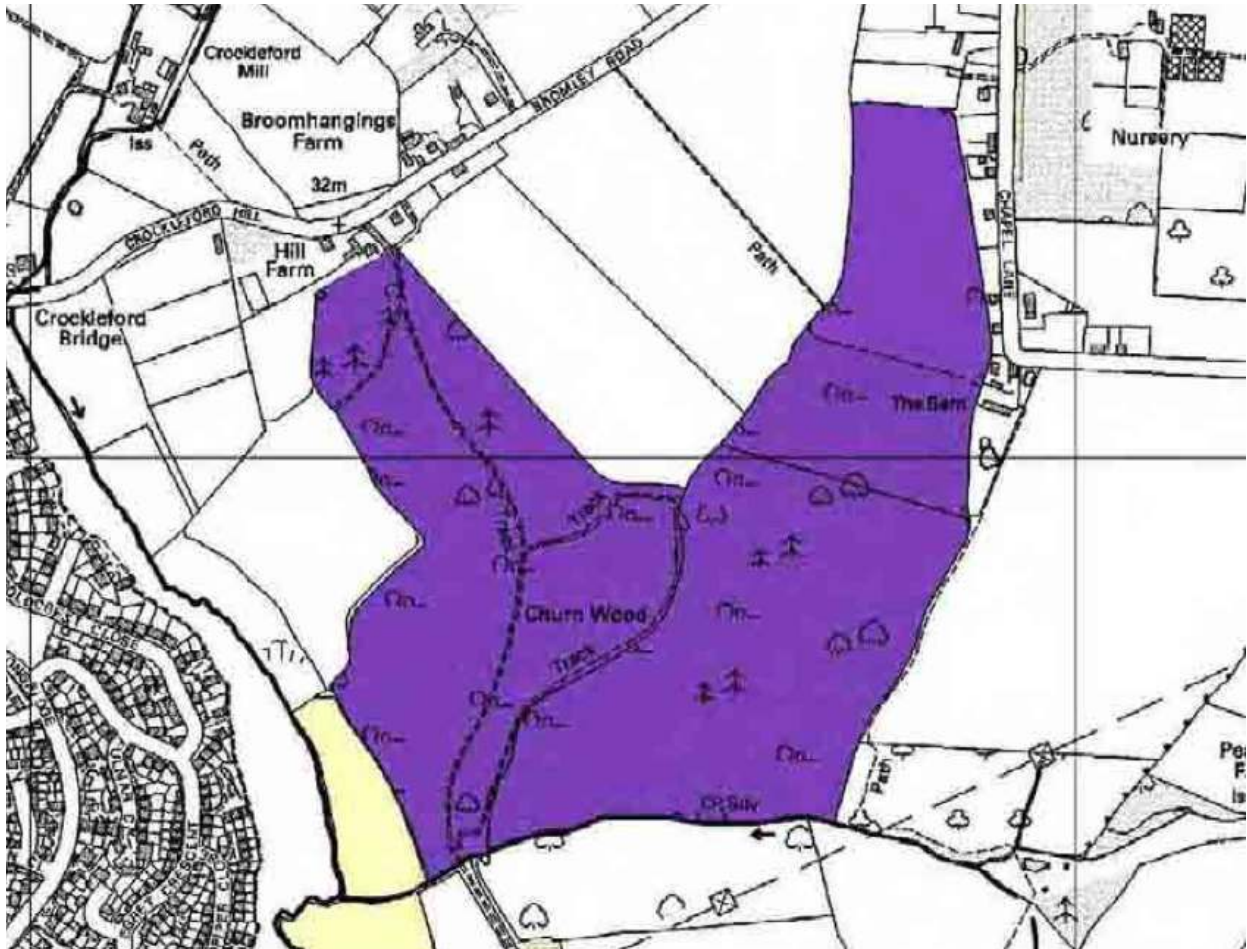
The value of this space to the local community is very significant. However, it is already adequately protected as an SSSI and its designation here is unlikely to provide any additional level of control or protection.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD.**



### **Churn Wood (Space 6) TM043269, FOOTPATH PROW 158 37 etc.**

Overview: Ancient woodland of c. 26 ha located on the southern parish boundary, maintaining separation from Colchester. Public access via footpaths.



This large ancient woodland site is of mixed structure (broadleaved and coniferous) consisting partly of Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) coppice with Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards and partly coniferous plantation of Spruce (*Picea sp.*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*). Other tree/shrub species include Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and elm (*Ulmus sp.*). The ground flora contains Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*) and Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*).

Assessment: This large ancient woodland has substantial heritage, wildlife and landscape value. It provides vital separation between the rural parish of Ardleigh and the urban edge of Colchester, preventing their physical coalescence. It provides an invaluable visual and acoustic buffer that prevents this part of Ardleigh from feeling overborne by Colchester.

The whole of Churn Wood is designated a Local Wildlife Site (LoWS) in the Local Plan, meaning it already benefits from a high level of local protection.

Policy PPL4 of the Local Plan protects LoWS from development likely to have an adverse impact on the site or any of its special features. All new development affecting LoWS must be supported by an appropriate ecological assessment. Harmful new development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where the benefits demonstrably outweigh the harm caused and where adequate mitigation or - as a last resort - compensation measures are included.

The value of this space to the local community is very significant. However, it is already adequately protected as a LoWS and its designation here is unlikely to provide any additional level of control or protection.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD.**

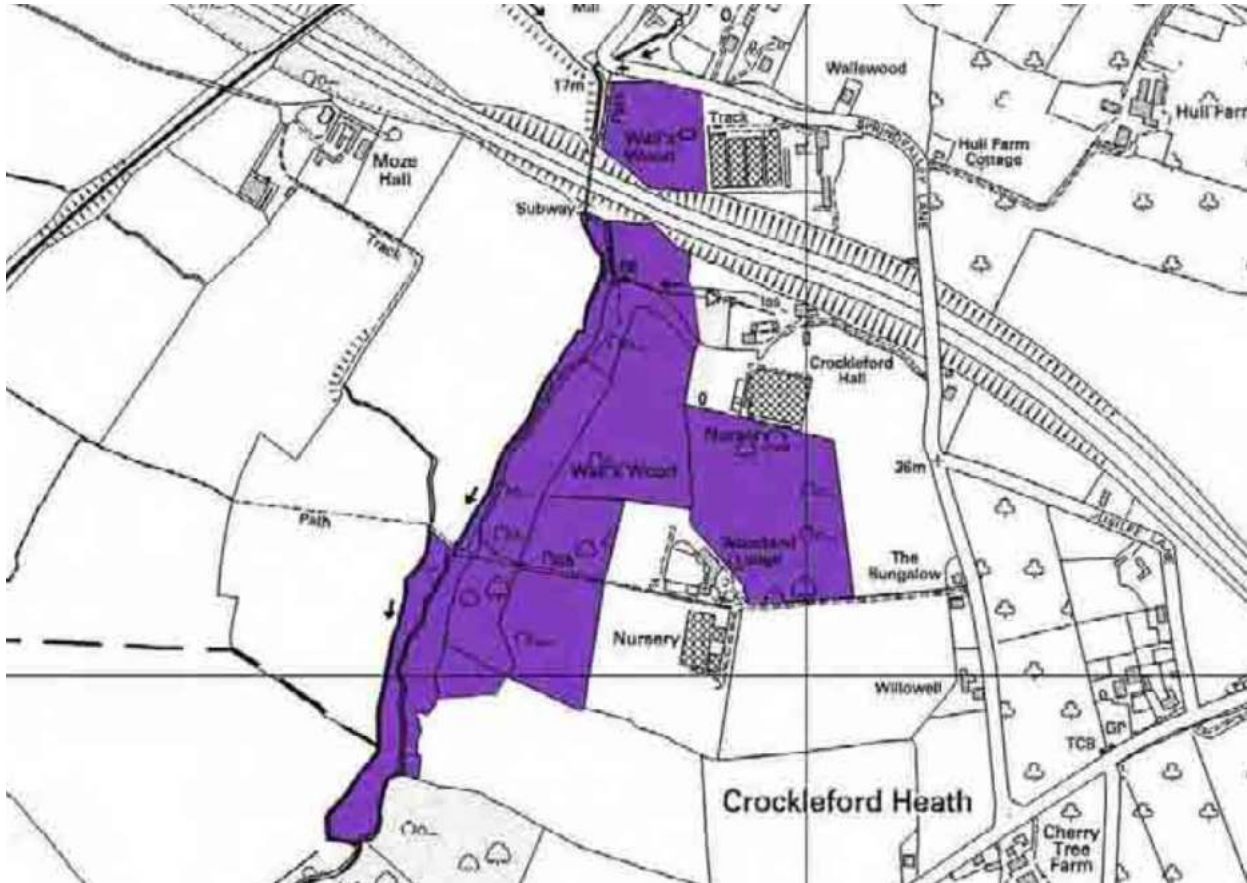
**Wall's Wood circular route (Space 10) TM030277, FOOTPATHS PROW 158 16, PROW 158 17, PROW 158 40,**

Overview: A c. 11.5 ha section of the ancient Wall's Wood offering a circular walk along public footpaths. Salary Brook passes by. Part of the ancient valley system.



Existing designations: The whole site is designated Local Wildlife Site Te6 - Wall's Wood  
**Te6 Wall's Wood (14.3 ha) TM 037271**

Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) standards with coppiced Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) and Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) form majority of this old coppice with standards wood. The canopy also includes Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*). Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and Willow (*Salix spp.*) dominates near the stream. The majority of ground cover comprises Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) with Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*), Moschatel (*Adoxa moschatellina*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*). The streamline flora is formed by Nettle (*Urtica dioica*) with Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*) and Soft-rush (*Juncus effusus*).



Policy PPL4 of the Local Plan protects LoWS from development likely to have an adverse impact on the site or any of its special features. All new development affecting LoWS must be supported by an appropriate ecological assessment. Harmful new development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where the benefits demonstrably outweigh the harm caused and where adequate mitigation or - as a last resort - compensation measures are included.

Assessment: The woodlands are picturesque and tranquil and contain a rich variety of mature, high value trees. They are teeming with wildlife and Salary Brook passes in close proximity of one of the footpaths.

A 17.1 ha section of the brook - located in Colchester Borough - is designated a Local Nature Reserve in recognition of the variety of habitats it contains, supporting bats, water voles, lizards, nightingales, reed warblers and a wide range of plants.

The various public footpaths provide a pleasant circular walk around this part of the woods, enhancing its recreational value to the community. They also support access to

the woods from various parts of the parish, including from across the train tracks and the A120.

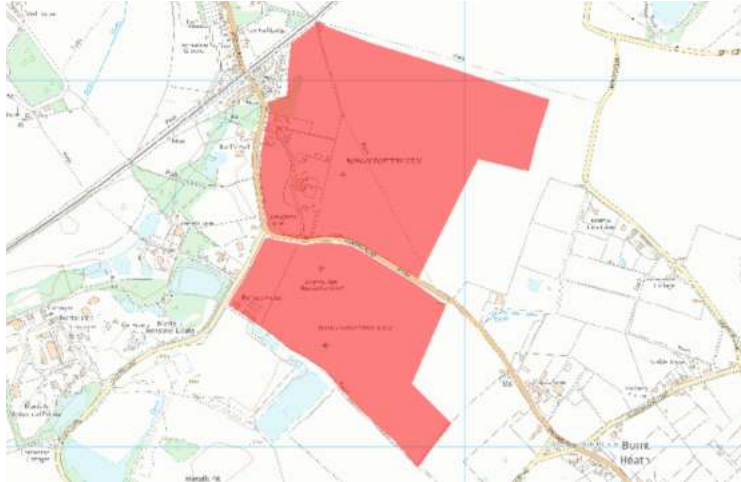
The value of this site to the local community is evident. However, it is already adequately protected as a LoWS and its designation here is unlikely to provide any additional level of control or protection.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD.**



**Crop mark site south of Ardleigh (Space 2) TM63289, FOOTPATH PROW 158 28, HERITAGE LIST ENTRY NO. 1002146**

Overview: Scheduled Ancient Monument (crop mark site) with public footpath adjacent.



Assessment: A public footpath runs along the northernmost boundary of the site. From here, there is a notable vista across arable fields towards the village church.

The Scheduled Ancient Monument contains Bronze Age burial crop circles and Roman kilns which supplied tiles for the building of Roman Colchester.

Consequently, its heritage value is considerable.

Due to its close proximity to Ardleigh village, it is also well used by local residents for exercise and recreation.

As a Scheduled Ancient Monument, this space is a heritage asset of the highest significance (paragraph 200, NPPF). Accordingly, it is subject to a very high degree of protection, including legal protection<sup>3</sup>.

It is considered highly unlikely that its designation here would provide any additional protection over and above what already exists.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD.**

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<sup>3</sup> It is a criminal offence to carry out any works or activities that physically affect a scheduled monument in the absence of scheduled monument consent

## Stage 3: Field assessments

All of the sites that passed stage 2 were then subject to field assessments. The field assessments aimed to build upon the work already completed at stage 2. In November 2021, walkover surveys were conducted of the remaining sites (using public rights of way) and detailed notes and photographs were taken. Comprehensive results of the walkover surveys appear in this section.

The field assessments led to a number of sites being discounted. Sites were mainly discounted because they were considered to fall short of being “demonstrably special to a local community” - this is justified below.

### **Manor House Meadow (Space 7) TM052288, TM051286, FOOTPATHS PROW158 7, PROW 158 8**

Overview: amenity land enclosed by public footpaths and containing ancient woodlands.



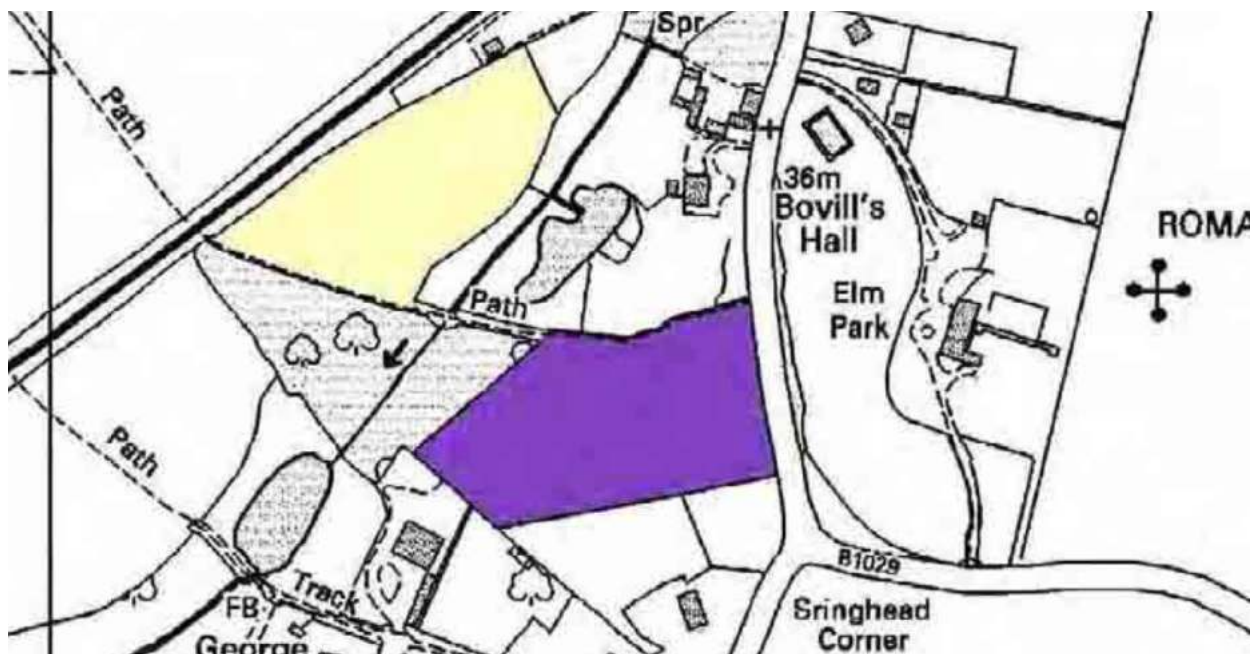
Size: approx. 3.5 ha

Proximity: Accessible from Ardleigh village via continuous footpaths within approx. 5 minutes.

Ownership: It is believed that the land is in private ownership. However, its recreational use by the public is long-established. The public footpaths provide a means of public access in the event that the private owner ever closed the central area off to the community.

Use: This space is used daily by villagers for exercise, leisure and dog walking.

Existing designations: Part of the site (closest Station Road) is Local Wildlife Site Te10 Springhead Corner Meadow House:



**Te10 Springhead Corner Meadow (2.0 ha) TM 053286**

This is remnant tussocky acid grassland, in which rabbit grazing is helping to maintain a short sward. The main species recorded include Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), Sheep's Sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), Sweet Vernal-grass (*Anthoxanthum odoratum*), False Oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius*) Field Wood-rush (*Luzula campestris*) and Squirrel-tail Fescue (*Vulpia bromoides*). Hybrid or Common Lime (*Tilia cordata* x *T. platyphyllos*) and Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*) tree are planted near southern boundary. This site has also large colony of Minotaur beetles, a scarce insect in north-east Essex.

Local Wildlife Site Te9 Manor House Meadow is also located in close proximity.

Policy PPL4 of the Local Plan protects LoWS from development likely to have an adverse impact on the site or any of its special features. All new development affecting LoWS must be supported by an appropriate ecological assessment. Harmful new

development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where the benefits demonstrably outweigh the harm caused and where adequate mitigation or - as a last resort - compensation measures are included.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: This is a picturesque and tranquil plot of pleasantly undulating land almost fully enclosed by mature, high value trees. It has evident value to the local community. It is prominent in views from the B1029 on the approach to Ardleigh. The woodlands are teeming with wildlife, with birds of prey heard and seen above the treetops.

Salary Brook passes through the woodlands. A 17.1 ha section of the brook - located in Colchester Borough - is designated a Local Nature Reserve in recognition of the variety of habitats it contains, supporting bats, water voles, lizards, nightingales, reed warblers and a wide range of plants.

The surrounding land is in working agricultural use, with tractors a common feature. The smells and sounds of agriculture (e.g. field spraying) can be prominent here.

Noise from the nearby quarry can be intrusive, although dampened by the woods. Fortunately, the quarry cannot be seen.

The site is part of a wider and well-used circular walking route that takes you across the train tracks (another distinctive feature of Ardleigh) and over the open fields just south of the village, terminating close to the village recreation grounds.

Photos 02/11/2021:





Site entrance from the B1029

Close-boarded fence between site & grade II listed Bovill's Hall - a soft barrier would be preferred



Views looking west (close to the B1029)





Salary Brook



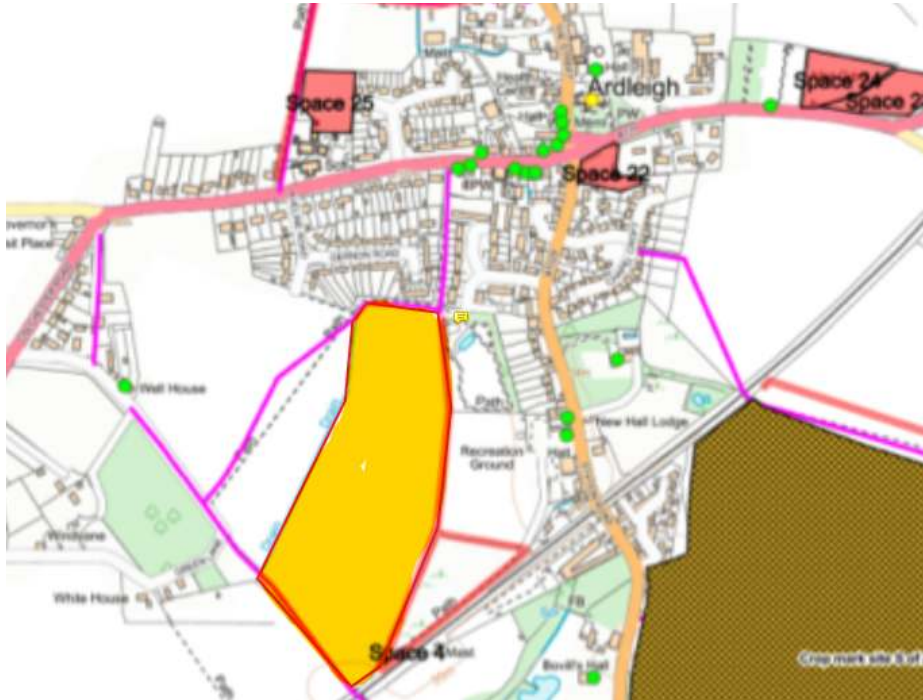
Views looking east (close to the train tracks)

Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is significant. It is very easily accessible via sustainable means to a large proportion of parish residents. It provides invaluable and irreplaceable natural features, including ancient woodlands and supports a rich diversity of wildlife. It is prominent in public views, providing a very pleasant approach to Ardleigh from the south. Only part of the site is already protected via its designation as a Local Wildlife Site.

**CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

### **Field south of Mary Warner Estate (Space 4) TM053292, FOOTPATH PROW158 5**

Overview: agricultural field on the southern edge of the village, bordered by official and unofficial walking routes.



Size: approx. 7.7 ha

Proximity: The site lies in exceptionally convenient proximity of the village centre, with connecting footpaths available. It is also accessible from the recreation ground/ children's play area.

Ownership: It is believed that the working agricultural field is in private ownership. An unofficial footpath runs along its eastern boundary and is well-trodden. Its daily use by the public appears to have been kindly permitted by the landowner over multiple decades. A public right of way extends along its northern and southern boundaries, skirting off to the west.

Use: The field provides an idyllic rural backdrop to one of the village's main built-up residential areas (Mary Warner Estate) as well as some of its important community facilities (Millennium Green and children's play area/playing fields). Its unofficial walking track is very well-used by villagers, mainly walkers and local children.

It also forms part of a pleasant and well-used circular walking route that takes you across the train tracks and through ancient woodlands before returning to the village.

Existing designations: None known.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: This field provides a very pleasant rural backdrop to some important village amenities and (relatively) densely occupied parts of the village. It enables far-reaching views both from and towards open countryside. From the south of the area, the built form of the village appears as a pleasant and incidental feature peering out of a lush landscape. There was evidence of children playing in this area (geocaching and similar games).

The presence of high quality, mature trees along the site's eastern perimeter adds considerably to the character and amenity of the village recreation grounds.

Despite the nondescript, hard-edged suburban nature of the Mary Warner Estate, the presence of this open tract of land ensures the overall retention of the rural character and setting of this part of the village.

Photos 02/11/2021:



View from the south - built edge of Ardleigh just visible on the horizon



	
<p>View from site through perimeter trees towards recreation ground</p>	<p>View from children's play area through to site</p>
	
<p>Trees alongside children's play area</p>	<p>Assisting to soften and situate the Mary Warner Estate</p>

Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is significant. It is located in exceptionally close proximity of the main built-up part of the village. It provides an invaluable rural outlook from the southern edge of the village and from two of its most valuable and well-used community facilities. It enables picturesque views to be had of Ardleigh from as far south as the train tracks. It is used on a daily basis by a wide variety of villagers for a number of recreational purposes.

**CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

**Fishing lake and footpaths north of Colchester Road (Space 3) TM050297, FOOTPATH PROW 158 22 & PROW 158 4**

Overview: Footpaths over agricultural fields leading to fishing lake.



Size: approx. 2.1 ha

Proximity: The site lies in very convenient proximity of the village centre, adjacent to the village primary school.

Ownership: The site comprises public footpaths and a private fishing lake. There is a track around the lake that the public are permitted to use, with informal seating areas available.

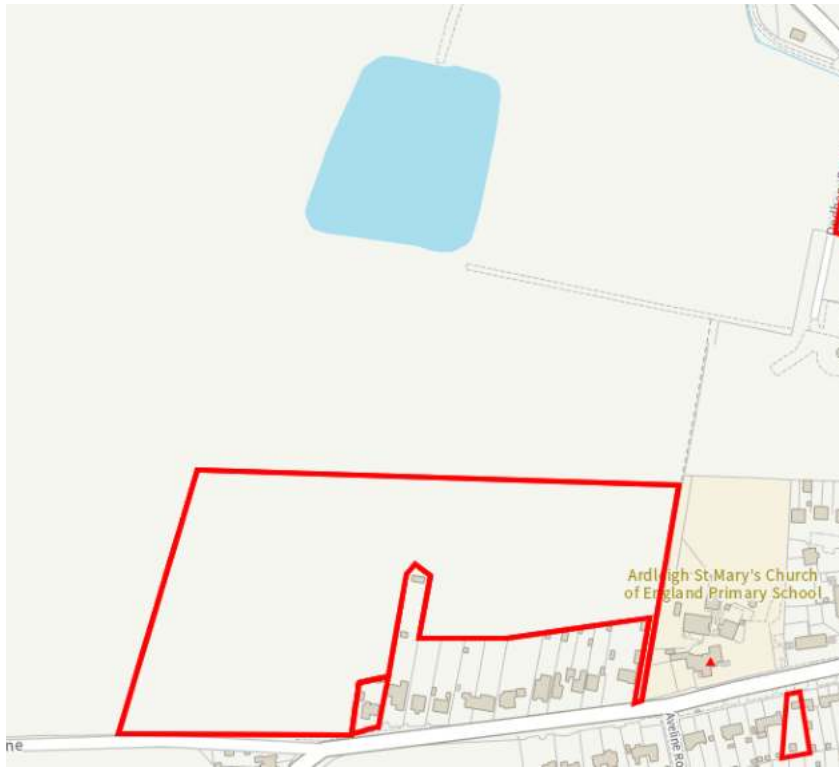
Use: This site is very well-used by residents of the village, especially dog walkers throughout the day. The fishing lake provides an ideal, tranquil location to pause and take stock. It is understood that a local club has fishing rights to the lake. Sunsets over the lake are well worth the view and many locals visit at this time to take photographs.

Existing designations: None known.

Allocations or planning consents: Multiple applications to provide a major housing scheme on part of this site plus the adjacent field have been refused by the council (and

one dismissed at appeal) in recent years.

The most recent application for 50 houses (20/00592/OUT) is currently at appeal, with a public hearing anticipated to be held towards the end of 2021.



*Site area of the 50 houses (20/00592/OUT) currently at appeal*

If the appeal succeeds, it is highly likely that the tranquility of the lake and adjacent footpaths would be spoilt and its value to the local community would be significantly diminished. It is not clear at this stage whether the public footpath would be retained or given over to vehicular traffic.

**Assessment:** The fishing lake is replete with natural features and wildlife, including reed beds, pond lilies and fish. It is densely enclosed by mature trees and vegetation which add considerably to its sense of tranquility. It is a special location where you have a real sense of being far away from people and settlement.

The footpath off Wick Lane is very pleasant, bordered on both sides by trees and vegetation. A dog waste bin is conveniently located at the entrance, supporting community use and helping to keep the space clean. The treed footpath provides a



welcome break in the built-up frontage of the road. It enables views of the open countryside beyond the settlement to be glimpsed from Colchester Road.

Based on historic maps and the condition of the public footpath sign itself, it would appear that these public rights of way have existed for at least 140 years.

Colchester Road has a built-up, suburban character and is one of the more heavily trafficked roads in Ardleigh. This space provides some welcome relief and a pleasant reminder of Ardleigh's rural character and setting, enabling glimpses of open countryside to be had by users of Colchester Road and its adjacent footpath.

Here, the sense of transition from suburbia to idyllic, open countryside is abrupt. This stark juxtaposition between settlement and country is a defining characteristic of Ardleigh's various settlement edges (e.g. at Mary Warner Road and Aveline Road).

The enviable ability of local residents to "escape" to the country within only metres of this main road should be acknowledged and preserved.

Moving towards the fishing lake, the footpaths afford pleasant views across the open field towards the built edge of Ardleigh. The generously landscaped rear gardens of the houses located here provide a very attractive edge to the village and strongly reinforce its rural character.

The wide open field in the foreground of these views reinforces the lesser (human) scale of the village to its rear, supporting it to appear as an appropriately "small and sparse settlement that is well tucked into the landscape"<sup>4</sup>. These are probably the best (public) views of Ardleigh village currently available from the surrounding rural landscape. They possess elements of the sublime.

The industrial site (P Tuckwell Ltd) located to the east is not currently intrusive. However, regard should be had to the potential for this to change.

Photos 22/07/2021 & 02/11/2021:

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<sup>4</sup> A key characteristic of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths National Character Area, as identified in the 2015 NCA Profile



Entrance to footpath off Colchester Road (note: historic footpath sign)



Pleasant pedestrian approach onto Colchester Road Beautiful rural landscape opening up within only metres of Colchester Road



Special views across the open field towards the softly landscaped village edge



The fishing lake (various dates)

Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is significant. It is located in very close proximity of the village centre and primary school. It contains facilities to support dog walking, angling, bird watching etc. It also provides a very welcome break in the built-up frontage of Colchester Road, contributing the only glimpse of open countryside available from this main road. It contains a tranquil and well looked after fishing lake that supports a variety of local wildlife and provides opportunities for the public to sit and take stock. It is used frequently throughout the day by villagers.

AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT PLANNING APPEAL AND POTENTIAL SUBSEQUENT RESERVED MATTERS PLANNING APPLICATIONS. IF THE APPEAL IS DISMISSED, CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.

UPDATE: APPEAL DISMISSED 10/02/2022. CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.



**Historic green verge, The Street/Rookery Chase (Space 17) TM054305, FOOTPATH PROW 158 2 & PROW 158 3**

Overview: Green verge located in one of the most historically significant parts of the settlement. Inter-visible with the village church. Contains impressive mature trees, affords wide views of the open countryside and provides access onto both a public footpath and public bridleway.



Size: approx. 0.08 ha

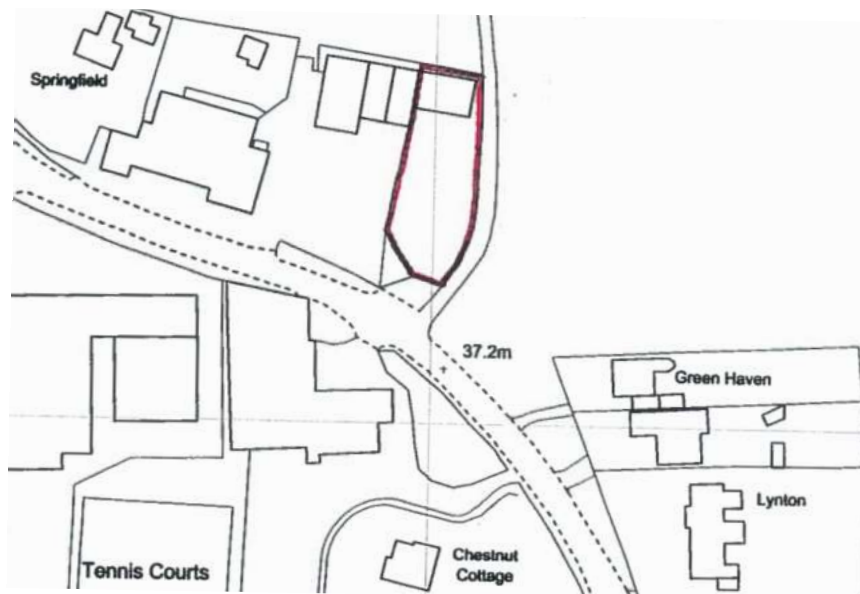
Proximity: The site lies close to the village centre, approximately 60m from the village post office and 100m from the church.

Ownership: The site is public amenity land.

Use: This site is a historic grass verge. It contains impressive mature trees, planters, street signage and a dog waste facility and supports access to the surrounding countryside via two public rights of way. It also contains a number of detracting features, including substation and utility poles.

Existing designations: Located just inside the Conservation Area, marking its northern boundary.

Allocations or planning consents: The immediate vicinity has been subject to a fair amount of modern development, including new housing. Most recently, two dwellings were approved and are currently under construction on the plot located just on the opposite side of Rookery Chase (19/00787/FUL).



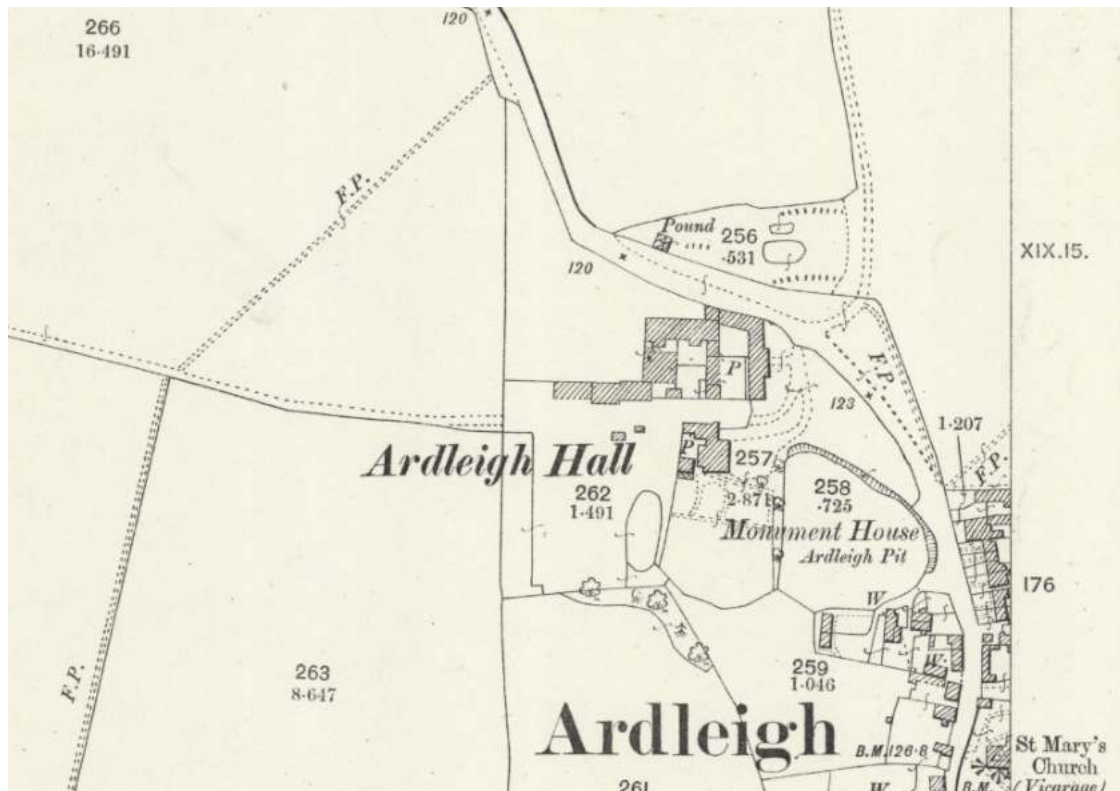
Site of the 2 dwellings under construction (19/00787/FUL)

Prior to this, consent had been granted for a new cycle cafe on the same site (18/00764/FUL). The approved cycle cafe would have provided a valuable community asset that would have improved public access to and appreciation of the adjacent green space and adjoining countryside. Unfortunately, this permission was never implemented. A similar proposal would be welcomed, provided it did not intrude into the space itself.

No planning consents have been sought to develop the space itself.

Assessment: This historic verge is located in one of the oldest parts of the settlement, in proximity of one of its former original manor houses, Ardleigh Hall (now sadly demolished and replaced with a modern housing estate) that had appeared in records as far back as the Domesday Book.

The verge provides one of the last remaining remnants of the lane's historic form and character - see verge appearing in its current form on the below 1897 OS Map:



The verge greatly assists to soften the appearance of adjacent industrial sites and provide welcome maturity to the modern housing estate located immediately across the road.

It contributes materially to the rural feel of the lane, which is significant as it provides an historic approach to the Grade II\* listed village church. There is intervisibility between the space and the church.

The largely open and undeveloped nature of the verge enables wide views to be had of the working fields beyond it, providing a picturesque rural outlook at this settlement edge that is mostly unchanged since historic times.

The verge provides a very pleasant approach onto the public footpath and bridleway located here and the presence of a dog waste bin encourages their community use and upkeep.

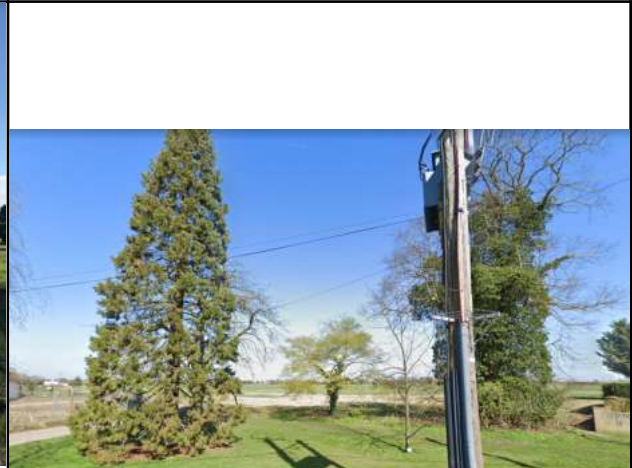
The siting of modern utility poles and substations on the land is unfortunate and detracting. Care should be taken not to exacerbate their impact and, wherever possible, opportunities to lessen their visual impact should be encouraged.



Photos 02/11/2021:



View of open countryside from the space



View of open countryside through the space



Signs and bin, with open countryside beyond



The substation and evidence of a tree removal



The church and vicarage visible from the space	View of the space from across the road
--	--

Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is significant. It is located in very close proximity of the village church, with intervisibility between the two. It contains facilities to support the community's use of the adjacent rights of way. It enables wide views to be had of the surrounding open countryside from The Street. It is of heritage significance and contributes considerably to the rural and spacious character of the streetscene.

**CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

N.B. Since the above assessment was conducted, it has come to light that this space has already been designated as a Local Green Space in the Tendring District Local Plan Section 2. Consequently, there is no need to designate it in the Neighbourhood Plan -

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

### **Harwich Road Allotments (Space 24) TM058295**

Overview: private allotments used by local residents to grow vegetables, flowers and keep poultry. Some produce grown here is sold to the local community.



Size: approx. 0.6 ha

Proximity: Accessible from the heart of Ardleigh village via continuous footpaths within approx. 3 minutes.

Ownership: The land is in private ownership. It is open to paid membership by the public (?)

Use: This land is used as allotments. It is believed that these are the only allotments currently available in the parish? It is bordered by the village cemetery on one side and historic glebe land on the other.

Existing designations: Located just outside of but adjacent to the Conservation Area.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: This is a functional parcel of land that provides a valuable facility to local

residents, enabling them to grow their own food/plants and keep animals.

The allotments are small in size and are believed to be at capacity. The lack of any other allotments in the parish renders the community value of this space all the more significant. They are important to retain, especially given modern concerns over food security and supply issues.

The allotments have an agricultural character and assist to preserve the rural qualities of this important approach to the village (located just before the village sign).

The individual allotments themselves are tidy and well cared for. However, communal parts of the site appear to be used as dumping grounds which is unfortunate and should be remediated. The site's boundary hedgerows do provide an effective screen of its less attractive parts.





The impressive mature trees of the neighbouring cemetery tower over the site, greatly enhancing the character and enjoyment of the space. The fields and historic glebe land located to the immediate north and east similarly assist to root the allotments firmly in their countryside context, in spite of the proximity of Harwich Road.

The boundary hedgerows make a material positive contribution towards the character and qualities of this section of Harwich Road, as well as providing a visual and acoustic buffer. This is especially true in the summer months.

It is also commonplace in the summer months for produce to be placed at the site entrance for sale.

Photos 02/11/2021:



	
<p>The allotments</p>	<p>Produce for sale on the pavement</p>
	
<p>Trees in the neighbouring cemetery</p>	<p>Parts of the site could be better maintained</p>

Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is moderate. It is not open to all members of the public which diminishes its value. However, it contains the only allotments in the parish and this makes its retention all the more important. It is also prominently located on the approach to Ardleigh along Harwich Road. Its community-focused, land-based, low-impact use is highly appropriate to the locality and makes it an ideal neighbour to the village cemetery.

CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.

### **Glebe Corner Land on Harwich Road (Space 23) TM058295**

Overview: former glebe land (attached to the village church) now in the ownership of Essex County Council



Size: approx. 0.9 ha

Proximity: Accessible from the heart of Ardleigh village via continuous footpaths within approx. 3 minutes.

Ownership: The land is in the ownership of Essex County Council.

Use: This land has been left uncultivated for many years. It appears as rough grassland and is bordered by dense and mature hedgerows of some quality.

Existing designations: None known.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: Although the site is not open to the public, it provides an important landscape function, marking the unofficial “entrance” to Ardleigh from the east where it serves to signpost the rural character of the forthcoming settlement.

It appears as “Glebe Corner” on maps dating back to at least the late 19th Century. During this earlier period, there did not appear to be any physical separation between



the church’s cemetery and glebe corner. The dwellings that remain to be located some 100 or so metres to the south-east (adjacent the railway line) appeared as Glebe Cottages at that time. Accordingly, the retention of this land parcel provides an evocative reminder of the ecclesiastical origins of this part of the parish.

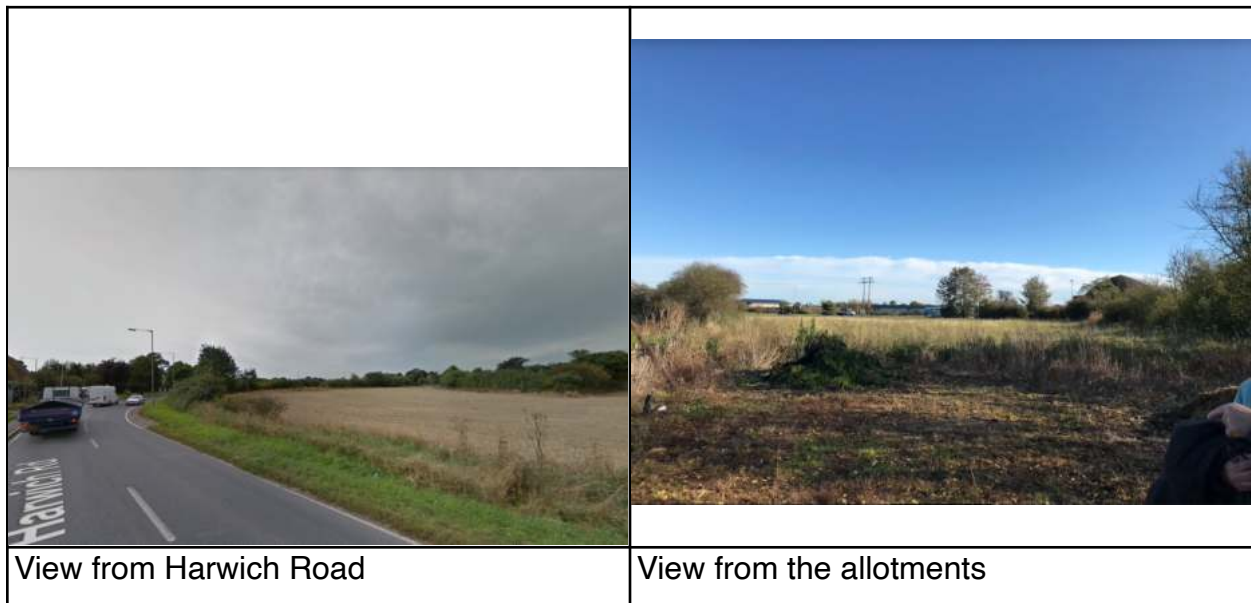
The site’s boundary hedgerows also provide a material positive contribution towards the rural character and qualities of this section of Harwich Road. This is especially true in the summer months.

The open and undeveloped qualities of the space assist to preserve the tranquility and countryside character of the adjacent allotments and cemetery.

As the site has been left to grow wild, it is likely to be of some value to biodiversity and appears to support an abundance of butterflies and bees.

If the County Council has no use for the land, it would provide an ideal location for new allotments.

Photos 02/11/2021:



Conclusion: The site is of clear community value. It performs an important and long-standing landscape function and its insensitive development or alteration would permanently and significantly erode the well-preserved rural character of this prominent and well-used approach to the settlement. It also supports local biodiversity and has

clear heritage value, providing an evocative reminder of the ecclesiastical origins of this part of the settlement.

**CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

### **Land adjacent village car park (Space 22) TM054296**

Overview: gently undulating grassed space in the Conservation Area containing mature trees and providing a buffer between the village car park and the modern housing estate to its rear. Cut through by a well-used pedestrian pathway.



Size: approx. 0.12 ha

Proximity: Right at the heart of the village.

Ownership: Public amenity land.

Use: This land is located adjacent the village's public car park, itself located across from the historic village church. It contains a well-used pedestrian pathway that connects Station Road to the Church View housing estate. Children are frequently seen playing here.

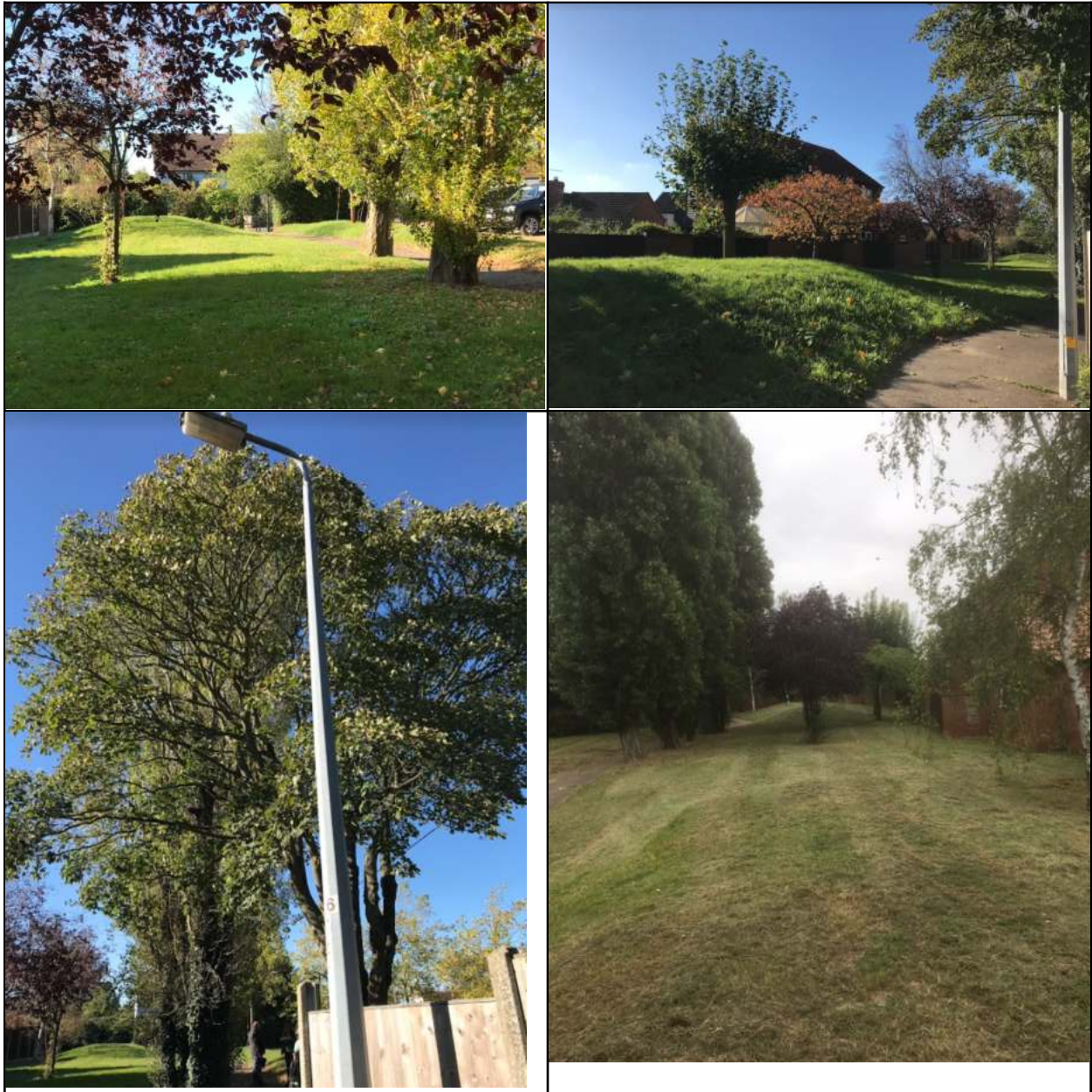
Existing designations: Located at the heart of the Conservation Area.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: This land contains a number of impressive, mature trees and makes a material positive contribution towards the sylvan character of this most significant part of the Conservation Area. It assists to soften the appearance of the prominently located public car park.

It also provides a valued informal recreational space to residents of the local area. It appeared to be well-used.

Photos 02/11/2021:



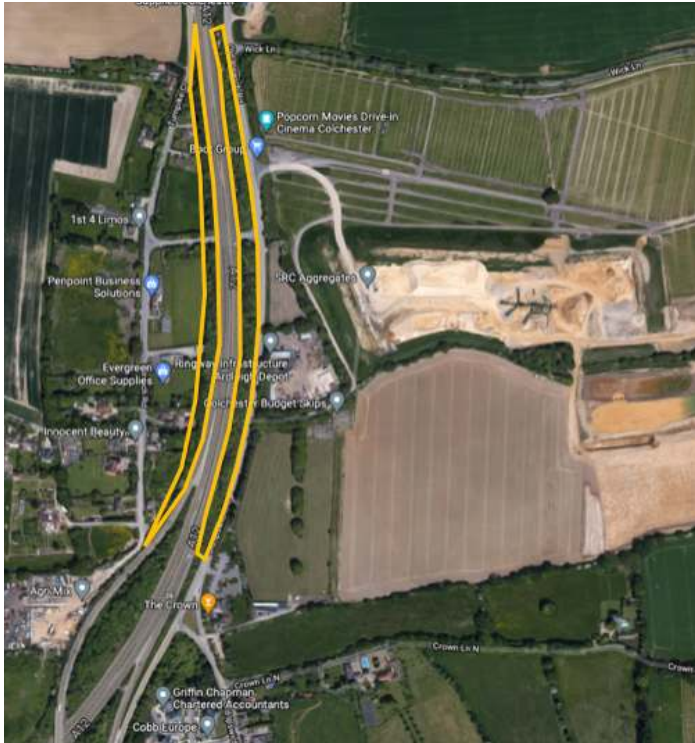
Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is significant. It supports movement, recreation and wildlife. It contributes materially towards the positive sylvan qualities of this most important part of the Conservation Area.



CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.

**A12 buffers (Space 19) TM024295**

Overview: vegetation buffers either side of the A12 where it passes through Ardleigh parish.



Size: approx. 2.2 ha

Proximity: At the very edge of the parish boundary, running alongside the A12.

Ownership: It is believed that the land is in the ownership of Essex County Council as the Highways Authority.

Use: This land contains a mixture of semi mature native trees (including hawthorn, Scots pine, oak, holly), shrubs (including gorse, wild rose, brambles) and flowers (including lady's bedstraw, wild parsnip, ragwort). It provides a vital acoustic and visual barrier to the major road.

Existing designations: None known.

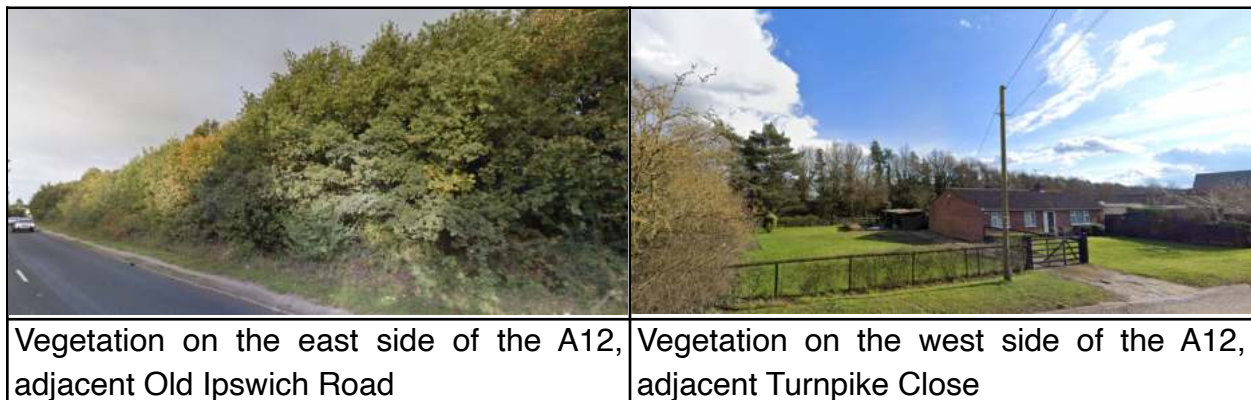
Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: The section of the A12 that passes through Ardleigh has the historic Old Ipswich Road on its eastern side and an area of housing located in close proximity on its western side. Consequently, its generously and densely vegetated buffers perform an invaluable function, significantly reducing the perceived intrusion of the major road.

That being said, vegetated buffers of this nature are a common feature of most parts of the A12 in Essex.

Considering the very important functions these buffers provide (containing the noise, pollution and visual impact of the trunk road) and their very close proximity to the A12, it is highly unlikely that there would ever be pressure to remove the vegetation or develop the land for other purposes.

Photos (Google Streetview):



For comparative purposes, the below similar sections of the A12 pass through Colchester Borough and Dedham Parish:





A12 in Colchester	A12 in Dedham
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Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is limited. Although the buffers provide valuable containment of the A12, they fall short of being “demonstrably special” as local green spaces. They are not unique to Ardleigh and their beauty, tranquility and value to wildlife is diminished by their proximity to the trunk road. They do not provide opportunities for public access or recreation. Their long-term retention would be expected, in any case, given the important function they provide and the lack of alternative uses.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

### **Woodlands attached to Birch Wood (Spaces 8 & 12) TM032304, TM033304**

Overview: two small plots of woodland physically attached to the ancient Birch Wood, providing a significant contribution to the special rural character of the lane and supporting a rich variety of wildlife.



Size: approx. 2 ha (together).

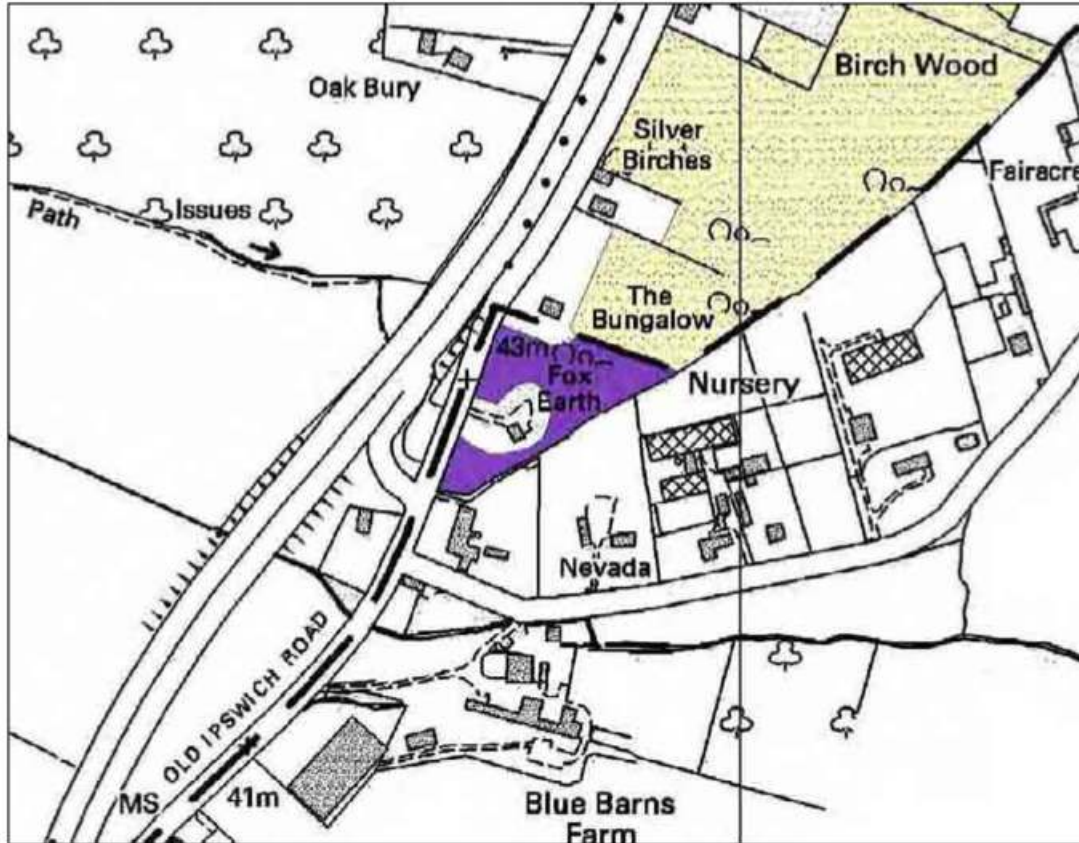
Proximity: Located in the north of the parish along Hart's Lane, a historic lane with a special rural character. It supports a mix of agricultural, residential and retail/community uses.

The woodlands directly abut the northernmost boundary of the parish. Only a small part of Birch Wood is within the parish, with the remainder located in Colchester Borough.

Ownership: Private.

Use: Two dense plots of woodland, appearing as natural extensions of Birch Wood. It is unclear whether the land is currently managed, however its trees appear to be of some maturity and good quality.

Existing designations: The land itself is undesignated. However, the adjacent Birch Wood is a Local Wildlife Site:



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**Te2 Birch Wood (0.7 ha) TM 028303**

Only a small triangular section of this ancient wood lies within Tendring District, the majority being in Colchester Borough (Site Co151). The canopy is dominated by Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), with some Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and coppiced Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). The understorey is typified by Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and locally frequent Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) over a ground cover of mainly Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) with Greater Stitchwort (*Stellaria holostea*) and Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) round the edges.

In common with the rest of Birch Wood, this site is suffering from long-term piecemeal conversion into garden space for the adjacent properties, with deleterious effects on the integrity of the wood as a whole.

**Selection criteria:** HCr1(a)

**BAP Priority Habitats:** Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland (UK); Ancient Woodland (Essex)

**Date of selection:** 1991

**Date of last revision:** December 2008

Policy PPL4 of the Local Plan protects LoWS from development likely to have an adverse impact on the site or any of its special features. All new development affecting LoWS must be supported by an appropriate ecological assessment. Harmful new development will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where the benefits demonstrably outweigh the harm caused and where adequate mitigation or - as a last

resort - compensation measures are included.

Allocations or planning consents: None. However, it is noted in the Local Wildlife Site Assessment (above) that Birch Wood as a whole is suffering from long-term, piecemeal conversion into garden space for surrounding dwellings.

Assessment: Hart's Lane has a special rural character. It is a historic, tree-lined lane, with the canopies of trees reaching up and over the road in places. It has been subject to only very limited modern development. Built development is typically unobtrusive and, where it is prominent in views, tends to possess a high-quality, traditional local character. On the whole, this is a historic route where the local landscape character truly dominates.

This is especially true of the section of Hart's Lane where the woodlands are located. Here, the lane has an exceptionally timeless and beautiful character to which the woodlands contribute significantly. The woodlands provide the immediate setting to Clarkes Farmhouse (Grade II listed) and its traditional outbuildings which have considerable presence in the streetscene (see below images).

In the spring and summer months, the woods feature an abundance of wildflowers which are prominent in views from the road.

In common with the wider Birch Wood, these sites provide substantial support for local wildlife, including deer, bats, owls, badgers, birds of prey and foxes. These creatures are regularly witnessed by local residents.

Photos (& Google Streetview):





*Woodlands (right) provide a substantial positive contribution to streetscene composition & setting of listed building*





*Woodlands add materially to the timeless, verdant character of the lane*

Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is significant. It contributes substantially to the special verdant and timeless character of this section of the historic Hart's Lane. It also provides an invaluable habitat for local wildlife which is regularly witnessed by residents of the local area.

CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.

**Land Settlement Association footpath (Space 1) TM071303, FOOTPATH PROW158\_26**

Overview: footpath passing through former Land Settlement Association plots, still used for horticultural purposes today.



Size: approx. 0.3 ha

Proximity: The site lies on the eastern edge of the parish. It is accessible to the few residents of Hungerdown Lane. Although the footpath continues north to meet Harwich Road, the remainder lies in the neighbouring Lawford parish.

Ownership: Public footpath.

Use: Public footpath passing through the former Foxash Land Settlement Association plots.

The Land Settlement Association plots are of historic significance. LSAs were a national scheme of co-operative smallholdings set up in the 1930s to combat widespread



unemployment. Approximately 20 LSAs were delivered across England, with former miners and shipbuilders travelling from the north to begin lives as market gardeners.

The Foxash LSA contained approximately 90 smallholdings, each providing a house, piggery, glasshouse and 4 acres of land. The scheme was wound up in the 1980s, however some of the smallholders remained to form their own co-operative - Foxash Growers Ltd - which continues to produce today.

Existing designations: None known.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: The footpath enables some public views to be had of the area's ongoing commercial horticultural practices, including its modern, large-scale polytunnels.

However, it does not afford any special insight into the historic use or working of the land as an LSA. It is likely that the section of the footpath closer to Harwich Road may have more significance in this respect, but this lies outside of the parish boundary.

Aside from its modest heritage value, the footpath possesses few features of merit. It also passes in very close proximity of a private residence and views of the wider landscape are curtailed by trees and large-scale horticultural development.

Photos 02/11/2021:



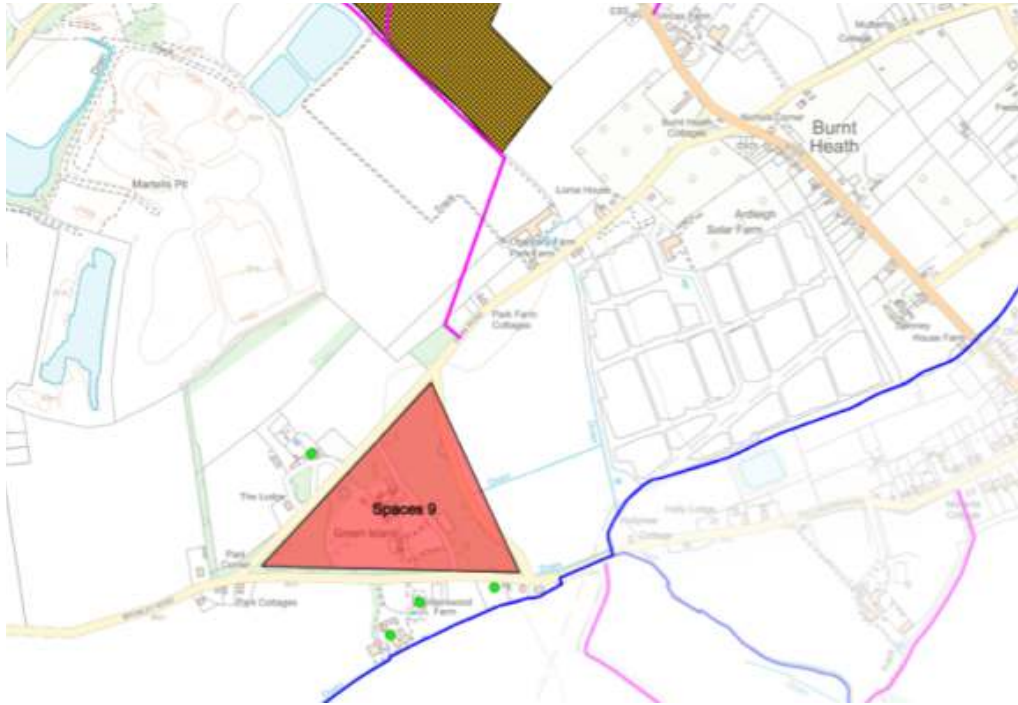
Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is limited. Although the

footpath lies in an area with clear historic significance, it is not reasonably considered to provide much insight into this. It does not possess any other features or characteristics of special significance and it is only conveniently accessible to a small portion of the parish.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

### **Green Island Gardens (Space 9) TM56273**

Overview: Former plantation now private landscaped gardens, open to the public for a fee.



Size: approx. 8 ha

Proximity: The site lies in very close proximity of the parish's southernmost boundary. It is connected to the heart of Ardleigh village via a continuous network of footpaths, although the journey is likely to take around 30 minutes on foot. This natural site's relative distance from the parish's main point of settlement has no doubt contributed towards its long-term preservation.

Ownership: Private. Public access is possible for a fee.

Use: Private landscaped gardens open to visitors. Also containing a plant nursery, cafe and other facilities. Special events venue. Disabled access is provided.

Existing designations: None known, however there are four separate listed buildings in close proximity.

Allocations or planning consents: None.



Assessment: Historically, the site was Ardleigh Park Plantation. It was likely owned and managed in connection with the nearby manor, named Ardleigh Park, which is now a Grade II listed building.

There are further listed buildings to the immediate south and the site provides a very positive contribution towards their setting.

It is believed that the site was first planted as woodland around the turn of the 20th Century. Unfortunately, the great storm of 1987 destroyed most of its oak trees.

Nonetheless, it is likely to retain some old trees and its overall form and character does not appear to have changed significantly since its appearance on the below 1898 OS map:



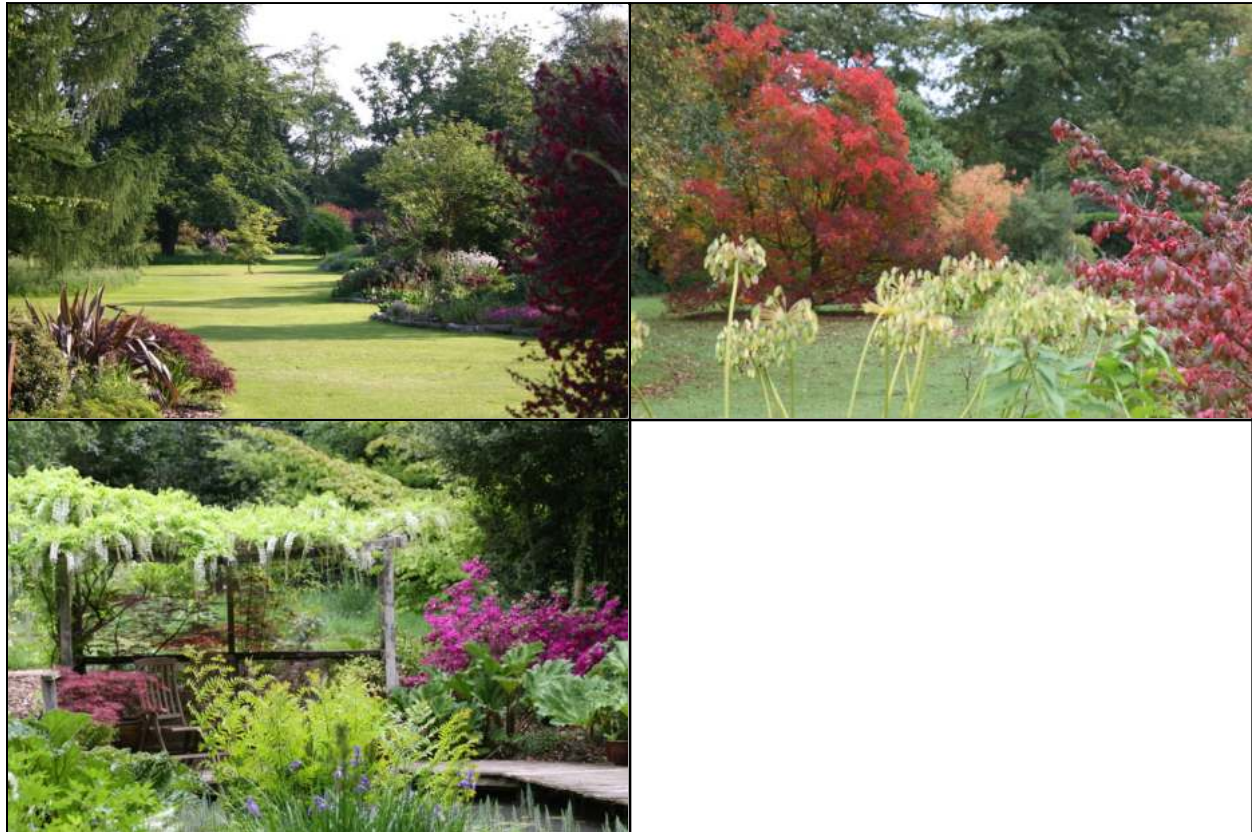
Consequently, the site is considered to be of evident heritage significance.

It also contains an exceptional variety of plant and animal life, contributing to a unique microclimate. It additionally supports a range of recreational and educational activities,

albeit for a fee.

The current owner is a horticultural specialist and so the site is something of a hub for plant knowledge - locals go here for identification of plant species and advice on their care.

Photos provided by the landowner:

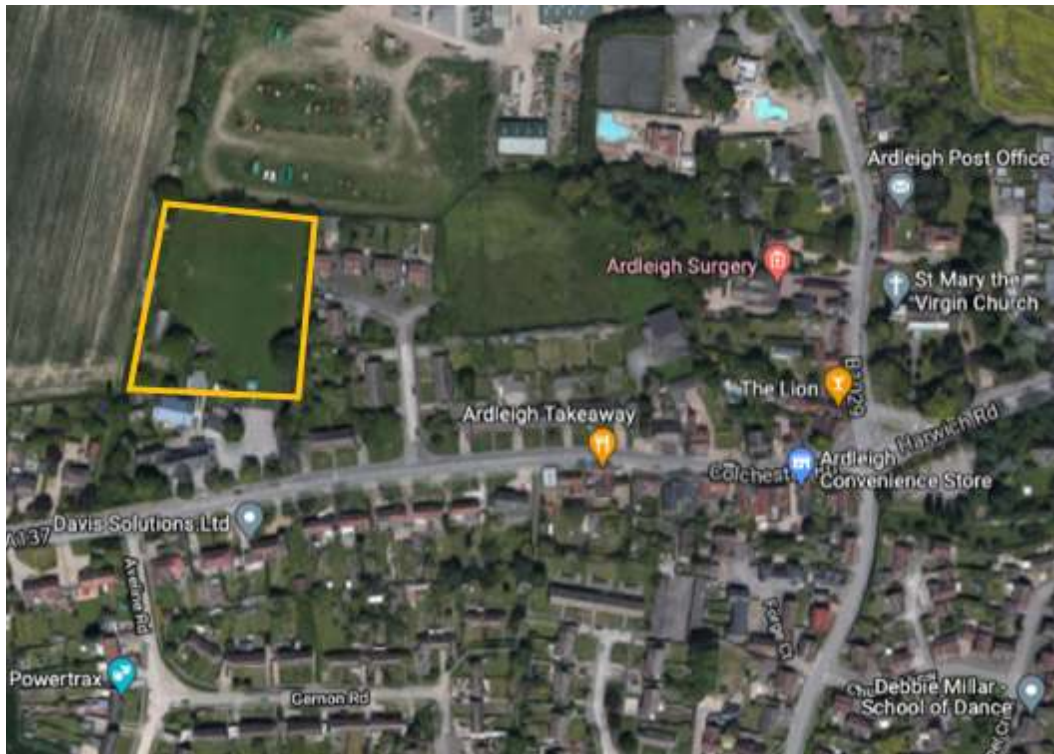


Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is significant. Although public access requires payment of a fee, the site would be considered special even if access were more limited. It is of considerable heritage, landscape and wildlife value.

**CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

## **School playing field (Space 25) TM051295**

Overview: Grassed playing field attached to the village primary school.



Size: approx. 0.3 ha

Proximity: At the heart of Ardleigh village.

Ownership: State school.

Use: Attached and used in conjunction with the primary school.

Existing designations: None known.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: This space is just visible from the road, appearing as a typical school playing field to the rear of a large courtyard. It makes no particular contribution to the character or appearance of the streetscene.

As a grass pitch, it offers little in the way of wildlife or landscape value.



In terms of recreational value, this is mainly limited to its use by students of the school. It is understood that the site is also used to host occasional fetes and other events.

The primary value of the land lies in what it contributes towards meeting the needs of the primary school and its students. It should be capable of rapid and varied adaptation should these needs change - this would weigh against its suitability as a local green space.

Photos 02/11/2021:



*Grass playing field at rear*

Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community as a whole is limited. Designation is unlikely to serve a useful purpose.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**



## **Hart's Lane apple orchard (Space 13) TM041305, FOOTPATH PROW158\_23**

Overview: apple orchard with short public footpath through.



Size: approx. 2 ha

Proximity: The site lies in the north of the parish at the junction between Hart's Lane and Malting Farm Lane. There is a smattering of residential properties in the vicinity, however the footpath can only be reached by road, with no separate pedestrian access.

Ownership: The orchard is in private ownership. A public footpath passes along its boundary.

Use: The site is in working agricultural use as an apple orchard.

Existing designations: None known.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

However, in 2017 permission was granted for the change of use of c. 0.75 ha of the

once larger orchard to residential garden land (17/00741/FUL). As a result of this application, the public footpath no longer passes through the orchard. It now has the orchard on its south side and residential garden land on its north.

The orchard formerly located on the south side of Hart's Lane was permitted to change its use to an equestrian gallop in 2018 (17/02090/FUL).



*Hart's Lane's orchards, c 2010*



*Hart's Lane's last remaining orchard, c. 2018*

Assessment: This space comprises the last remaining veteran fruit orchard on Hart's Lane. It is understood that fruit orchards have been a feature of this locality for multiple generations ?

Around 10 years ago, there was some c. 8 ha of apple orchards located on both the south and north sides of the lane. The vast majority of this land has now been lost to residential and equestrian uses. This c. 2 ha space is all that presently remains of this historic, beautiful and wildlife-friendly local land use.

The Woodland Trust identifies fruit orchards of this scale and nature to be "biodiverse hotspots". Their widespread destruction over the last 70 years (due to changing farming practices) has caused a substantial loss of suitable habitats for local wildlife. The Woodland Trust is working alongside its partners and local communities to plant new orchards.

The land is of evident historic, wildlife and landscape value. Its densely vegetated boundaries also make a material positive contribution to the special rural character of Hart's Lane. The presence of a well-trodden public footpath also indicates that it has recreational value to residents of the locality.

The unfortunate loss of all of Hart's Lane's other veteran orchards in modern times renders the retention of this last remaining apple orchard all the more important. If lost, it is unlikely to be replaced.

Photos:





Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is significant. It provides the last remaining clue as to the predominant historic land use of this area. It has evident beauty and value to wildlife and the local landscape character. The presence of a public footpath supports its appreciation by the local community - here, there is a sense that time has stood still.

**CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**



### **Malting Farm Lane footpath (Space 14) TM042308, PROW 158\_43**

Overview: Footpath leading up to the northernmost boundary of the parish.



Size: approx. 0.1 ha

Proximity: The site lies at the northernmost parish boundary, in proximity of a smattering of dwellings.

Ownership: Public footpath.

Use: Public footpath used by local residents for recreation and access on to Dedham (Lamb Corner).

Existing designations: None known.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: This is a short section of footpath leading to the parish's northern boundary. It connects to another footpath in the neighbouring parish of Dedham which

terminates at Birchwood Road.

The footpath proceeds along the full length of the curtilage of Devon House, at which point impressive views of the agricultural landscape beyond Ardleigh open up.

The tree-lined footpath is pleasant, although the domestic character of the adjacent site is apparent with, for example, sections of close-boarded fencing lining the route in places.

The landscape views afforded by the footpath are what makes this space special. The footpath's vegetation frames the view towards Dedham, providing a natural "doorway" between the two places. Travelling from Dedham, this provides an almost fantastical sense of transition from a large-scale open landscape to an intimate woodland alcove. It is certainly a special entrance to the parish.

However, it is noted that the special landscape views on offer here are of land in Dedham parish rather than Ardleigh. It is unlikely, therefore, that designation of any part of the footpath located in Ardleigh would assist to preserve or enhance these special views.

Photos 02/11/2021:





Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is moderate. It is not subject to significant use by parish residents but it does offer special landscape views and provides a very pleasant sense of transition between the historic parishes of Ardleigh and Dedham.

However, the special views concern land that is outside of Ardleigh's ownership, located instead in the neighbouring parish of Dedham. Consequently, designation of this space is unlikely to serve any useful or practical purpose.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

### **Lodge Lane verges (Space 18) TM04093**

Overview: grass verges either side of Lodge Lane, near Ardleigh Reservoir.



Size: approx. 0.2 ha (together).

Proximity: Located next to Ardleigh Reservoir, approximately 700m west of Ardleigh village's boundary.

Ownership: It is believed that the land is in the ownership of Essex County Council as the Highways Authority.

Use: Two generous highway verges featuring grass and boundary vegetation. Reported to be used by locals for fishing and birdwatching. Evidence of use for car parking.

Existing designations: None known.

Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: The generous grass verges certainly contribute towards the pleasant rural



character of the lane. However, they are far from exceptional in the rural context of Ardleigh. Verges of similar or greater quality are a frequent feature of the parish (see, for example, verges along Frating Road, Dedham Road, Bromley Road, Chapel Lane etc.).

It is also noted that public access to the reservoir from the verge is prohibited. Some views of the reservoir from the space are possible but interrupted by the intervening vegetation.

It is considered that far clearer views of the reservoir are available nearby from the Wick Lane bridge, whilst more tranquil views can be had from space 5 (see assessment below).

Due to its positioning adjacent two roads, the space is unlikely to provide much sanctuary for wildlife or many opportunities to witness it.

Overall, the space is considered to fall short of being “demonstrably special” to the local community.

Photos 02/11/2021 (and Google Streetview):



*The two verges, viewed from Wick Lane*



*Turnstile onto the reservoir - signs prohibit public access*



Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is modest. Its value for recreation and wildlife is reduced as a result of its roadside positioning. It provides no access to the reservoir and there are clearer and more tranquil views of this feature available in close proximity. Although it appears to provide a convenient parking facility to locals, this is likely to further diminish its value as a green space.

**DO NOT CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.**

### **Land adjacent Ardleigh Reservoir (Space 5) TM042292, PROW 158\_20**

Overview: Land crossed by a public footpath, affording special scenic views of the reservoir and adjacent, enclosed rural landscape.



Size: approx. 2.5 ha.

Proximity: Located next to Ardleigh Reservoir, approximately 500m west of Ardleigh village's boundary.

Ownership: Private. Public access via the public footpath.

Use: The land is in two parts. Firstly, the wooded buffer to Ardleigh Reservoir. Secondly, an agricultural field adjacent Prettyfields Vineyard. Access across the two is provided by the public footpath.

The space is subject to frequent use by the local community for recreational purposes, including walking and birdwatching.

Existing designations: None known.



Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: This space is special because it showcases a variety of the parish's most significant and positive features within a compact area. This includes the reservoir, woodlands and vineyard, which - viewed together - paint a very vibrant picture of modern life in Ardleigh.

The reservoir is probably the most significant and recognisable feature in the Ardleigh landscape. Unfortunately, opportunities for public access to it are very limited. This space provides the closest public access to the water in all of Ardleigh (away from roads) and so is cherished by the local community. Close to the water's edge, the enclosure provided by trees creates a sense of tranquility and remoteness, in spite of the proximity to the road.

The adjacent vineyard is a bustling and well-reputed local employer and local attraction, offering refreshments, tours, workshops and events etc. The site is frequently decorated for the season (see below, 2021 Halloween installation), to the delight of local children.

Views within the space are curtailed by mature, densely planted boundary trees which provide a sense of enclosure and intimacy.

This variety of high-quality habitats means that the space has considerable value to local wildlife. Deer are frequently witnessed in the woods and there is an abundance of birdlife.

Photos 02/11/2021:





*Views of the water from the edge of the footpath*



*View of the vineyard's 2021 Halloween installation*



*Treed enclosure*

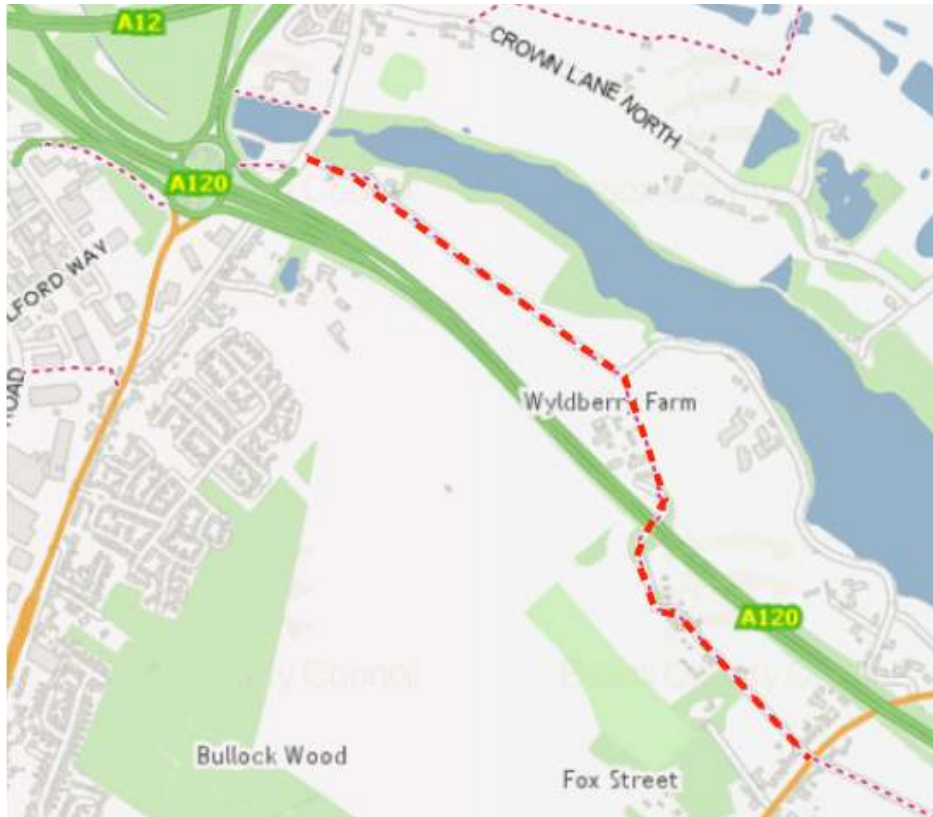
Conclusion: The value of this site to the local community is very significant. It provides the best available public access to the reservoir and showcases a variety of Ardleigh’s special landscape features.

CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.



**Footpath connecting Fox Street to Old Ipswich Road (Space 11) TM0030277, FOOTPATH PROW 158 14**

Overview: Public footpath of c. 1.5km in length, crossing the A120 just south of Ardleigh Reservoir.



Size: approx. 0.5 ha

Proximity: Located towards the south-western edge of the parish. The footpath connects Fox Street to Old Ipswich Road, passing over the A120 and running parallel to the reservoir.

Ownership: Public footpath.

Use: The footpath provides a functional pedestrian route between these two parts of the parish. It is well-used by commuters. The footpath is also used by vehicles accessing certain agricultural and industrial sites.

Existing designations: None known.



Allocations or planning consents: None.

Assessment: The footpath comprises a hard-surfaced track with an agricultural character. It passes by a number of agricultural/industrial sites and over the busy A120.

The bridge above the A120 affords some pleasant, elevated views of the Ardleigh landscape but the experience of these is greatly dampened by the noise and urban intrusion caused by the road below. Beyond the A120, exceptional views of the reservoir can be had.

Due to its hard-surfaced nature and general lack of natural features, the footpath is not reasonably considered to comprise a green space.

Photos 02/11/2021:



*View of footpath from Harwich Road (Fox Street)*



*View of footpath from Old Ipswich Road*



*View of footpath from A120*



*Landscape view from the bridge above the A120*

Conclusion: The footpath provides a valuable function to the local community, however it is not reasonably understood to comprise a green space.

DO NOT CARRY FORWARD AS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE.

## Stage 4: Community consultation

Once the field assessments had been conducted and the resultant shortlist of sites had been prepared, community consultation was conducted.

A draft version of this assessment document - detailing the results of all stages of the assessment process - was produced. The document was made public on the Parish Council's website and also promoted via social media (such as Facebook) and in the Ardleigh Advertiser. Residents were encouraged to provide their feedback using an online form, available via the same link as the draft assessment document. The questions also appeared in the Ardleigh Advertiser, enabling residents to respond by post.

Residents were asked multiple questions including whether they supported or objected to the designation of any of the sites. Their comments were also sought on the site's values (i.e. historic, recreational, wildlife etc.) and residents were encouraged to report their own experience/s of the sites.

Letters were also sent directly to the landowners of the sites (copy at Appendix C), with the same questions posed.

In total, 8 responses were received, including responses from landowners of the following sites:

- Space 3 - objects;
- Space 4 - objects;
- Space 5 - objects;
- Spaces 8 & 12 - objects; and
- Space 9 - supports.

The responses of local residents were mainly positive, with just 1 public objection to the proposed designation of space 3 on the ground that this would be "useful for new housing".

In respect of the landowner objections, it is evident that many of the concerns are based on a misunderstanding of Local Green Space designation and its purpose/implications. For example, concerns were raised about designation opening up private sites (or parts of sites) to indiscriminate public access (which it would not).



Where relevant, the Parish Council has responded to the comments and concerns raised by both landowners and the general public. This has included clarifying the reasons for a site's proposed designation and alleviating any undue landowner concerns (e.g. around public access and constraints on future development).

Ultimately, it is not considered that any of the consultation responses indicate a need to reassess any sites or amend any of the site assessments contain herein. Nor do they provide any compelling reason to discount any of the shortlisted sites.

The table at Appendix B provides a summary of the various landowner and third party representations plus the Parish Council's response to the key concerns raised by each party.

## Stage 5: Outcomes

The table below provides the outcome for each site at both Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the assessment process. All those sites that passed Stage 2 assessment (desktop) moved forward to Stage 3 assessment (field). All of those sites that passed Stage 3 assessment were then subject to stage 4 - community and landowner consultation.

Once careful account was taken of all consultation responses, it was determined that there was no need to discount any of the shortlisted sites. Therefore, it is proposed that all of those sites that passed Stage 3 assessment will be carried forward for designation in the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Stage 2 (Desktop)</u>	<u>Stage 3 (Field)</u>
Space 1 LSA footpath	PASS	FAIL
Space 2 Crop marks SAM	FAIL (already protected)	N/A
Space 3 Fishing lake	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Space 4 Field south of Mary Warner Estate	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Space 5 Reservoir land	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Space 6 Churn Wood	FAIL (already protected)	
Space 7 Manor House Meadow	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Spaces 8 & 12 (combine) Woodlands attached to Birch Wood	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Space 9 Green Island Gardens	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Space 10 Wall's Wood	FAIL	N/A
Space 11 Footpath over A12	PASS	FAIL
Space 13 Hart's Lane orchard	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Space 14 Malting Farm Lane footpath	PASS	FAIL
*Miscount, no Space 15	-	-

Space 16 POS for new reservoir	FAIL (space not constructed)	N/A
Space 17 The Street verge	PASS	FAIL, ALREADY PROTECTED
Space 18 Lodge Lane verges	PASS	FAIL
Space 19 A12 buffers	PASS	FAIL
Space 20 Bullock Wood	FAIL (already protected)	N/A
Space 21 footpath new reservoir	FAIL (reservoir not constructed)	N/A
Space 22 car park land	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Space 23 Glebe Corner land	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Space 24 Harwich Rd allotments	PASS	CARRY FORWARD
Space 25 School field	PASS	FAIL

### Conclusion

It is proposed to designate the following 10 sites as Local Green Spaces in the Ardleigh Neighbourhood Plan:

- Space 3 Fishing lake
- Space 4 Field south of Mary Warner Estate
- Space 5 Reservoir land
- Space 7 Manor House Meadow
- Spaces 8 & 12 (combine) Woodlands attached to Birch Wood
- Space 9 Green Island Gardens
- Space 13 Hart's Lane orchard
- Space 22 car park land
- Space 23 Glebe Corner land
- Space 24 Harwich Rd allotments.

## Appendix A: Completed desktop assessments

<b>Site reference(s)</b>	Space 23, Glebe Corner Land on Harwich Road [Map TM058295]	<b>Brief overview</b>	Glebe Corner Land (0.956 hectares) owned by ECC. This is a corner field on the edge of the village that has been left uncultivated for many years.	<b>Historic value</b>	This corner field has been owned by Essex County Council for many years and has been left to go wild. It has a rich ecclesiastical history as former glebe land and makes a firmly positive contribution to the setting of the church and cemetery	<b>Wildlife value</b>	The field has rewilded and turned to rough grassland, with many young oak trees growing among the grass. Due to its wild nature there are butterflies and bees in abundance. The hedgerow alongside the road contains mature trees.	<b>Recreational value</b>	It is a wild grassland at the moment but has potential for community uses: e.g. cemetery extension, allotment expansion	<b>Landscape value</b>	Glebe Corner Land is on the edge of the village and provides an open vista across the field and allotment towards the start of the village. It contributes positively towards the rural landscape approach to Ardleigh
		<b>Level of use</b>	Viewed by all motorists entering Ardleigh from the east (Harwich Road/A137)	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	There is potential for this piece of land to be used commercially by Essex County Council.	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	This is close to the village centre within easy walking distance. Approximately 60m	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	This is not an extensive tract of land. The whole site is approx 0.9 ha.	<b>Existing designations</b>	None known



Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 10, Wall's Wood circular route [Map TM043269, footpath ref. PROW 158_47. TM043270 footpath ref. PROW158_18 TM042271 footpath ref. PROW158_17 TM039266 footpath ref. PROW158_16 TM039261 footpath ref. PROW158_37 TM39261 footpath ref. PROW158_35]	Ancient wood encircled by a footpath network easily accessible to most residents of Crockleford Heath. Lots of local wildlife. A number of footpaths running through old orchards and woods, notably Churn wood and the woodland running along Spring Valley between the two mills, Crockleford Mill and Spring Valley Mill. Other paths run through historic orchards, all of which have been removed in recent years and returned to meadow land.	Ancient wood	The woodland and surrounding fields, hedges and ditches provide a valuable habitat for flora and fauna.	The network of footpaths is enjoyed by the wider community and provided a means of meeting and enjoying the local wildlife habitats. It is very local in character, forming a natural link in the small hamlet of Crockleford, passing by most of the households in the community.	There are views across extensive farm land and out towards the University. It provides views across fields and onto ancient woodlands.
Level of use	Allocations or planning permissions	Reasonably close?	Not an extensive tract of land?	Existing designations	
The listed network of paths are a vital part of Community life in Crockleford Heath providing an opportunity to walk for approximately 1 hour, taking in beautiful areas such as Wall's Wood (Te6), Churn Wood (Te5), Chapel Lane (Te7). The paths are also accessed by residents of Colchester, living in the Greenstead and Welshwood areas.	The whole area is allocated to become part of the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community and therefore deemed to be under maximum threat from development.	These Footpaths are all within the Hamlet of Crockleford Heath and within walking distance of all the local habitations. The centre of Ardleigh is less than 3KM from the centre of Crockleford Heath	c. 11.5 ha - likely to be considered extensive	Local Wildlife Sites Te 5-7: Churn Wood Meadow, Churn Wood, Walls Wood and Chapel Lane Verge.	

Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 17, Historic green verge, The Street/Rookery Chase [Map TM054305, footpath ref. PROW 158_2]	Verge leading to bridleway from the village centre, contains mature trees, provides views over fields, well-used pedestrian alternative to the road	The verge is a historic feature of the steetscene and provides a good view of the village and Church	Some	It is very close to the village centre. Often used by walkers, horse riders and dog walkers. It provides a safe route for anyone walking to the village from Dedham Road/Malting Farm Lane area, instead of walking beside the busy Dedham Road where there is no pavement. Verge is highly visible in views from the road which is well used	It is in character with the local area, surrounded by agricultural fields and provides extensive views across the fields back to the village centre and church.
	<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>
	Often used by walkers, horse riders and dog walkers.	None known	The verge and bridleway is c. 25m from the crossroads at the centre of the village.	This is not an extensive tract of land. The verge measures c. 0.08 ha	Ardleigh Conservation Area

Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 7, Manor House Meadow [Map TM055288, TM051286, footpath refs. PROW158_7, PROW158_8]	Amenity land containing ancient woodland, used daily by villagers, crossed by footpaths, part of a larger circular walk. Local Wildlife Site.	Ancient wood & adjacent listed buildings	Valuable as scrubland that encourages insects and birds as well as rabbits. Variety of different habitats including Salary Brook	This field and the two paths that intersect it are used daily by villagers and other walkers. It is part of a bigger circular walk around the periphery of the village and across special sand and gravel soil which has created a lowland habitat, unique to the area and which is brimming with wildlife and flora. The Salary Brook runs through part of the ancient woodland. It provides essential, tranquil, recreational enjoyment to the village and wider community.	Long-preserved natural feature of the local landscape, contributes to roadside views on approach to village
	<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>
	The area is close to the centre of the village and used daily for exercise and dog walking	None known	This is close to the village centre within easy walking distance. Approximately 800m	This is not an extensive tract of land, it is a meadow with a footpath running through it. The whole site is c. 3.5 ha	Identified as Local Wildlife Site Te10 by Essex Wildlife Trust. UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) described as Lowland Dry Acid Grassland.



<p><b>Site reference(s)</b></p> <p>Space 2, Crop mark site south of Ardeigh [Map TM63289, footpath ref. PROW 158_28]</p>	<p><b>Brief overview</b></p> <p>Footpath providing notable vista towards village, church and Scheduled Ancient Monument</p>	<p><b>Historic value</b></p> <p>This has considerable historic value as it provides views across arable fields to the village, church and the Scheduled Ancient Monument which contains Bronze Age burial crop circles and Roman kilns which supplied tiles for the building of Roman Colchester.</p> <p><b>Allocations or planning permissions</b></p> <p>None at present but has in the past been the subject of attempts to be used for gravel extraction.</p>	<p><b>Wildlife value</b></p> <p>The land around the footpath is surrounded by hedgerows and small coppices which contain a wide variety of fauna and flora.</p>	<p><b>Recreational value</b></p> <p>This footpath is regularly used by dog walkers and recreational walkers</p>	<p><b>Landscape value</b></p> <p>Attractive landscape with a sense of place. Typical rural landscape with wide open views</p>
<p><b>Level of use</b></p> <p>Used frequently by dog walkers and recreational ramblers</p>		<p><b>Reasonably close?</b></p> <p>Within easy walking distance of the centre of the Village, approximately 500m.</p>	<p><b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b></p> <p>The footpath overlooks the Ancient Monument running for about 1 km. The Ancient Monument, which is protected, covers an area of around 50ha.</p>	<p><b>Existing designations</b></p> <p>Scheduled Ancient Monument</p>	



<b>Site reference(s)</b>	<b>Brief overview</b>	<b>Historic value</b>	<b>Wildlife value</b>	<b>Recreational value</b>	<b>Landscape value</b>
Space 16, public open space associated with new reservoir [Map TM025295]	Public open space under construction (ESS/57/04/TEN) in connection with extension to the reservoir. Will have high recreational and wildlife value, will provide disabled access to reservoir	None known	This area will become a haven for wildlife	The area will have a high recreational value with public access all around the reservoir extension and disabled access to the edge of the reservoir	The area will provide extensive views across the water. It will substantially enhance the landscape value of this area of the parish
	<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>
	Anticipated to be subject to very regular use by the local community	Major industrial application under consideration across the lane (20/00594/FUL)	The area is about 3km from the Village centre but the proposed country park will have car parking	This will be a country park covering approximately 70 ha	None known

<b>Site reference(s)</b>	<b>Brief overview</b>	<b>Historic value</b>	<b>Wildlife value</b>	<b>Recreational value</b>	<b>Landscape value</b>
Space 24, Harwich Road allotments [Map TM058295]	Privately owned allotments adjoining Glebe Corner Land. Used by a few local residents to grow vegetables, flowers and keep poultry. Some of the produce from the larger allotment is used to supply local residents with vegetables and flowers.	Makes a positive contribution to the setting of the church and cemetery	There is an abundance of produce grown on the allotments that naturally attract insects, bees and butterflies.	The allotments provide a healthy lifestyle for those residents who rent plots.	The allotments are near the entrance to the village and provide an interesting view of the produce grown there. This can be seen from the pavement which runs alongside, as well as from the A137 as it passes into the village.
	<b>Level of use</b> The allotments are used by several villagers. The produce on sale is bought by local residents as well as passing visitors.	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b> None known.	<b>Reasonably close?</b> This is close to the Village centre, within easy walking distance. Approximately 60m	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b> This is not an extensive tract of land. The whole site is approx 0.6 ha.	<b>Existing designations</b> Adjacent Ardleigh Conservation Area

<b>Site reference(s)</b>	Space 3, Fishing lake and footpaths north of Colchester Road [Map TM050297, footpath ref. PROW 158_22/50/4]	<b>Brief overview</b>	Scenic lake with paths around, well used, set in an idyllic rural landscape, teeming with wildlife. Sunsets over the lake are well worth the view and many locals take photos	<b>Historic value</b>	Long-preserved landscape view back to the village edge is very pleasant. Footpaths appear to have been in situ and in daily use for multiple generations	<b>Wildlife value</b>	The lake is set in a large field bordered by hedgerows and coppices. The lake itself is surrounded by trees and bushes full of local birdlife. The lake has reed beds, pond lilies, fish and other waterlife.	<b>Recreational value</b>	This lake and the connected paths are widely used by walkers, dog walkers, birdwatchers and for fishing.	<b>Landscape value</b>	This is a particularly attractive lake in an arable field which enhances its landscape value. The glimpsed view of the site from Colchester Road makes an invaluable contribution to the character of the streetscene and village
		<b>Level of use</b>	Footpaths are regularly used by dog walkers and rambblers. A local fishing club has rights to the lake.	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	Multiple applications for housing have been submitted on land in the vicinity but none have succeeded. Most recently refused application 20/00592/OUT is at appeal - if allowed, this could substantially erode the value of the space	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	The footpath is about 40m from the Village centre, highly accessible by walking	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	The whole site is estimated to measure c. 2.1 ha which is not extensive	<b>Existing designations</b>	None known

Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 18, Lodge Lane verges [Map 04093 29426]	Lodge Lane verges, kept mown, well-used by fishers, bird watchers, quiet space to enjoy, lots of wildlife	This verge provides views across the reservoir which has been a key feature of the Parish since its construction in 1971	Provides a habitat for wildlife along the verdant verge. It is roadside but a lightly trafficked lane.	Used by cars, walkers, for fishing, bird watching and a very valuable quiet space. It is walkable from most of Ardleigh village and surrounding area. The space is well used by fishermen and bird watchers and just a quiet place to enjoy.	The verges are on a quiet lane providing views across the water and sightings of wildlife such as swans, cygnets, kingfishers, grebes, coots.
	<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>
	It is walkable from most of Ardleigh village and surrounding area. The space is well used by fishermen and bird watchers and is just a quiet place to enjoy.	Multiple applications for housing have been submitted on land in the vicinity but none have succeeded. Most recently refused application 20/00592/OUT is at appeal - if allowed, this could substantially erode the value of the space	The verge is around 1.3km from the Village centre	The verge runs for 60m alongside the reservoir and both sides cover about 0.2 ha.	None known



Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 20, Bullock Wood [Map TM020285]	Ancient woodland adjacent new housing development, provides a mature landscape setting and vital buffer to A12/A120, rich diversity of wildlife	Plains Farm is a relatively new housing development that is just inside the Parish Boundary. It backs onto ancient woodland and farmland, which was once a thriving fruit farm. The wood is ancient.	The woodland is inaccessible but provides a rich diversity of flora and fauna.		Landscape value is considerable - confers a mature, rural feel on the area. Ancient woods are irreplaceable. Provides vital separation between Ardleigh and Colchester.
	<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>
	The ancient woodland that backs onto the estate is inaccessible but provides a much needed and effective buffer to the noise of the A12 and A120.	Multiple applications for housing have been submitted on land in the vicinity but none have succeeded. Most recently refused application 20/00592/OUT is at appeal - if allowed, this could substantially erode the value of the space	Approximately 3.5km from the Village centre but in very close proximity of the new residential community at Plains Farm	The whole of Bullock Wood measures c. 23 ha	The whole of Bullock Wood is a designated SSSI

<b>Site reference(s)</b>	<b>Brief overview</b>	<b>Historic value</b>	<b>Wildlife value</b>	<b>Recreational value</b>	<b>Landscape value</b>
Space 1, Land Settlement Association footpath [Map TM071303, footpath ref. PROW 158_26]	Footpath that goes through what was Land Settlement Association plots. Now commercial horticultural and private recreational land. The footpath is surrounded by an abundance of flora and fauna and represents the historical horticultural nature of the land. The footpath would be unique in its siting amongst these historical plots.	The Land Settlement Association was established in 1934 to provide employment on the land for unemployed industrial workers from depressed areas of the Country. Foxash Estate, was one of a series of Land Settlement Association schemes of co-operative smallholdings. It originally encouraged unemployed people to take on smallholdings to grow vegetables for profit. The scheme was wound up in the 1980s, but some smallholders joined a cooperative - Foxash Growers Ltd - which continues to produce today.	Some flora and fauna although ongoing commercial/horticultural practices are likely to reduce this	Enjoyed by recreational walkers	Tranquil setting, views over horticultural units and paddocks
<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>	
Enjoyed by residents of Ardleigh area	None known	This is a footpath that runs along the northern border of the Parish for about 50m.	c. 0.3 ha	None known	

<b>Site reference(s)</b>	<b>Brief overview</b>	<b>Historic value</b>	<b>Wildlife value</b>	<b>Recreational value</b>	<b>Landscape value</b>
Space 9, Green Island Gardens [Map TM56273]	Green Island Gardens - 20 acres of private landscaped gardens open to the public. Diverse planting, has its own unique microclimate. Also provides a venue for special events. Site of old Ardleigh Park Plantation	Originally belonged to the big house Ardleigh Park, a grade II listed building opposite. Most of it was planted as woodland around 1900, but the great storm of 1987 destroyed virtually all the oak trees.	Woodland local in character and home to a huge variety of local Flora and Fauna. Habitats are carefully managed by site operators.	The site is open for visitors throughout the year and holds special events from time to time. It is visited by the local community and visitors from outside the Parish.	Makes a very positive and evocative contribution to landscape setting of Ardleigh Park
	<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>
	The site is a tourist attraction as well as easily accessible to the local hamlets and village. Local residents can visit here to learn more about plants - especially native species - and their care	None known	This about 2km from the Village centre with car parking. Walking routes are also available	This is a c. 8 ha piece of privately owned land. Its boundaries are well-contained	None known

Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 11, Footpath connecting Fox Street to Old Ipswich Road [Map TM030277, footpath ref. PROW 158_14]	Hard surfaced footpath providing functional access from one side of Ardleigh to the other, well-used by commuters. Views of Ardleigh reservoir and across open countryside	Not of specific interest although it does run through land that was originally part of one of the four Manors in Ardleigh mentioned in the Domesday Book.	This is a long path running in parallel to the reservoir which has an abundance of birds and other wildlife. The path itself is more limited in its value	Used by local and visiting walkers. Has some of the best views across the reservoir.	Exceptional views of the reservoir, however the road (and its noise) is intrusive
	<b>Level of use</b> Used regularly by walkers.	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b> The footpath runs through the hamlet in Fox Street and alongside the reservoir. It is easily accessible to the local residents. It is about 3km from the Village centre.	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b> c. 0.5ha	<b>Existing designations</b> None known



Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 5, Land adjacent Ardleigh Reservoir [Map TM042292, footpath refs. PROW 158_20, PROW 158_21]	Pleasantly treed footpaths close to village, running through woodland with much local wildlife, including deer. Leads to reservoir. Well-used by fishers, birdwatchers and horse riders and is a very tranquil area.	Woodland looks to contain some old trees	Considerable wildlife value. There is woodland and hedgerows along the route of this footpath with abundant birdlife as well as deer and local fauna and flora. The reservoir supports other wildlife	Used by dog walkers, horse riders and for recreational walking, views of reservoir and birdlife. Also adjacent a well-used recreational facility (vineyard)	Truly representative of the Ardleigh landscape - containing pleasant mix of land uses. Special views of reservoir.
	<b>Level of use</b> Used regularly by local dog walkers and visiting recreational walkers.	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b> Some applications in recent history associated with site's agricultural use - these are compatible with its value	<b>Reasonably close?</b> This footpath is within easy walking distance of the centre of the Village, approximately 1.5km.	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b> The land adjacent to the footpath and the reservoir covers about 2.5ha	<b>Existing designations</b> None known

Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 4, Field south of Mary Warner estate [Map TM053292]	Open green space providing a rural landscape buffer to village heart, Millennium Green and Playing Fields. Bordered by official and unofficial walking routes.	Long preserved open tract of land, preserves nucleated village form	Boundary trees contain lots of birdlife. It also borders a triangular area of rough grassland that provides a haven for wildlife.	Bordered by official and unofficial walking routes used by dog walkers and others daily. Provides a pleasant rural/unspoilt setting to important, well-used civic spaces in the village	Strongly representative of the local landscape character - provides notable views from various civic/residential spaces at heart of village, important to retain
	<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>
	Regular daily use for walking and dog walking	Some interest has been shown by developers in the past	Borders the heart of the village	C. 7 ha	None known

<b>Site reference(s)</b>	Space 21, Footpath near new reservoir [Map TM032297, footpath ref. PROW 158_19]	<b>Brief overview</b>	Well-used footpath will provide wonderful views towards new reservoir, many ancient oaks and mature hedgerows	<b>Historic value</b>	The footpath 19 runs from Wick Lane, across the Car Boot field, alongside the newly extracted mineral site (soon to become a reservoir) through an ancient way and out onto Crown Lane North. It is a well used footpath that provides walking access between the two roads.	<b>Wildlife value</b>	There are many ancient oak trees along the walk and typical hedge and boundary flora.	<b>Recreational value</b>	The footpath is within walking distance of the village. It is a well used footpath that provides walking access between the two roads.	<b>Landscape value</b>	The footpath and the views afforded provide a tranquil space for walking and observing the wildlife. In the future, the newly created reservoir will transform this area into a very special area to explore.
<b>Level of use</b>	The footpath is within walking distance of the village.	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	This footpath is to be replaced by a new path that will go around the newly created reservoir	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	Approximately 3km from the Village centre but accessible to residents of Harts Lane and Crown Lane.	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	C. 0.5 ha	<b>Existing designations</b>	None known		

Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 22, Land adjacent village car park [Map TM054296]	Informal grassed area in Conservation Area with variety of trees, well-used, affords views of the church, buffer to public car park	At heart of Conservation Area, contributes to setting of historic crossroads, village church	Some very nice trees support birdlife. It also connects to mature landscaped gardens teeming with wildlife	Well-located to provide an informal play space to children. Used as a cut-through by visitors to car park	Provides a very pleasant green buffer between the car park and local housing. Adds much to the sylvan qualities of the Conservation Area
	<b>Level of use</b> Yes this location is central and is a regularly used route through to the centre of the village.	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b> This footpath is to be replaced by a new path that will go around the newly created reservoir	<b>Reasonably close?</b> At the centre of the Village.	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b> C. 0.12 ha	<b>Existing designations</b> Conservation Area



Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 13, Hart's Lane apple orchard [Map TM041305, footpath ref. PROW 158_23]	Footpath running along the last remaining apple orchard in Harts Lane	Last remnant of the area's historic agricultural land use (fruit orchards)	Plenty of local wildlife, likely to function as a refuge due to local depletion of these sites. Orchards of this scale/nature are biodiversity hotspots.	Walkers and dog walkers on regular basis	Fruit orchard makes significant contribution to local landscape character, footpath offers open views of surrounding countryside
	<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>
	Located on Hart's Lane, a very pleasant historic route in the parish that is subject to fair use. Some dwellings in the vicinity, including listed buildings	None known. However, this is now the last remaining historic fruit orchard as all others have been lost to residential or other uses	Approximately 2km from the village centre. Situated off Harts Lane, with houses at fairly regular intervals.	C. 2 ha	None known

Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 14, Maiting Farm Lane footpath [Map TM042308, footpath ref. PROW 158_43 Assess 15 Area 2 Map 043305]	Functional footpath well used by residents for recreation and access. This tree lined section of Maiting Farm Lane is picturesque and unspoilt. Special views towards Dedham.	Views between historic Ardleigh and Dedham parishes	Runs through semi wooded area adjacent to farmland. Away from the houses, it feels deeply rural	Walkers and dog walkers, easily reachable on foot from surrounding lanes and the village, and also from Birchwood Road in the adjoining parish of Dedham via footpaths 129_8 and 158_43.	Affords special, wide open views of the deeply rural landscape of Dedham
	<b>Level of use</b>	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b>	<b>Reasonably close?</b>	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b>	<b>Existing designations</b>
	Part of a footpath that connects Birchwood Road (Dedham) to Maltings Farm Road in Ardleigh. Regularly used. Often used by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and dog walkers	None known.	Approximately 2km from the village centre. Accessible to residents of Harts Lane.	C. 0.1 ha	None known

Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 19, A12 buffers [Map TM024295]	A12 embankment containing semi mature native trees, shrubs and wildflowers, provides important acoustic/visual road buffer and some wildlife habitat		The embankment consists of semi mature native trees (hawthorn, scots pine, oak, holly, sycamore, etc), shrubs (gorse, wild rose, brambles, etc) and with an abundance of common wildflowers (including lady's bedstraw, thistles, ragwort, yarrow, wild parsnip, hemlock and many more), all providing food for beneficial insects.	Not accessible	Provides a valuable buffer to contain the A12. Especially valuable for residents in the vicinity, e.g. housing in Turnpike Close.
	<b>Level of use</b> Can be seen by motorists on A12 and residents of nearby housing estates	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b> None known.	<b>Reasonably close?</b> Approximately 3km from the village centre.	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b> C. 2.2 ha	<b>Existing designations</b> None known

Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Spaces 8 and 12, Woodlands attached to Birch Wood [Map TM032304 and 033304]	Privately owned overgrown woodland, wildlife haven, no public access but visible from the road. Comment from person who lives there: I have seen wildlife - badgers (I believe that there is a set nearby, if not in the woodland), deer, bats, owls and foxes. Incidentally, I saw a badger 2 weeks ago outside Three Elms. Our property partly faces on to the wood and there is an abundance of wild flowers in the spring and summer. The wood is, in my view, critical to maintaining the rural nature of the lane.	Makes an important contribution to the character and qualities of the historic lane	As there is no public access, these spaces provide a true haven for local wildlife (foxes, bats, rabbits, muntjac deer, badgers, birds including buzzards).	Not accessible	Mature native trees eg. oak, birch, sycamore etc. make very valuable contribution to local landscape character and are prominent in views from the rural lane
	<b>Level of use</b> Enjoyed by users of the lane (motorists and otherwise) and local residents	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b> None known.	<b>Reasonably close?</b> Approximately 2.5km from the village centre.	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b> C. 2 ha	<b>Existing designations</b> None but connects directly to Birch Wood which is Local Wildlife Site Te2



Site reference(s)	Brief overview	Historic value	Wildlife value	Recreational value	Landscape value
Space 25, School playing field [Map TM051295]	Large grassed area approx 100 meters x 80 meters which is the local school playing field.	Within the school grounds/playing field there is a WW2 brick built bomb shelter		This field is used by the school for multiple events and general play area for the school community. It is also used for wider community events such as fetes, sports day etc.	
	<b>Level of use</b> This area is in use everyday by the children of the village	<b>Allocations or planning permissions</b> None known.	<b>Reasonably close?</b> 30m from the village centre.	<b>Not an extensive tract of land?</b> C. 0.3 ha	<b>Existing designations</b> None

## Appendix B: Response to landowner & third party representations (summarised)

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Space</b>	<b>Object or support</b>	<b>Summary of comments</b>	<b>Parish Council's response</b>
Landowner of space 3	Space 3	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site is an irrigation reservoir containing few mature trees and therefore fails to meet the test of being "demonstrably special" to the local community</li> <li>The suggestion that the site provides the only glimpse of open countryside in views from Colchester Road is incorrect</li> <li>The lake is strictly for private fishing (being the subject of a grant of fishing rights to a local private club) and no indiscriminate public access is permitted</li> <li>The lake does not hold any historic significance or special wildlife value</li> <li>The lake's enclosing vegetation is subject to periodic management and removal</li> <li>The trees that enclose the public footpath are located on neighbouring land</li> <li>The footpath is protected under other legislation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reservoir is a form of artificial lake</li> <li>The site provides the only (highly valuable) glimpse of open countryside available from Colchester Road <u>within the built-up area of the village</u>. It is acknowledged that views of open countryside are available from other parts of Colchester Road lying in open countryside</li> <li>Public access is not essential. Although, the use of the lake by a private fishing club is a form of public access (albeit not indiscriminate) and speaks to the community/recreational value of the site</li> <li>The good management of the site's trees and vegetation is positive and does not weigh against the site's inclusion</li> <li>The purpose of the policy is not to protect the footpath as a public right of way</li> </ul>
Land Allocation Ltd, registered owner of space 3	Space 3	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No direct consultation with the landowner</li> <li>Concerns that the nomination has been influenced by planning application 20/00592/OUT and not the result of robust assessment</li> <li>Designation of land as Local Green Space would rule out development other than in very special circumstances</li> <li>Any site deserving of Local Green Space status has already been designated in the Local Plan</li> <li>The site is not a lake but an agricultural irrigation reservoir</li> <li>Public access to the lake is not permitted and the public footpath only runs along its southern boundary</li> <li>The lake's enclosing vegetation is subject to periodic management and removal</li> <li>The public footpath is also used by farm vehicles</li> <li>The trees that enclose the public footpath are located on neighbouring land</li> <li>The dog waste bin was installed without permission</li> <li>The views available across the landscape are [...]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation has been carried out in accordance with the available guidance</li> <li>The community response to the outline planning application does highlight the value of the site to the local community. However, it has not influenced the objective and robust assessment of the site - the reasons for its nomination are clearly set out in the assessment document</li> <li>Designation of the land would <u>not</u> rule out development other than in very special circumstances, it would only rule out inappropriate development</li> <li>Neighbourhood Plans can identify spaces in addition to Local Plans</li> <li>The dog waste bin is located on the public footpath</li> <li>The use of the site by farm vehicles is compatible with its special (agricultural) character</li> <li>The landscape views are special in the context of Ardleigh, taking account of its particular heritage and landscape value</li> </ul>

<p>Landowner of space 4</p>	<p>Space 4</p>	<p>relatively ordinary, not special</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic on Colchester Road is a visual detractor and reduces tranquility</li> <li>• The site is not subject to any local or national designations</li> <li>• The site is not within close proximity to the local community, for example the village centre is a 830m walk from the reservoir</li> <li>• It is not rural or open countryside but "urban fringe"</li> <li>• It has no historic significance</li> <li>• It has little recreational value (being agricultural land and not, for example, a playing field)</li> <li>• It is an extensive tract of land</li> <li>• The boundary is arbitrary</li> <li>• The discounting of other sites from nomination indicates that this site should also be discounted</li> <li>• The designation seeks to sterilise a site that is well located within the town [sic] and has development potential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The close proximity of Colchester Road makes the site more special not less - it provides valuable relief from the built-up area, an evocative reminder of Ardeleigh's working rural setting and is truly emblematic of the historically abrupt spatial relationship between the nuclear village and its surrounding open landscape (heritage/landscape value)</li> <li>• It is easily walkable by most if not all village residents</li> <li>• It has clear recreational value - walked and enjoyed by multiple villagers, including children and dog walkers, on a daily basis and this has been the case for hundreds of years. It is also used regularly by a local fishing club</li> <li>• Each site has been assessed on its own merits</li> <li>• The parish council will continue to support development on and around the site that is compatible with its special value</li> </ul>
	<p>Object</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The space is not special for its richness of wildlife</li> <li>• There is no evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interests</li> <li>• Recreational use of the land is limited to public footpaths and unofficial walking routes (unsanctioned by the landowner) that are well used. However, the nature/level of activity is typical of farmland on the edges of settlements. It is not sufficient to meet the test of being "demonstrably special" to the local community</li> <li>• In terms of beauty, it has the ordinary appeal of open countryside</li> <li>• Views across the site to the village are not unpleasant but are without particular merit</li> <li>• There is no notable interaction or outlook from any civic space within the settlement, suggesting the area does not have a valued relationship with the settlement</li> <li>• The Millennium Green and Recreation Ground [...]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site provides a beautiful green backdrop to some important civic/residential parts of the main village, emphasising the village's (historic and ongoing) physical and functional connection to the adjacent working countryside</li> <li>• The parish council does consider that the site has a valuable relationship with the settlement, especially the areas of modern housing to its north and the recreational facilities to its east. It very positively contributes to the beauty and rural qualities of the settlement both when viewed from within the village and elsewhere</li> <li>• It provides critical visual/rural relief from the more suburban character of the modern housing estate to its north - ensuring that in spite of this modern intrusion, this important part of the main village retains - for the most part - its working rural character</li> </ul>

Landowner of space 5	Space 5	Object	<p>do not engage with the space - they are enclosed by hedging and inward looking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is little sense of tranquility due in part to the presence of estate housing to the north and the railway to the south</li> <li>• The area is not distinguishable from the wider rural landscape and so should be considered an extensive tract of land</li> <li>• No permission has ever been given by the landowner to allow public access away from the official footpaths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The field boundary is evident in aerial views. It is also its spatial relationship to the village (preserving its historic nuclear format) and proximity/inter-relationship with the important recreational green spaces to its east that distinguishes it from the wider landscape</li> <li>• Designation of the space would not confer any rights of public access over those that already exist</li> </ul>
Landowner of space 8/12	Space 8/12	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no right of public access away from the official footpath</li> <li>• The field is used for recreational and agricultural/commercial purposes in association with the vineyard</li> <li>• Objection to some of the public assessments of the site</li> <li>• There is no intention to develop the land but there is intention to continue to use it for agricultural purposes</li> <li>• The seasonal decorations are for the appreciation of paying visitors to the site only</li> <li>• Local wildlife is only plentiful here because the footpath is subject to infrequent public use</li> <li>• There is an established ongoing recreational use of the site by the Colchester Model Aircraft Club that goes back at least 20 years</li> <li>• For the past 20 years, the site has also been used occasionally by a self-help organisation aiding vulnerable people - these activities emphasise the need for members of the public to keep to public footpaths</li> <li>• The plot is local but there is no public access (formal or otherwise)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designation of the space would not confer any rights of public access over those that already exist</li> <li>• The space is special, in part, because of what it contributes to the defining working rural landscape of Ardleigh. Agricultural and sensitive land-based uses of the site would be compatible with this and thus the parish council would continue to support these</li> <li>• On the field visit, the seasonal decorations were visible from the public footpath</li> <li>• Provided visitors keep to the public footpath, it is unlikely that public use of the site would cause harm to local wildlife which is plentiful</li> <li>• The site clearly has considerable community value and the parish council is keen to see this preserved</li> <li>- the purpose of its designation is partly to provide additional support and protection for this</li> </ul>
Landowner of space 8/12	Space 8/12	Object	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access is not essential and designation of the space would not confer any rights of public access over those that already exist</li> </ul>	



Landowner of space 9	Space 9	Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 20 acre gardens have been professionally managed since 1996 and are open to the public all year round</li> <li>The gardens welcome up to 10,000 visitors per year, employ local workers and bring in tourists</li> <li>The two most common words used in the visitor's book are "peaceful" and "tranquil"</li> <li>The gardens are maintained to encourage and support wildlife and biodiversity and a new wildlife educational centre is due to open in 2022</li> <li>The gardens boast a wealth of unusual plants and hold 2 National plant collections - Hamamelis and Camellias - this is of great conservation importance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The landowner's comments are appreciated and provide further compelling evidence of the special value of the site to the local community</li> </ul>
Local resident of 45 years	All	Supports all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[comments were made about Space 17. However, this space has already been formally designated in the Local Plan so no further consideration is given to it]</li> </ul> <p><b>Space 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value to commenter/family - walk our dog there. Sit by fishing lake to watch dragonflies, great crested grebes and other wildlife</li> <li>Time to travel to site - 5 minutes</li> <li>Comments on beauty/tranquility - Lovely fishing lake. Whole field is quiet except for agricultural vehicles</li> <li>Comments on recreational value - Great value for walking across and around</li> <li>Comments on wildlife value - ducks and insects abound around the lake</li> <li>Comments on landscape value - lovely views across to Dead Lane</li> </ul> <p><b>Space 5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value to commenter/family - walk our dog there frequently</li> <li>Time to travel to site - walk there in 20 minutes</li> <li>Comments on beauty/tranquility - peaceful and beautiful</li> <li>Comments on recreational value - Wonderful for walking. Well used for vineyard events (in normal times) [...]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response is appreciated and the comments are acknowledged</li> </ul>

Local resident of 39 years	All	Supports space 3; "Don't know" for the rest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on landscape value - lovely site by the reservoir, looking down towards it. Can also be seen from Wick Lane.</li> <li><b>Space 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value to commenter/family - walking the dogs most days, over many years. From when there were no trees around the lake to many now. Beautiful natural spot. Many happy memories. Peaceful and calming place good for both physical and mental health</li> <li>Time to travel to site - walk from home next to the primary school, part of circular walk (through Tuckwell's yard) that takes 30-40 minutes</li> <li>Comments on beauty/tranquility - Very calm and peaceful place, trees change colour through seasons and wildlife</li> <li>Comments on recreational value - Good natural walking space for all the family</li> <li>Comments on wildlife value - lots of birds, swans, geese, ducks, moor hens and other wild water birds, grass snakes, rabbits, foxes, garden song birds, dragonflies</li> <li>Other comments - opposes further housing near the site</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The response is appreciated and the comments are acknowledged</li> </ul>
Local resident of 3 years	All	Objects to spaces 3 & 4; supports the rest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any other sites that should be considered for designation - field to east of Rookery Chase</li> <li><b>Space 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two useful sites for new housing close to village centre, rather than multiple linear developments and developments outside of the centre that are currently supported</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Space 3 is not an appropriate location for housing when assessed against the adopted policies of the development plan. Consequently, applications for housing would not be supported here notwithstanding any Local Green Space designation</li> </ul>

# Appendix C: Letter to landowners

Ardleigh Parish Council  
PO Box 12865  
Colchester  
CO7 7EZ  
18.11.2021

To Whom it May Concern

Dear Sir/Madam

**IMPORTANT: This letter concerns land in your ownership**

I am writing to you on behalf of Ardleigh Parish Council, as on-going preparation of Ardleigh's Neighbourhood Plan may affect land in your ownership or in which you have an interest.

It is intended that Ardleigh's Neighbourhood Plan will designate a number of Local Green Spaces and provide policies for their protection and enhancement.

These policies will not prevent any new development on a site but they will require that new development does not compromise its special value. Developments that would enhance a Space's special value will be encouraged.

**Some Background:**

Local Green Spaces are designated because of their special value to the local community. They must be in reasonably close proximity to the community they serve and they cannot be an extensive tract of land.

Sites may have special value to the community because of their: beauty; historic significance; recreational value; tranquility; wildlife and/or landscape value.

Sites do not necessarily have to be accessible by the local community to be considered of special value. However, public access is one relevant factor.

Ardleigh Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has already invited Local Green Spaces nominations from the community and has subsequently conducted a thorough desktop and field assessment of all sites nominated.

Following these investigations, 11 sites throughout the Parish of Ardleigh have been shortlisted due to their special community value. A comprehensive list of all shortlisted sites can be found on the Ardleigh Parish Council website: [Work in Progress \(ardleigh.website\)](#)

We believe that you may have an interest in shortlisted site number .....

If you are the landowner of this space or have any other interest in the land, we would welcome your written response by no later than 1st January, 2022.

You may wish to respond to the following:

- What is your interest in the land (e.g. owner/leaseholder)?
- Do you understand the proposal to designate your land as a Local Green Space?
- Do you support or object to the proposal to designate your land as a Local Green Space?
- Is the land the subject of an on-going planning application?
- Is the land the subject of any existing or emerging allocations in the Local Plan?

When considering Local Green Spaces these factors were considered. You may wish to comment on:

- Is the land local in character?
- Is the land within close proximity of the local community?
- Is there any public access to the land (formally or otherwise)?
- The land's beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, wildlife value, landscape value.

Your response will be taken into careful consideration by Ardleigh Parish Council's Working Group and will be used to inform the final list of Local Green Spaces to be designated in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Your response can be emailed or posted to Ardleigh Parish Council at the following:  
ardleighpc@gmail.com

Ardleigh Parish Council, PO Box 12865, Colchester CO7 7EZ.

Do not hesitate to contact the Ardleigh Parish Council if you require further clarification or assistance.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Tim Barrott

Chair of Ardleigh Parish Council