Local Green Spaces Analysis for The Strettons

August 2026

REG 15 public consultation

Church Stretton Town Council

Contents

A:	Map of sites owned by Church Stretton Town Council	4
B:	Map of sites not owned by CSTC	5
1:	Rectory Wood and Field Local Nature Reserve	6
2:	Coppice Leasowes Local Nature Reserve	9
3:	High Leasowes	12
4:	Cudwell Meadow	14
5:	World's End	16
6:	Contemplation Corner	18
7:	Station Patch	20
8:	Snatchfield	22
9:	War Memorial and Burway Triangle	26
10:	Hazler Triangle	28
C:	Individual Site Boundary Maps	30

Maps
The areas identified as owned and not owned by the Town Council have been separated solely for ease of interpretation and to avoid too much information on one map. The status for the purpose of considering their designation as a Local Green Space is the same.

Individual, detailed maps showing each proposed LGS are located in Section C at the end of the document.

Cover Image: View From The Hills (Credit: Geoff Taylor)

Figure 1: A strip of meadow at Brooksbury Recreation Fields.
This image demonstrates the visual impact of greenspace within Church Stretton town. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC).

Introduction

The National Planning Framework (NPPF), published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, most recently updated in December 202, sets out the government's planning policies for England.

Through the Neighbourhood Plan making process, communities can consider allocating Local Green Space (LGS) designations to areas of land which are particularly valued by the community, and this is the basis which was used to initially identify sites for designation.

Paragraphs 106 and 107 of the NPPF explain,

- **106**. The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.
- **107**. The 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.

In addition, Section 85 of the Countryside and Right of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act) (as amended by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023) requires 'relevant authorities', in exercising or performing any function that affect National Landscapes (formally Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) in England, to "seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape" This is a statutory duty. The use of the word 'duty' in the legislation means that it is something all 'relevant authorities' must do; it is not discretionary. The duty is considered to be a strengthening of the previous s.85 'duty of regard' and seeks positive outcomes for the natural beauty, in its holistic sense, of our National Landscapes.

This Report outlines the evidence captured for each of the 10 sites being considered for LGS status in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and should be read in conjunction with that document.

Not all the open or green spaces around the Parish have or will be considered as these may not meet the NPPF definitions or may already have some level of protection, such as being burial land or in charity ownership or management. In addition, all the sites in this Report are wholly within the boundary area of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (formerly Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). As this designation applies to all sites it is omitted from individual descriptions.

A: Map of sites owned by Church Stretton Town Council

LOCAL GREEN SPACE: Areas owned by Church Stretton Town Council

Not included as a LGS:

Brooksbury Recreation Area and Russells Meadow Greenspace

Included as a LGS:

LGS1: Rectory Wood and Field Local Nature Reserve

LGS9: War Memorial and Burway Triangle

Not included as a LGS:

Cunnery Road Cemetery

Included as a LGS:

LGS2: Coppice Leasowes Local Nature Reserve

Not included as a LGS:

LGS8: Sandford Avenue Recreation Park (Town Park)

Included as a LGS:

LGS10: Hazler Triangle

Included as a LGS:

LGS7: Station Patch

Not included as a LGS and not shown on the above image:

Greenhills Cemetery

B: Map of sites not owned by Church Stretton Town Council

LOCAL GREEN SPACE: Areas not owned by Church Stretton Town Council

Included as a LGS:

LGS6: Contemplation Corner

LGS4: Cudwell Meadow

LGS5: Worlds End

Included as a LGS:

LGS3: High Leasowes

LGS9: Snatchfield

LGS1: Rectory Wood and Field Local Nature Reserve

Location	Between town of Church Stretton, and the Long Mynd. Within Shropshire Hills National Landscape (AONB)
Grid Reference	SO450938
Site Owner	Church Stretton Town Council
Site Management	CSTC Outdoor Team and National Trust Volunteers from CSTC Local Nature Reserve Interest Group
Size	10.1ha (7.18ha of woodland, 2.87ha grassland and 0.06ha open water)
Habitats	Amenity grassland, meadow grassland, open water, deciduous woodland, heritage landscape features. Notable for several mature, ancient, and veteran trees
Current Designation	Local Nature Reserve
Active Management Plan?	Yes, 2023-2028

Figure 2: Rectory Wood and Field Local Nature Reserve, showing the yew tree lined pool. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

Rectory Wood & Field are located between the town of Church Stretton and the Long Mynd within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. The reserve is owned by Church Stretton Town Council who work alongside the Local Nature Reserve Interest Group to manage the site. This is a group of local volunteers with a range of skills and specialist knowledge. Volunteers are fundamental in helping look after the site advising the Town Council on management and holding regular work parties. There is a Management Plan 2023 – 2028 which includes descriptions of the site, woodland and scrub, grasslands, ponds and water-courses, historic features, and archaeology.

Community Value

Rectory Wood & Field (RW&F) is of value to the community for its historic, archaeological, biodiversity and recreational value. This site is part-woodland and part-meadow. The wood comprises mature native broadleaf species, with supplementary mixed planting; the meadow is on a steep bank adjacent to the wood. The site gets its name from being formerly part of the grounds of the Old Rectory. These grounds were laid out in the late 18th century and have associations with Lancelot (Capability) Brown. The well-preserved remains of this landscape comprise woodland walks, a stream and artificial pool, and sites of buildings, which include a pumping house, summerhouse and icehouse.

Figure 3: Partnership working between Church Stretton Town Council, National Trust, and volunteers, to install a new accessible gate at Rectory Wood & Field NR (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

It provides important recreational open space. The site has full public access by foot and there is a good network of paths. It forms an important gateway to the Long Mynd for both the local community and tourists providing a variety of short walks and access to the hills beyond. The site is heavily used by local people for informal recreation, in particular dog walking. The path network through the wood is good. Bridges cross the brook and steps lead up the steep slopes. The Mayfair Community Centre in the town uses the site for some of its health walks and the local Scout Group hosts the town's annual bonfire on the field. The field is also used on for other major events and festivals and more informally for picnics and games.

The variety of habitats make it especially important for the community and biodiversity value and interesting to visit at different times of the year. The woodland contains many mature specimen trees including a veteran Sweet Chestnut. The ground flora is indicative of ancient woodland with species such as wood anemone and early dog violet. Swathes of bluebells and snowdrops in spring attract visitors. The scrub and hedgerows provide habitat for small mammals, insects and birds. The grassland is managed for both amenity and conservation. The lower part, being closest to the town is a valuable recreational space with picnic benches and tables. The upper part is being managed more for biodiversity with typical hay meadow species being strewn e.g. yellow rattle.

More details of the value of the site can be found in the Rectory Wood and Field Management Plan 2023 – 2028, as referenced above.

Suitability for LGS Designation

The site is of special community value, as described above and being only 100m to the west of Church Stretton High Street it is easily accessible to residents and visitors. It is adjacent to the Long Mynd Site of Special Scientific Interest and was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 2023. Rectory Wood is covered by a woodland Tree Preservation Order (TPO) so trees of all size and age are protected and subject to the need for a planning application when works are required. The site is classified as being of 'local importance' in the Shropshire Parks and Historic Gardens Guide.

LGS2: Coppice Leasowes Local Nature Reserve

Location	Between the railway line and Watling St N, and bisected by the A49, to the NE of the main town centre
Grid Reference	West: SO459939 East: SO460938
Site Owner	Church Stretton Town Council
Site Management	CSTC Outdoor Team Volunteers from CSTC and external companies Local Nature Reserve Interest Group
Size	5ha (total)
Habitats	Deciduous woodland, open grassland, main river watercourse and wetland pools. Possible heritage landscape features (ridge & furrow/water meadow)
Current Designation	Local Nature Reserve, with Priority Woodland Habitat Main river. Public footpath at the southern end
Active Management Plan?	Yes, 2024-2029

Figure 4: Coppice Leasowes Local Nature Reserve, demonstrating the range of ecology on this site. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

Figure 5: The western side of Coppice Leasowes Local Nature Reserve, showing the wetland area. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

Coppice Leasowes LNR (CL) is situated on the northern edge of Church Stretton. This 4.8ha site is bisected by the A49. It is fringed by both established and new housing developments, the railway line, Watling Street North that follows the line of a former Roman Road, Sandford Avenue Town Park and High Leasowes (LGS3). It provides a link from the town to the wider countryside.
The reserve is owned by Church Stretton Town Council who work alongside the Local Nature Reserve Interest Group to manage the site. This is a group of local volunteers with a range of skills and specialist knowledge. Volunteers are fundamental in helping look after the site advising the Town Council on management and holding regular work parties. There is a Management Plan 2024 – 2029 which includes general information and descriptions of the geology, grasslands/pastures, streams and wetlands, woodland and hedgerows.

Community Value

Coppice Leasowes LNR is of value to the community for its habitats, biodiversity value, and open space to walk, sit and enjoy the wildlife. The site contains a mosaic of habitats including neutral grasslands with wet flushes, streams, a mature deciduous woodland, species rich hedgerows and a wetland area. The site is a valuable corridor for wildlife with connectivity to waterways, open fields, and hedgerows to the north and east. The streams connect to the wider countryside and form the upper reaches of the Cound river which flows into the Severn. The woodland and pasture contain several good habitat indicators (axiophytes) including bluebells, wood anemones, cowslips, and pignut.

Recent works on the wetlands to divert the Ash Brook and create new scrapes and wet areas have helped to "slow the flow". The value of this was demonstrated during the recent Storm Babet when properties in the town known to have flooded for over 30 years remained flood free.

The whole reserve is an Open Access site under the CROW Act (2000). BOAT UN1 (Watling Street North) runs along the eastern boundary and there is a public footpath (FP21) crossing the southern part of the site.

More details of the value of the site can be found in the Coppice Leasowes Management Plan 2024 -2029, as previously referenced. Walking for Health groups, co-ordinated by Church Stretton's Mayfair Centre, regularly use Coppice Leasowes as part of their route.

Suitability for LGS Designation

The reserve is of special community value, as described above providing valuable space for wildlife and flood alleviation. It lies within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape (previously known as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and was declared a Local Nature Reserve by Church Stretton Town Council in 1998. It was the first LNR to be declared by a town council.

The Shropshire Wildlife Trust's Local Sites Partnership Committee in 2013 agreed that the area of the LNR to the east of the A49 should have County Wildlife Site status as it contains species indicative of good habitat and meets the Local Sites Selection Criteria. It is close to the community it serves being fringed by both established and new housing developments and links with Sandford Avenue Town Park. The whole reserve is an Open Access site, and the public can walk where they wish.

Figure 6: Nature reserve volunteers removing a fence and hedgerow to improve the pedestrian access. (Credit: Janet Martin)

LGS3: High Leasowes

Location	East of the A49, adjacent to Coppice Leasowes LNR
Grid Reference	SO461939
Site Owner	Middle Marches Community Land Trust
Site Management	The High Leasowes Trust
Size	6.5ha
Habitats	Grassland and meadow, with mixed species hedgerows including trees
Current Designation	None
Active Management Plan?	Yes

Figure 7: The meadow area at High Leasowes (Credit: Dr Caroline Uff). Across the top are 1) bilberry bumblebee, 2) common spotted orchid, and 3) small yellow underwing (Credit: John Baines).

High Leasowes is an area of organic grassland to the east of the A49. It sits alongside LGS2: Coppice Leasowes LNR, but they are divided by Watling St N. This site occupies a special position in the landscape of The Strettons as it lies beneath the slopes of Caer Caradoc, and it provides wonderful views towards the Long Mynd. This site was bought following a process of crowd funding, in order to protect it as an open greenspace for the benefit of nature and the community.

This site is accessible to the public who can walk around the fields on two rights of way and a number of permissive paths. It is an important stepping stone site, being surrounded by ancient hedges with mature

trees, and further open space to the east. The vision of the High Leasowes Trust is "to create an area rich in wildlife and a place that people can enjoy". The location of this site means that it is easily within walking distance of the main town; it is 0.5miles walk from the railway station, and can be accessed by walking through LGS8: Sandford Park and LGS2: Coppice Leasowes LNR, reducing the amount of roadside walking.

High Leasowes comprises of three fields which were previously managed as organic grassland. Hedgerows dating back to at least 1840, as shown on tithe maps. The hedgerows are generally diverse and provide many opportunities for feeding, nesting, and roosting wildlife. Each of the fields have high ecological value – a survey in 2023 recorded over 100 species of flowering plant, over 100 species of invertebrate, and over 30 species of birds using the site. This is a demonstrably wonderful site for wildlife. Common spotted orchids have been found here, as well as pignut and adders tongue, which all indicate low levels of disturbance. The uncommon and declining bilberry bumblebee has also been seen at this location, so it is of high importance for conservation of this species.

Community Value

The views of Caer Caradoc, Helmeth Wood and the Long Mynd are outstanding, and the site is particularly valued by the many people who walk through or around it. Walks around the fields are facilitated by 2 public rights of way and a number of additional permissive paths. Benches, funded by Stretton Focus and the West Midlands Agricultural Society encourage people to pause and enjoy the view.

The value of High Leasowes to the community was demonstrated by the response to an appeal in 2022 to raise funds to purchase the land, protect it from development and to secure it as a 'stepping stone for nature' and for the benefit of the local community. In addition to raising over £400,000 to secure the land, community support can be demonstrated in numerous ways: over 300 supporters now receive regular newsletters about the fields, and between April and December 2023 volunteers provided over 600 hours of voluntary labour to help to care for them. This involved tasks such as tree planting, hedgerow restoration, control of invasive plants such as thistle and dock, fence repair and erection, the planting of a new hedge and other activities.

Walking for Health groups, co-ordinated by Church Stretton's Mayfair Centre, regularly use High Leasowes as part of their route.

Suitability for Designation

There are no statutory designations, planning permissions or site allocations affecting this site. It is close to the community within easy walking distance of the town centre and has direct pedestrian access from Leasowes Close, Cwms Lane and Coppice Leasowes Local Nature Reserve.

A management committee was formed in 2023 with the aims of protecting the fields and managing them for the community and to increase the biodiversity present. In early 2024 the High Leasowes Management Committee was replaced by The High Leasowes Trust, registered charity no.1207101. The High Leasowes Trust will, with the support of volunteers, ensure that the fields are managed to protect and increase biodiversity whilst facilitating public access, enjoyment and education.

High Leasowes provides a valuable space for a peaceful walk around the fields, as well as offering a location for social group walks.

LGS4: Cudwell Meadow

Location	Cemetery Lane, SW of the main town centre
Grid Reference	SO449931
Site Owner	Middle Marches Community Land Trust
Site Management	MMCLT
Size	1.2ha
Habitats	Wetland / floodplain meadow
Current Designation	None
Active Management Plan?	Yes

Figure 8: Cudwell Meadow, featuring a parasitic wasp species. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

Cudwell Meadow is situated to the south of Church Stretton town centre (approx. 0.5mile walk). It is bordered by the Quinny (Town Brook) and is joined by a small stream from Cudwell Pool. The site is a three-acre wetland wildflower meadow, adjacent to a larger area of wetlands (see LGS5: Worlds End), which are home to otters, water voles, and other animals. The meadow has been gently restored since its purchase in 2020 and this has greatly improved its ability to host more species of wetland plants, and to provide a place for wildlife to feed, breed, and thrive. Access by members of the public is restricted to reduce trampling of the site, as it is such a valuable habitat under management. Monthly volunteer work parties are held to assist with the nurturing of this space, and the site is opened on weekends during the summer. In winter the site is inaccessible due to it being a wetland site.

Community Value

The community value of this site has been demonstrated by the raising of funds to purchase the land and restore it. Wetland wildflower meadows are fragile and rare; restoration of this space will greatly improve its ability to host more wetland plants, as well as assisting with flood water attenuation in this area. There is a newsletter for the site which is sent out regularly to around 200 supporters.

Suitability for Designation

This site offers an area of natural flood remediation which is of direct benefit for the residents in this area, and it also a key ecological location, having had a recent record (2023/24) of a bee chafer beetle, one of only a handful of sightings in Shropshire for a few decades. Shropshire Wildlife Trust have already recognised the value of the wetlands and declared it as a Local Wildlife Site in 2017. It is also just outside of the Church Stretton Conservation Area boundary. The richness of wildlife found here is readily evidenced by data collected on many survey days, and although not generally open to the public, this site is in a tranquil setting and can be viewed from the lane on its eastern boundary. It is a site with well-defined boundaries and has immense landscape value which is determined by its ongoing management objectives.

LGS5: World's End Wetlands

Location	South of main town centre, between B5477 and railway line
Grid Reference	SO451932
Site Owner	Various
Site Management	Various
Size	9.5ha
Habitats	Wetland / floodplain meadow
Current Designation	Public footpath runs through the middle of the site Local Wildlife Site
Active Management Plan?	No

Figure 9: World's End, also known as The Wetlands. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

The World's End site is a wetland site, with different landowners, and therefore does not have a unified management plan. It is a largely unmanaged site, with limited public access except for the central footpath which is a constructed boardwalk. This path takes people from Church Stretton town, to the A49, where crossing can lead walkers up to the slopes of Ragleth Hill. Continuing on this walk will lead to LGS8: Snatchfield. The site boundary is marked by housing to the north, the A49 trunk road at the eastern side, a small industrial area to the south, and a lane to the west. Adjacent to the World's End wetlands is LGS4: Cudwell Meadow.

The boardwalk was constructed by volunteers under supervision and guidance from Shropshire Council following a successful fundraising effort. It was formally opened in 2018, and greatly improves access to this site. Previously, the path was often flooded or blocked with trees and other debris. It now offers a relatively dry route for the community to access town without needing to walk alongside the A49 or other roads. Walking for Health groups, co-ordinated by Church Stretton's Mayfair Centre, regularly use Worlds End as part of their route.

As the site is divided into parcels under differing ownership, access is restricted. A benefit of this restriction is the value of this site for wildlife and biodiversity. In 2016 the site was surveyed which revealed a number of unusual and notable species, similar to the fauna and flora of the North Shropshire meres and mosses. At least 52 species of moth use this site, which in turn feeds the 6 species of bat recorded here. The results of this survey led to the designation of 6ha at this location as a Local Wildlife Site. The boardwalk offers not only passage through the site, but also a location to observe wildlife in an undisturbed area.
This site has historical importance for the town, possibly as an area of eel farming, due to the flooding of the land. In modern times, this flooding acts as an attenuation area which reduces the impact of climate change. There is also evidence of a thick layer of peat at this site, which further absorbs carbon and locks it away.

Suitability for Designation

The area at World's End is within 0.5miles of the main town, though sits outside of the Church Stretton Conservation Area. It offers a place of tranquillity despite the railway and A49, and many people use this route proving its value as a much-needed link across the valley. The vegetation is mostly managed by volunteers two or three times a year, and improvements such as the boardwalk, a gravel area by the gate, and installing signage, has all been funded by the community.

Figure 10: Installation of the boardwalk

LGS6: Contemplation Corner

Location	Centre of main town, adjacent to Russells Meadow playing fields, and Brooksbury Close
Grid Reference	SO454940
Site Owner	Connexus
Site Management	CSTC Outdoor Team and volunteers
Size	0.07ha
Habitats	Meadow grassland, with young trees, a beetle bank, and formal shrub planted border
Current Designation	None
Active Management Plan?	No

Figure 11: Contemplation Corner showing the meadow areas and the range of life they support. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC).

Contemplation Corner is a small area adjacent to Russells Meadow playing fields (not included in this report). It is owned by Connexus, a local housing association. In conjunction with Connexus, a group of volunteers took over the management of this site, digging out the area that now has an ornamental shrub border, planting hawthorn and rowan trees, one of which is a memorial for a local resident, as well as creating a beetle bank habitat. The Town Council then formed an agreement with the volunteers to assist them with the heavier management such as a late summer annual cutting of the meadow.

The area is managed as meadow and amenity greenspace and is used daily by people cutting through to get across Russells Meadow, to the schools, play area, town centre, and other facilities. It is a central part of the community here, being bordered on two sides by houses, and offers a space with seating to observe nature, watch any sporting events on the field, or to just enjoy the location and surrounding hills.

Wildlife seen at this site includes a variety of beetles as well as bumble and solitary bees. The meadow is rich in wildflowers and offers a sheltered habitat area on the edge of amenity playing fields.

Walking for Health groups, co-ordinated by Church Stretton's Mayfair Centre, regularly use Contemplation Corner as part of their route.

Suitability for Designation

This land is not within the Church Stretton Conservation Area and belongs to a housing association. It has no other designation or protection, but it offers a place to sit and relax, close enough to the houses for those with limited mobility and sheltered enough to be a tranquil space away from the main town and road network with the nearby watercourse adding an element of calm.

LGS7: Station Patch

Location	Centre of main town, adjacent to railway and off Central Ave/Stretton Farm Rd
Grid Reference	SO454934
Site Owner	Church Stretton Town Council
Site Management	CSTC Outdoor Team, and volunteers
Size	0.3ha
Habitats	Open tree planting, small orchard, grassland, small watercourse
Current Designation	Watercourse is both ordinary watercourse (northern end) and main river (southern end). Public footpath across the middle. No other designation
Active Management Plan?	No

Figure 12: Station Patch, or The Narrows. The top picture shows the newly planted orchard (2024), and the bottom shows the more mature woodland cover on this site. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

Station Patch lies to the south of the railway station, on the western side of the line. It is bordered by the railway line and housing, with a public footpath crossing the middle of the site. There is a small stream on one side, which becomes main river at the junction with the footpath, and a community mixed species orchard has recently (2024) been planted here by volunteers.

The grassed area has several mature trees, providing valuable habitat for a range of birds, and around the edge of the site, a wide border is left unmown to provide forage for nectaring insects. The footpath through this site is known as the Coffin Path, as it leads from the eastern side of the A49, through the industrial estate, over the railway line, through town, and up to the church. It is used regularly by people wanting to reach different sides of town.

Community Value

This patch of land is a valuable green space in an otherwise built up and industrialised part of town. It enables those living on the east side of town an alternative pedestrian route into the centre of Church Stretton, and it also provides space for children to play, and for dog walking. The community orchard, although new, provides plant diversity and interest to the area, and the fruit will be free to harvest. This was all planted by volunteers under supervision of the Town Council Outdoor Team. The planting of an orchard here signifies a change in management, from being heavily mown, to slowly changing to an area of greater biodiversity, which will provide more interest to site users and passers-by, as well as increasing environmental resilience in times of extreme weather. Management of this site is covered by the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Walking for Health groups, co-ordinated by Church Stretton's Mayfair Centre, regularly use Station Patch as part of their route.

Suitability for Designation

There are no statutory designations, planning permissions, or site allocations affecting this area, but it is wholly within the Church Stretton Conservation Area. The watercourse at the southern end of this site is classed as Main River which is managed by the Environment Agency. The location of this area on the edge of the town centre provides an alternative route for pedestrians and is a quiet place to enjoy nature. The wildlife value is being improved, though it is common to see a flock of goldfinch, and a wide variety of bumble and solitary bee species have been identified here.

Figure 13: Community tree planting day to create the new orchard (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

LGS8: Snatchfield

Location	East of main town in shadow of Hazler Hill and Ragleth Hill
Grid Reference	SO459932
Site Owner	Various
Site Management	Various
Size	3.75ha
Habitats	Priority habitats - semi-natural broadleaved woodland, rush pasture, hedgerows. Other habitats – grassland, broadleaved plantation woodland, mixed plantation woodland, scattered trees. Several mature and veteran trees.
Current Designation	Nationally recognised bridleway/footpath runs through the site. This is also used by the Marcher Castles Way a cycling route promoted by UK Cycling. Connecting footpath to residential area to the west of site. No other current designations.
Active Management Plan?	No

Figure 14: Aerial image of Snatchfield. (Credit: R Parnell)

Snatchfield is located on the eastern side of the A49 trunk road and marks the transition from built environment into open countryside. The site itself is self-contained within the landscape, bounded by residential areas on three sides, and a strip of woodland forming the remaining southern boundary. The previous Snatchfield Farmhouse has been a private dwelling, unconnected with farming activities, for many years and is not included within the proposed area. Redundant farm buildings towards the southern edge of the site are also excluded. Snatchfield is currently used to graze sheep, under a rental arrangement with the absentee site owners. The land slopes steeply, and flooding occurs on the lowest lying parts of the site.

The nearest LGS is Hazler Triangle (10), followed by Coppice Leasowes NR (2), and High Leasowes (3). Ragleth Wood Local Wildlife Site (LWS) is immediately adjacent to the site.

There are two public rights of way within this site; the Jack Mytton Way (a nationally recognised long-distance bridleway and footpath), and a further footpath connecting Chelmick Drive and nearby residential areas to Snatchfield and the Jack Mytton Way.

Cycling UK have recently established the Marcher Castles Way a long-distance cycle route which runs through Snatchfield. A 'taster' route is ideally accessible from Church Stretton Train Station.

Habitats of this site include grassland, semi-natural broadleaf woodland, rush-pasture, and hedgerows, each attracting a wide range of wildlife. There is also a largely culverted watercourse here. This site is a diverse location, and each habitat provides localised environmental differences, such as boggy ground giving rise to a specialised suite of flora. A hazel dominated hedgerow provides a potential area for dormice, and there are also notable veteran trees on this site, which will provide roost for bats and birds.

A survey conducted by the Strettons Area Community Wildlife Group (SACWG) in August 2024 identified six species of bats present on the site (Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Daubenton's, Natterer's, Brow Long-Eared, Noctule). Six species represent the largest number recorded locally at one site.

Badgers, brown hares and hedgehogs have all been recorded on the site by the community. A Preliminary Ecological Assessment was undertaken by The Environment Partnership (TEP) in August 2019, and this confirms the excellent opportunities the site provides for these species. TEP also note that the site provides good habitat for foraging, basking and hibernating reptiles; suitable habitat for foraging, ranging and hibernating amphibians; and potential to support S.41 invertebrates.

Beyond the two public rights of way, access to much of the Snatchfield site is restricted. However, this restriction adds significantly to the overall value of the site in terms of wildlife and biodiversity.

Snatchfield, despite being bounded by residential areas, retains a very rural and tranquil feel. Tree cover is extensive along the eastern residential boundary and properties along the western and southern boundaries are predominantly one storey. The land itself acts as a natural buffer between areas of development and is clearly visible from Caer Cardoc and multiple points on the Long Mynd.

Historical Context

In the Middle Ages Church Stretton was surrounded by three open fields (Snatchfield, Ashbrook and the Overfield). These fields were divided into strips and used by local people to grow crops. In its medieval form Snatchfield covered 55.47 hectares (134.6 acres) and extended westwards from the wooded slopes of Hazler Hill to the line of Watling Street in the valley below.

Today, Snatchfield (while now a fraction of its previous size) still provides a direct link with the development of the early medieval settlement of Church Stretton. Snatchfields Lane, which links with the Jack Mytton Way running through the site, has the appearance of a hollow lane of great antiquity whose original role was to provide access to Snatchfield open field. LIDAR imagery also shows a linear feature following an east-west trajectory. In the field situation this takes the form of a wet ditch. The age of this feature is unknown, but it is likely to be post-medieval or earlier and, as such, an old route linking Church Stretton and surrounding communities.

Community Value

Snatchfield is used by horse riders, long distance walkers, groups of ramblers and residents alike. This area is located with immediate access from the surrounding residential areas and is situated 0.5miles east of the railway station in Church Stretton. Due to the nature of the roads in the residential area, there is minimal traffic, which enhances the peace and tranquillity of this location.

The views of Caer Caradoc, Hazler Hill, Ragleth Hill and the Long Mynd are outstanding, and the site provides an easily accessible route to and from Stretton's eastern hills, including several waymarked walks.

Figure 15: Walkers emerging onto Snatchfield from the town, with immediate impressive views of Caer Caradoc, Hazler Hill and Ragleth Hill. (Credit: J Bunce).

Figure 16: Walking and Riding routes through Snatchfield; Church Stretton and the Long Mynd ahead; the Jack Mytton Way. (Credit: J Bunce).

There are no planning permissions or site allocations affecting this site. Community feedback regarding the future of Snatchfield was sought by Shropshire Council in 2020 as part of the ongoing Local Plan Review and residents of The Strettons, through a Freedom of Information submission, requested details of the results. Of the 302 unique respondents who expressed a view, 97% wished Snatchfield to be protected for future generations, many citing visual amenity, rural feel, setting and place in the AONB, recreational value, protection of nature and the like. After considering the consultation responses, Shropshire Council did not progress Snatchfield as a potential site for development and it remains that no formal planning application for any part of Snatchfield has been submitted since the late 1980s.

Suitability for Designation

This location is a highly valued greenspace within the residential area east of the A49 road. It acts as a break between developments and offers outstanding views to and from the Long Mynd and the Shropshire Hills. The site is self-contained being framed on three sides by residential development. The Jack Mytton Way crosses this land and is used by residents and visitors alike as a gateway to the hills or for shorter recreational walks. The habitats within the site are varied, which significantly increases biodiversity value. The north-eastern part of the site floods every winter, without affecting residential properties. Thus, the site also acts as an effective attenuation area for a town increasingly affected by flooding issues. Snatchfield has historical value, as its use to the community can be traced to medieval times.
Measured as recently as 2020, there is overwhelming support from the community to retain Snatchfield as greenspace for future generations.

LGS9: War Memorial and Burway Triangle

Location	At the junction of Longhills Rd and The Burway
Grid Reference	War Memorial: SO452939 Burway Triangle: SO452938
Site Owner	Church Stretton Town Council
Site Management	CSTC Outdoor Team, and volunteers
Size	0.7ha (combined)
Habitats	Open grassland with trees
Current Designation	Commons land Church Stretton Conservation Area
Active Management Plan?	No

Figure 17: The Church Stretton War Memorial and Burway Triangle are designated as Commons Land, and hence already have some protection. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

This Local Green Space is two areas bundled as one, and both parcels are currently designated as Commons Land as well as being wholly within the Church Stretton Conservation Area (1986/2013).
The Burway Triangle site is a small grassed area with three mature oak trees, each of which were planted in memory of previous monarchs. There are three benches here for the public to use and sit beneath the tree cover and enjoy the view down to Sandford Avenue. The grassland is mown short as shaded amenity grass habitat, and has been planted with spring flowering bulbs including crocus. As this area is approximately 85m away from the main road and high street, it is a peaceful place to sit in the town whilst not being too out of the way to be inaccessible.

Adjacent to this area is the War Memorial, also Commons Lands. This area has a grassed slope with a rocky outcrop, and the open space here is managed as a rich wildflower meadow. Species here include harebell, ladys bedstraw, catsear, wild honeysuckle, stonecrop, and a full range of typical meadow species. The geology here provides a harsh growing environment, so a lot of plants found on the top of the slope are not found elsewhere within the main town. The ongoing management of this space adds to the overall beauty, richness of species and wildlife, as well as the tranquillity of the space.

In a prominent position on the hill is the stone war memorial. This space is used every November for a remembrance service which is always very well attended by the community following a parade. The memorial itself is very poignant for the town and the history of its people. Given the position of this space being removed slightly from the main town, it is a peaceful space for reflection and remembrance, and it offers views over the town and south to Helmeth Hill. The pine trees on the slope below the memorial may also be of historical significance as a way marker for drovers using the Burway to take their animals to market. Walking for Health groups, co-ordinated by Church Stretton's Mayfair Centre, regularly use the War Memorial and Burway Triangle as part of their route.

Suitability for designation

These two parcels of land already have a degree of protection due to their status as Commons Land but a further designation of Local Green Space would increase their value as urban sites with a rich habitat and geological substrate. The war memorial is a locally valued landmark and it brings people together for quiet reflection. These areas have limited recreational value but it is known to be used by fell runners as well as dog walkers and people preferring to use this green route instead of following the road. The area offers a tranquil space to sit and enjoy the flora and views of the landscape, before continuing on a walk in LGS1: Rectory Wood and Field Nature Reserve. A small shelter with a bench was donated by the Rotary Club, and they maintain this seating area on behalf of the Town Council.

LGS10: Hazler Triangle

Location	Corner of Sandford Ave and Hazler Rd
Grid Reference	SO458936
Site Owner	Church Stretton Town Council
Site Management	Volunteers
Size	0.02ha
Habitats	Grassland with wildflower areas, managed hedgerow, and a young oak tree
Current Designation	Church Stretton Conservation Area
Active Management Plan?	No

Figure 18: Hazler Triangle is a small patch of land featuring an oak sapling and wildflower margins. (Credit: L Beardsmore, CSTC)

This small area of green space sits at a prominent junction of Sandford Avenue and Hazler Road. It is on the main road into Church Stretton from Much Wenlock, so is seen by many passers-by on a daily basis. It is managed by volunteers on behalf of Church Stretton Town Council, and features a timber shelter with bench, an oak tree which was planted in commemoration of King Charles' coronation, and there are two wildflower areas. Paths are mown in between the meadow patches and to the shelter. The biodiversity of this area is gradually being enhanced by hay strewing, seed scattering, and ongoing annual management. The site is bounded by managed and unmanaged hedgerows, which create a corridor habitat for small mammals and birds, and they also act as a low buffer between the roads and the green space.

Although not in the main town area, and not being connected to any other public green space, this patch offers a local tranquil space for people, as well as being a valued habitat and nectaring location for a range of wildlife. The flowers found here attract many different species of bee, fly, beetle, and hoverfly, which in turn will make a feeding ground for birds. The mature trees in the area may also host bats, which will feed off the micro insects over this ground.

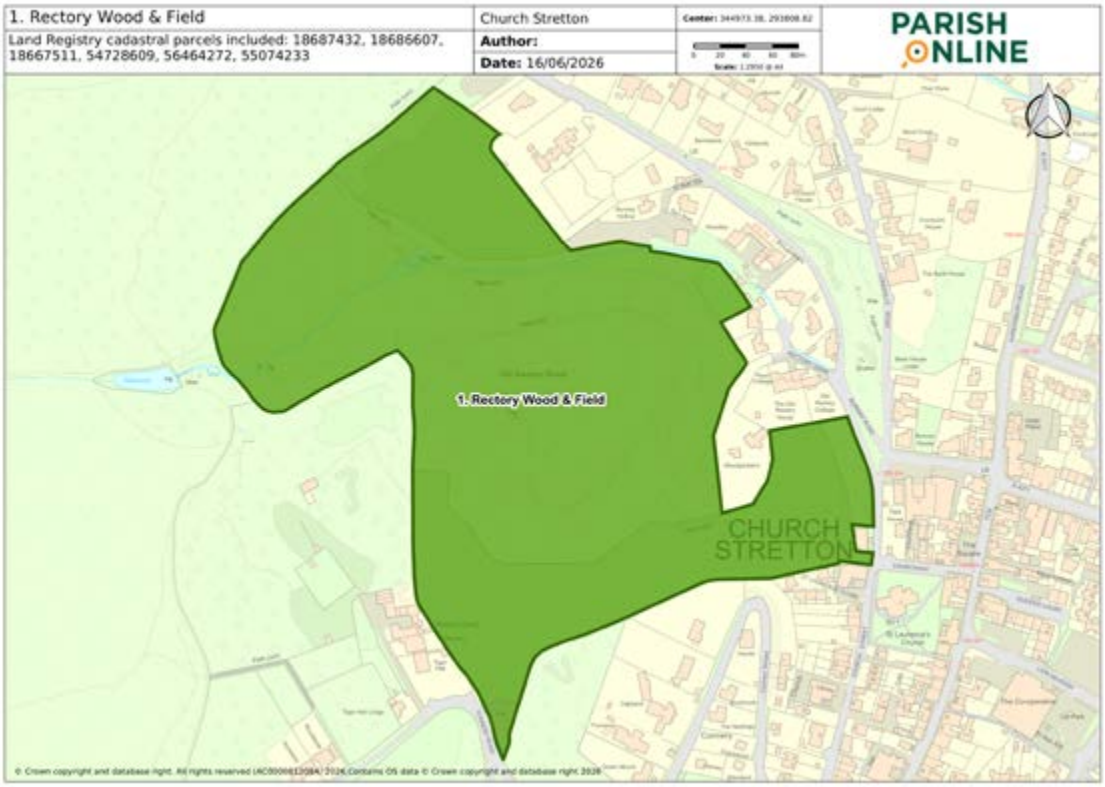
The community value of this area is a restful, green, natural space to perch before heading on up the hill out of town, or to just sit and watch the world go by. This site sits within the Church Stretton Conservation Area but has no other designation. It has demonstrable value as a site for wildlife and habitat protection. Walking for Health groups, co-ordinated by Church Stretton's Mayfair Centre, regularly use es as part of their route.

Suitability for LGS Designation

Although this site is small, it acts a pocket of habitat within the built environment, which is further enhanced by the local gardens and mature trees. The establishment of meadow areas and a rough vegetated bank will further increase the biodiversity value here and add to the overall richness of wildlife in this location. Despite being on a main road, the shelter offers a covered seating area which overlooks the space and into town, providing a tranquil space to sit. The site is close to both Coppice Leasowes Nature Reserve (LGS2) and High Leasowes (LGS3), and near to Sandford Park (LGS8), providing a local route to visit many green spaces in the main town.

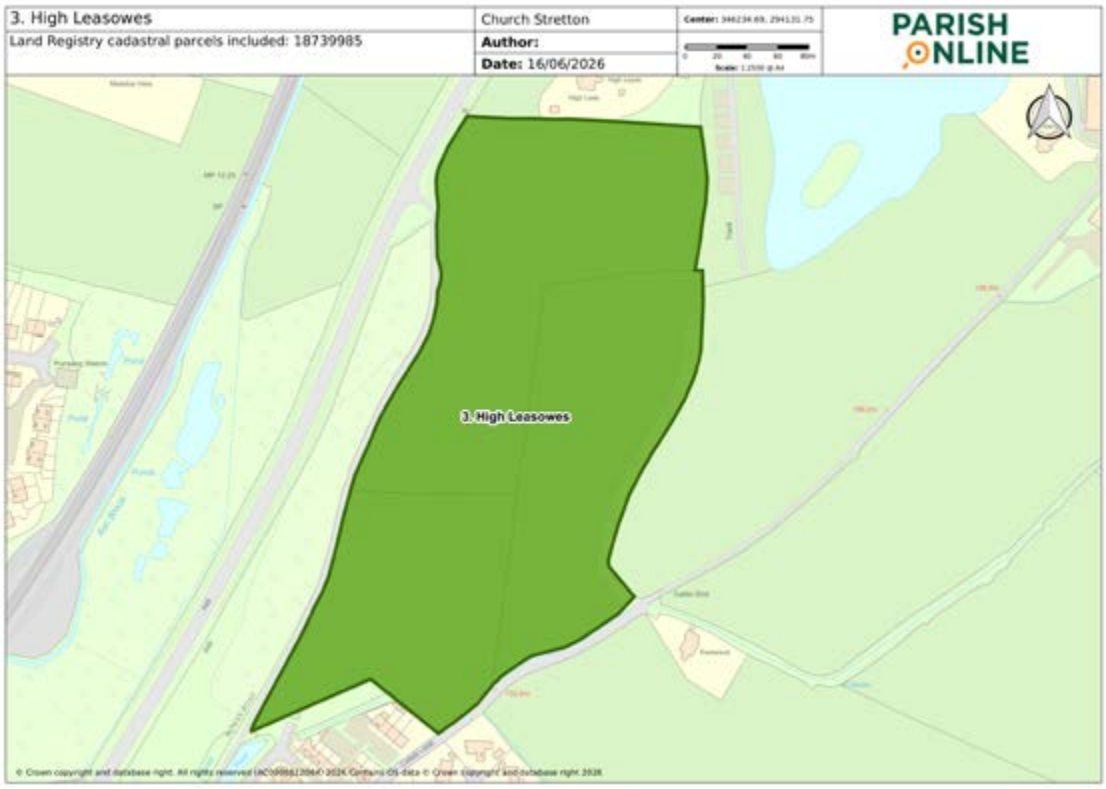
C: Individual Site Boundary Maps

1. Rectory Wood and Field LNR – Site Boundary Map

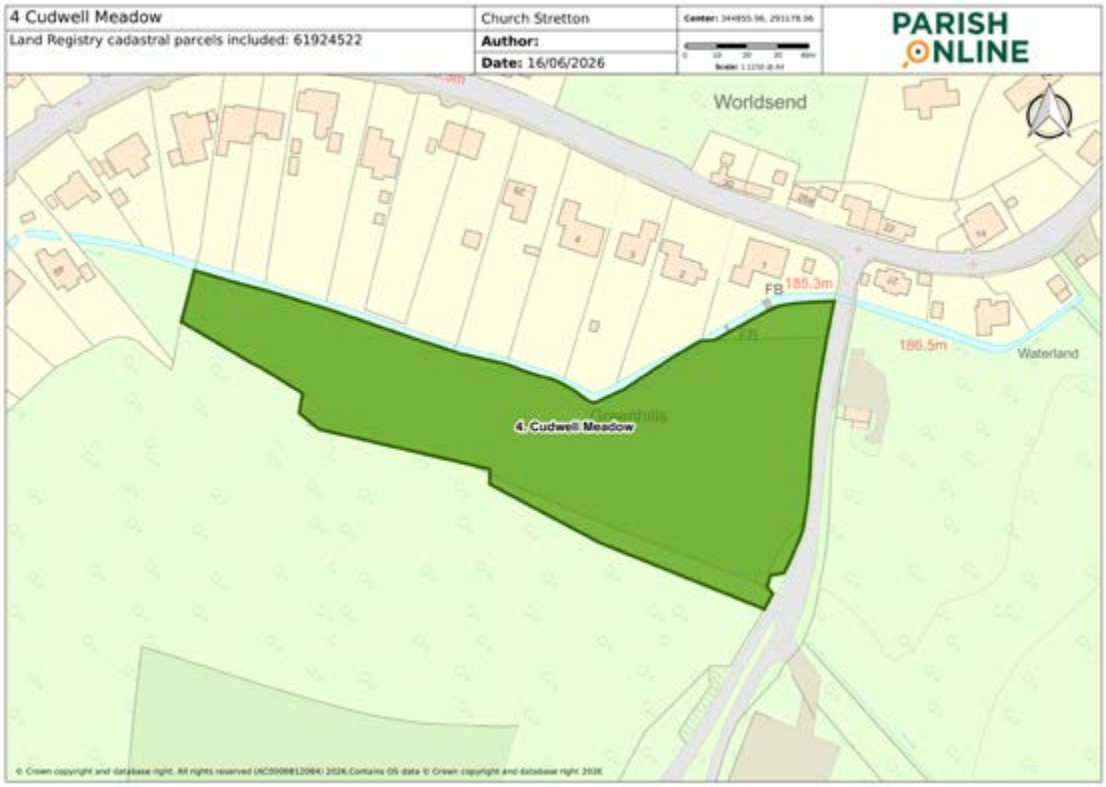


2. Coppice Leasowes LNR – Site Boundary Map

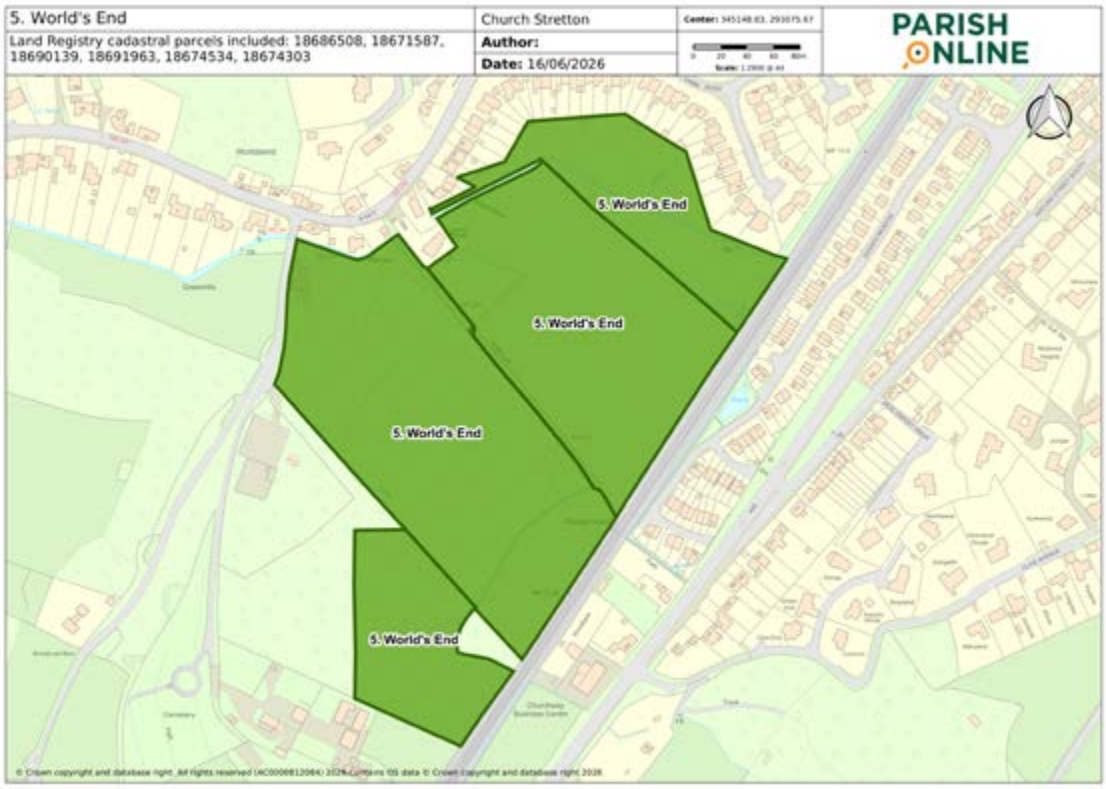
3. High Leasowes – Site Boundary Map



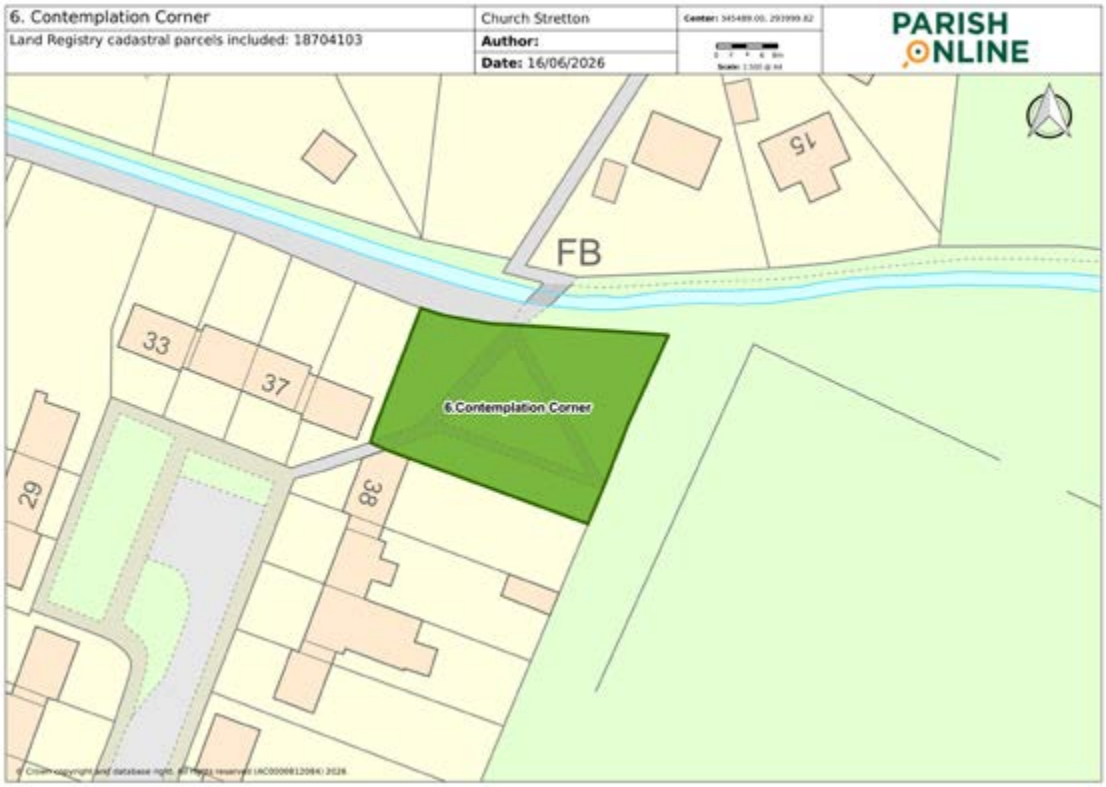
4. Cudwell Meadow – Site Boundary Map



5. World's End – Site Boundary Map

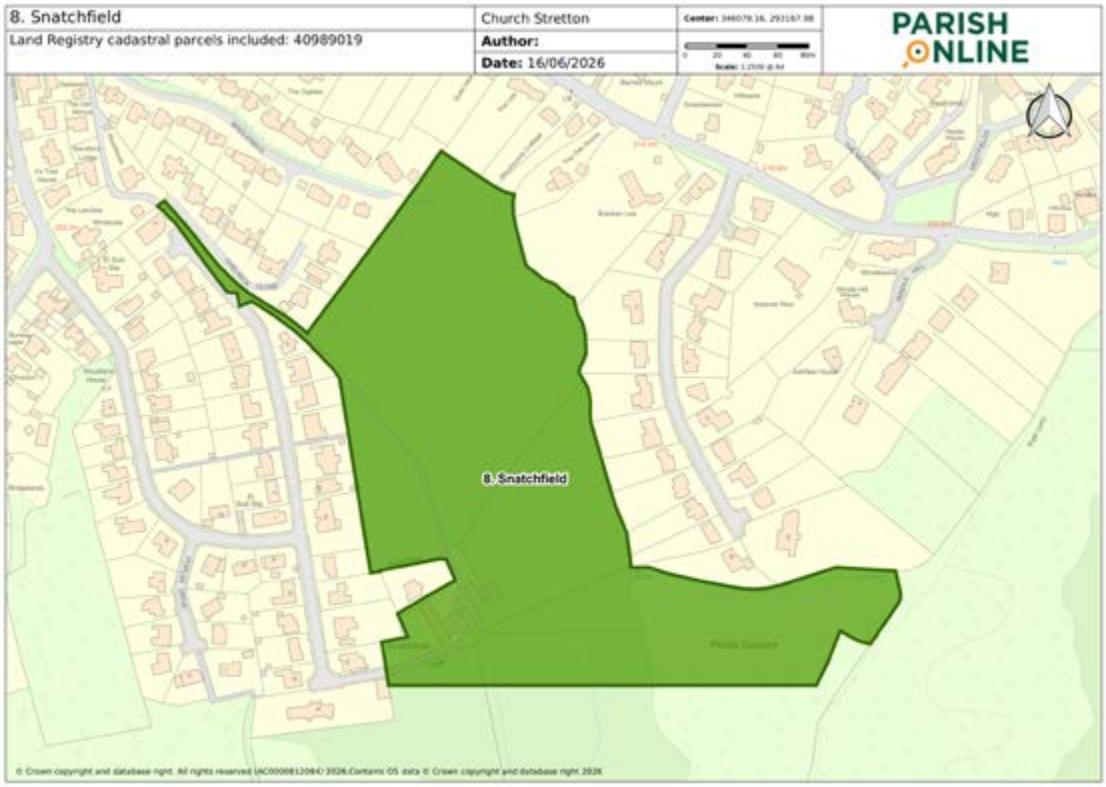


6. Contemplation Corner – Site Boundary Map

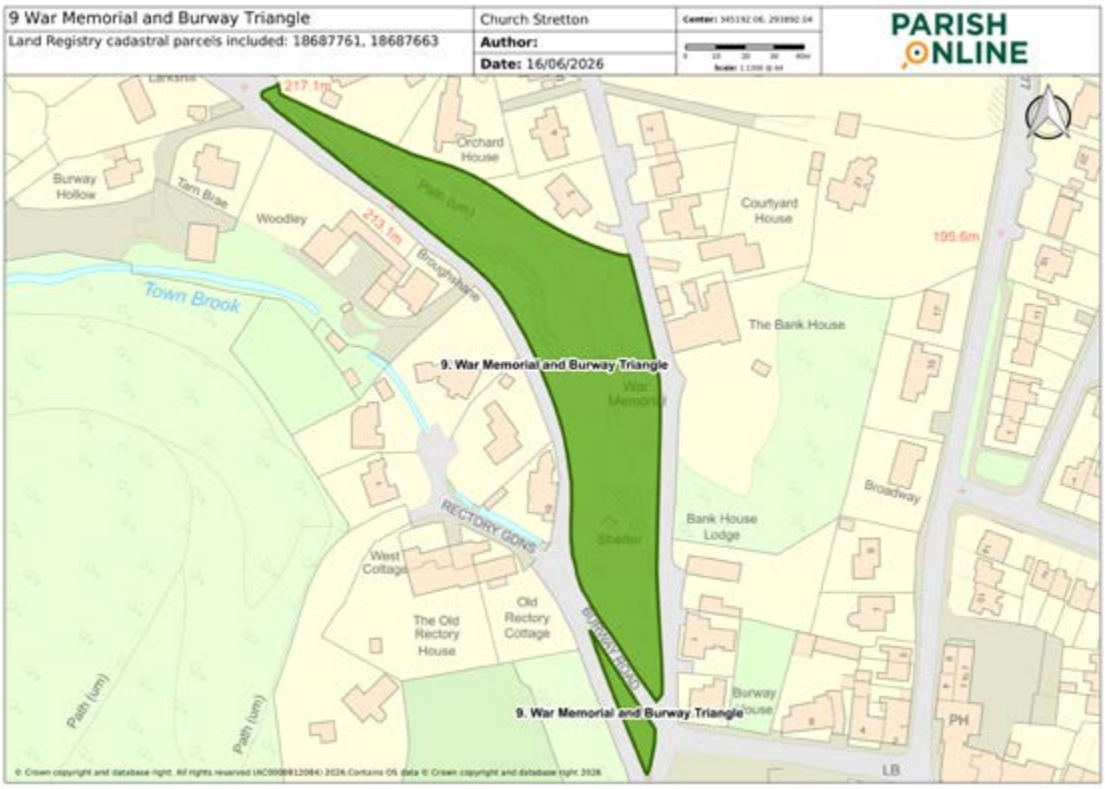


7. Station Patch – Site Boundary Map

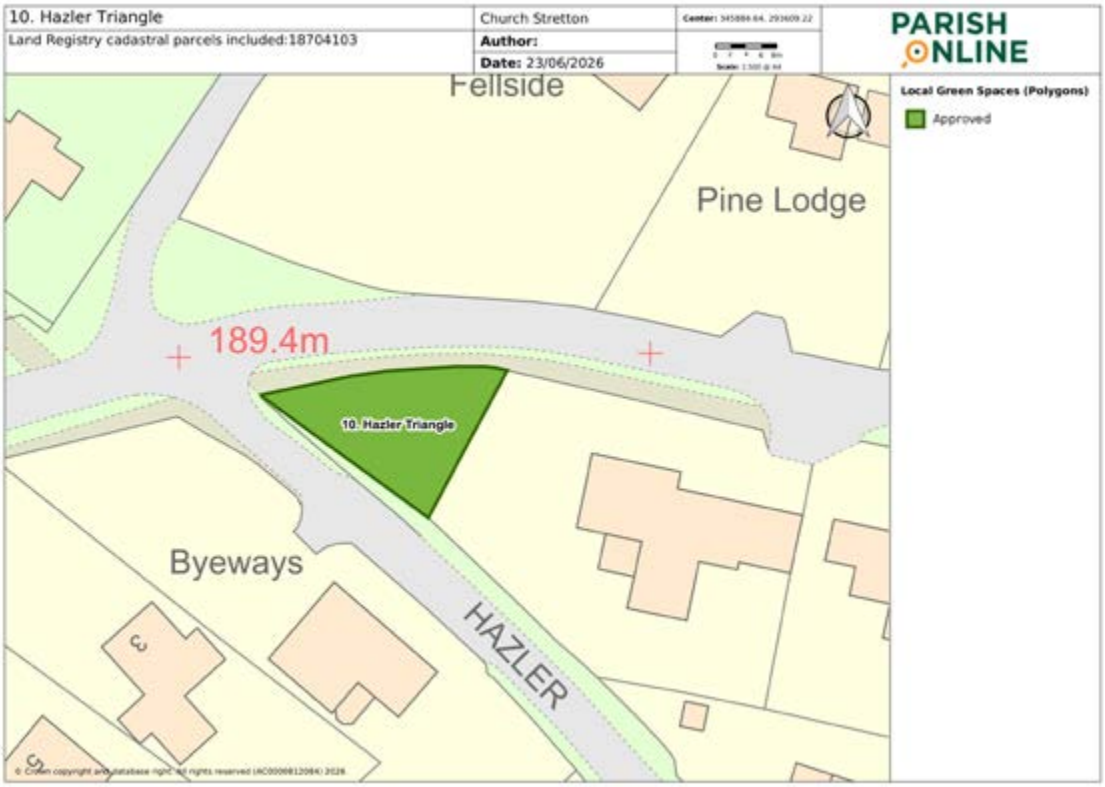
8. Snatchfield – Site Boundary Map



9. War Memorial and Burway Triangle – Site Boundary Map



10. Hazler Triangle – Site Boundary Map



Notes