



Why do we Need a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) allows residents to provide input on changes and policies being set out in their Parish. This can provide the opportunity for you to choose where you want new homes built, what new building should look like, areas you would like to be preserved, and any improvements you may like to see in the future.

Test Valley is currently working on providing a new Local Plan, and although a Neighbourhood Plan cannot override the Local Plan it will still provide the Parish with regulations and opportunities that will be beneficial.

Once approved, Neighbourhood Plans have legal weight in the planning system and allow local people to shape the futures of their communities.

This event will give you the opportunity to discover and respond to the work we have been doing on a Neighbourhood Plan for our parish.

What's in the exhibition?

- A timeline explaining the NP creation process
- An overview of the different Settlements and key issues within the parish (identified partly from your feedback)
- Examples of some of the policy areas that may be included in the final plan (as identified to date)

The Neighbourhood Plan steering group consists of members of the community.

The group is being advised by independent planning consultants, Bluestone Planning LLP who are hosting this event.

The Neighbourhood Plan Team members are wearing name badges, please feel free to ask any questions or make any comments. Your feedback is essential.



The NP will provide a more detailed local guidance than is provided in the Test Valley Local Plan.

What is not addressed in our NP?

- Designated sites for major development as included in the Local Plan
- The designation of specific ecological areas such as Ancient Woodland
- Areas allocated for Minerals and Waste development
- The road network and transport issues (other than associated with new development)

What else can we do?

Our Neighbourhood Plan can also identify specific community aspirations that would ensure our Parish continues to thrive in the future. These could include looking into or providing:

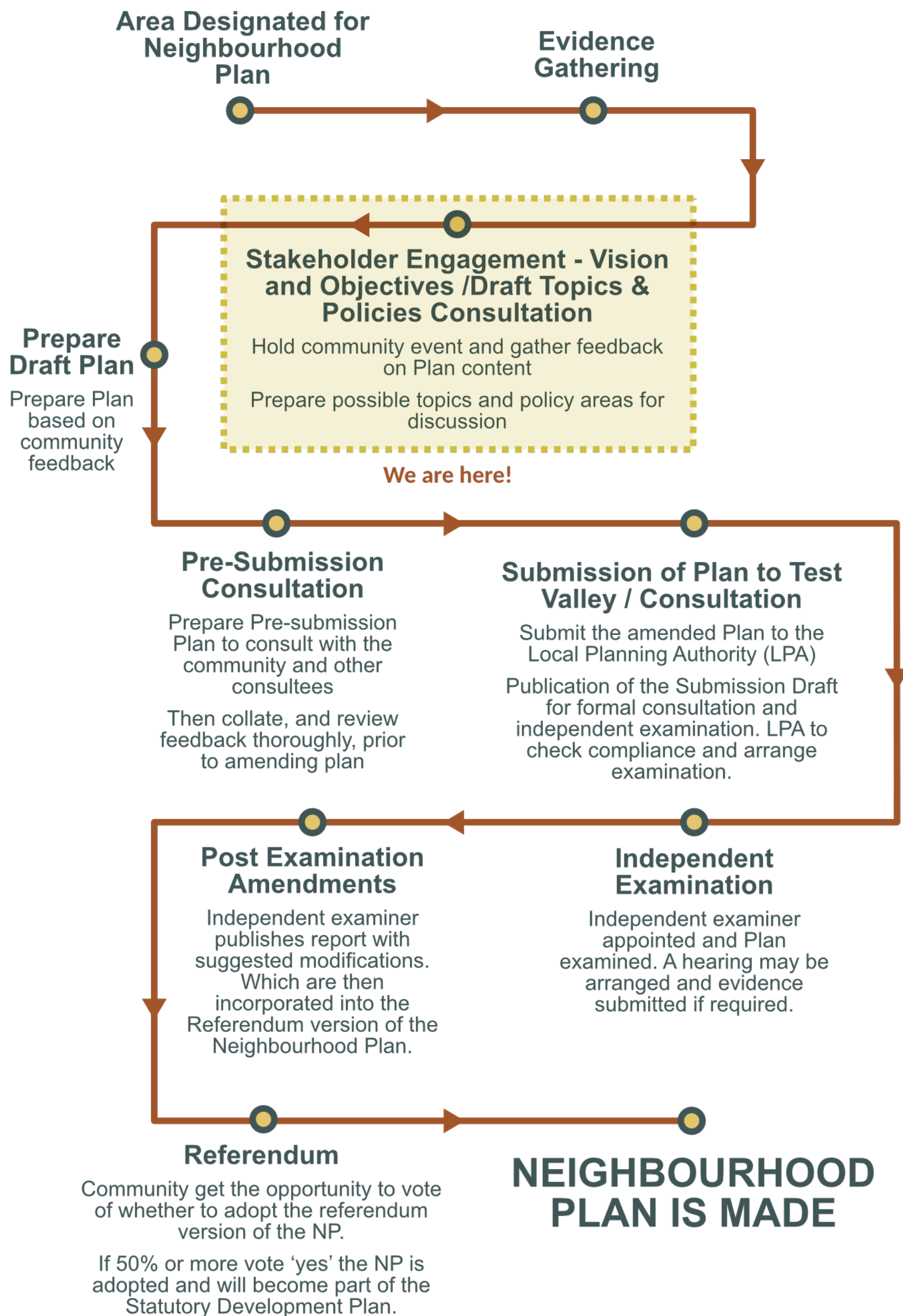
- Enhanced or new community facilities
- Improved pedestrian and cycle routes
- Specific sustainable energy schemes
- More local biodiversity sites

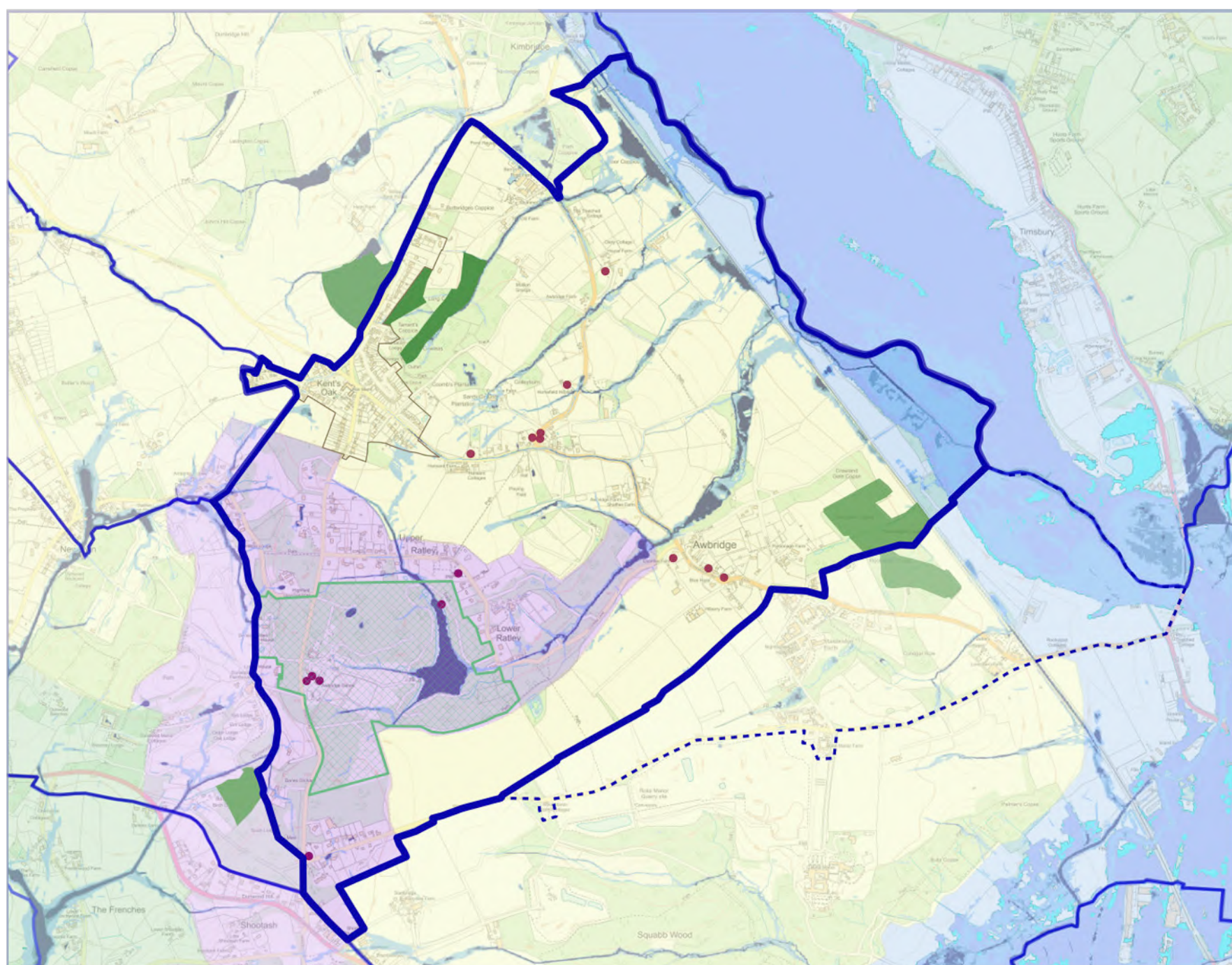
How can I join in?

By providing your views on what you believe is important for the future of the Parish and responding to community consultation events, such as this. From these, we can use your feedback effectively to form the basis of our NP.

As we progress with this, there may be more opportunity for you to become more involved in the production of the plan. Please let us know if you would like to help, as everyone's input is welcome.

NP TIMELINE





- Original Parish Boundary
- New Parish Boundary
- Existing Local Plan Settlement Boundary
- Ancient Woodland
- Historic Garden
- Listed Building / Registered Monument

Test Valley Landscape Character Areas:

- Pasture and Woodland
- Mixed Farmland and Woodland Medium Scale
- Mixed Farmland and Woodland Small Scale
- River Valley Floor

Test Valley Borough Local Plan

The Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan currently covers policy up to 2029. A new Local Plan 2040 is currently being drafted which will continue to guide developments within the Borough.

The current Local Plan policies are reflected in the Parish map above. This highlights the original Parish boundary (dark blue) with the recently revised Parish boundary (shown in a dotted line, which comes into effect 1st April 2023) and takes into account Stanbridge Earls and up to the Old Salisbury Road.

The plan also highlights ancient woodland, listed buildings and scheduled monuments.

The above plan also highlights different landscape character areas (as set out by Test Valley) which are noted within the map as well as potential flood zones.

It is important that these existing policies and strategies are reviewed alongside the new policies in the NP, so that there is no duplication.

The Local Plan will have equal weight to the NP, with the NP dealing with local issues specifically.

The creation of the NP will allow you as a community to have an influence on what you would like to see in the future of your Parish.

Our Vision

We have drawn up a draft vision statement below.

- Do you agree with this or how would you like it changed?
- What is in your vision of the future of Awbridge Parish?
- What aspects of your community do you take pride in?

*Over the next 15 years, we wish to **sustain and nurture the features of our Parish that contribute positively to quality of life and the local environment**, through a carefully managed ecological approach that facilitates **sustainable growth** whilst maintaining a **high-quality landscape**.*

To that end, we aim to maintain the distinctive structure of the village, with almost all housing disposed linearly on through roads or lanes, and grouped in small hamlets separated by green spaces.

*The **rural character of the villages should be promoted** through publicly accessible green spaces and gardens in keeping with the character of the area and sufficient to **meet the needs of the occupants**. These should link to open countryside directly, or via green corridors, thereby helping to **support biodiversity**.*

***New housing should be modest in scale and size**, making it better suited to young families and older people wishing to downsize, and **sympathetic to the nature of existing buildings** with respect to materials and design.*

Themes & Objectives

Environment
Development
Heritage & Design
Infrastructure

OBJECTIVES

We have drawn up a draft objectives below.

Do you agree with these or how would you like it changed?

Landscape and Environment

- Identify and protect important local wildlife habitats and species.
- Enhance existing habitats and create wildlife corridors, particularly in relating to Biodiversity Opportunity Area mapping.
- Protect the Mottisfont Bats foraging zone from loss of trees and hedgerows as well as inappropriate lighting.
- To highlight areas either subject to existing flooding issues or unsuitable geology whereby development proposals should ensure run-off from private drainage systems will be satisfactory
- Protect the dark night skies.
- Enhance the Public Rights of Way and green infrastructure

Climate Change

- Encourage use of appropriate renewable energy and sustainable materials on new development through a Design Code
- Settlements, Housing and Design
- Maintain and enhance the distinctive structure of the settlement areas. In particular to maintain the primarily linear form of development along the rural roads and lanes.

- Retain the individual dispersed small hamlets which are distributed across the Parish and separated by green gaps.
- Ensure new development respects the identified character of the area and follows the Design Code with appropriate densities, plots sizes, layout, mass and appearance etc.
- New dwellings should be located such that occupiers can access publicly accessible green spaces and contain sufficient private amenity space (Design Code)

Community and Highways

- Protect and enhance the identified community services and facilities
- Support improvements to pedestrian access to village hall and a pedestrian crossing at the school
- Engage with the school to seek to reduce traffic volumes/ parking congestion
- Support speed limit reduction on narrow rural lanes (including Danes Rd/Saunders La/Romsey Rd) or a quiet lanes policy where appropriate.



Landscape Features and Character

The map overleaf shows important features within the main settlement areas of the Parish.

There are a number of areas of Ancient Woodland which are shown in dark green, with a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) around Long Croft Copse shown with hatched horizontal lines.

There are a number of areas which we could propose and protect as Local Green Spaces shown in Purple (more details are found on the relevant boards). This also includes the private nature sanctuary, which has no formal designation.

Awbridge Danes Historic Garden is Grade II Listed and privately owned.

There are many public paths in the area which provide ample trails and access to the open countryside.

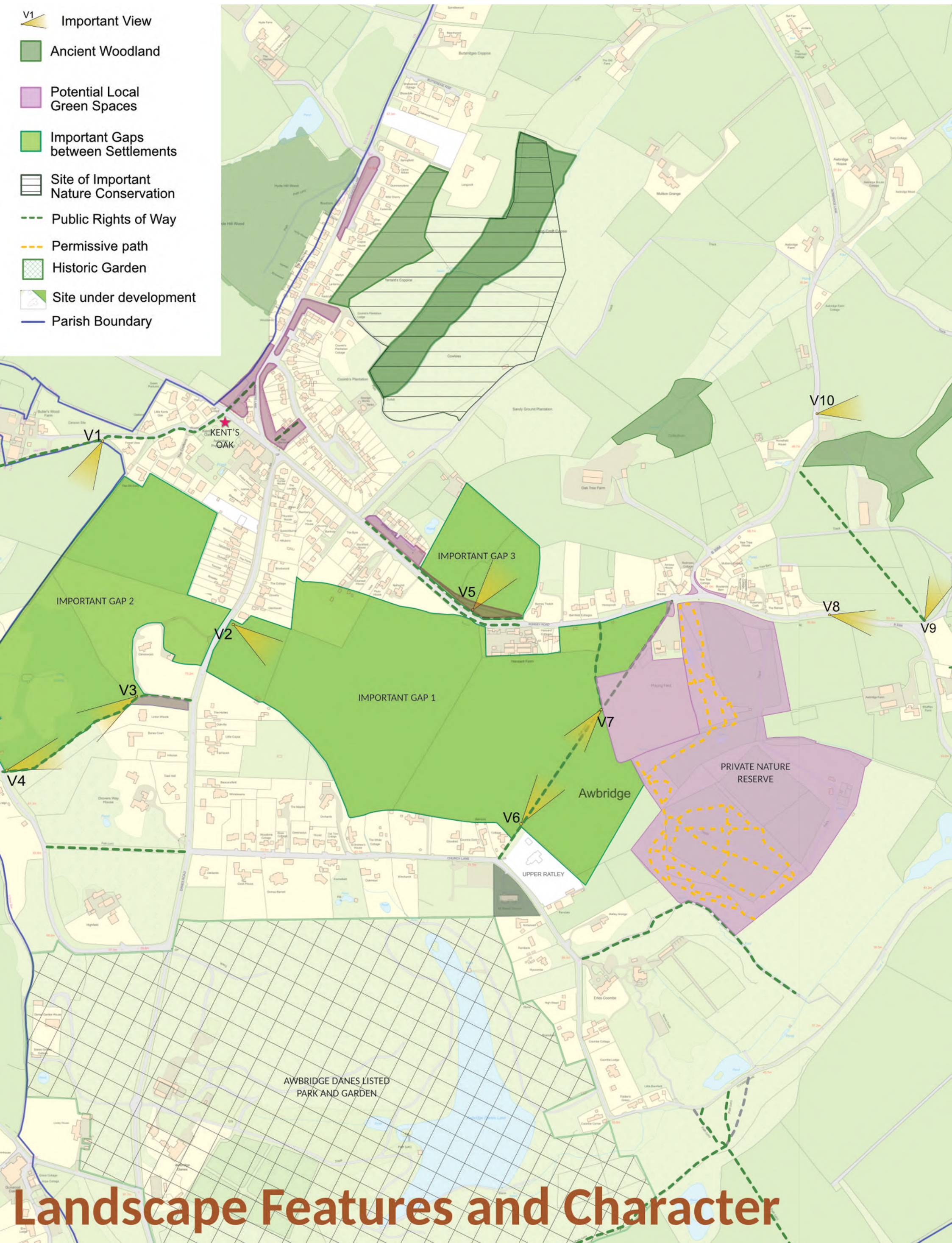
A number of public vantage points in the parish give rise to important views either as enclosed woodland or more long distance open views or to the surrounding hills beyond.

The separation between settlements is a key feature as each of the hamlets within the Parish has its own local character and identity.

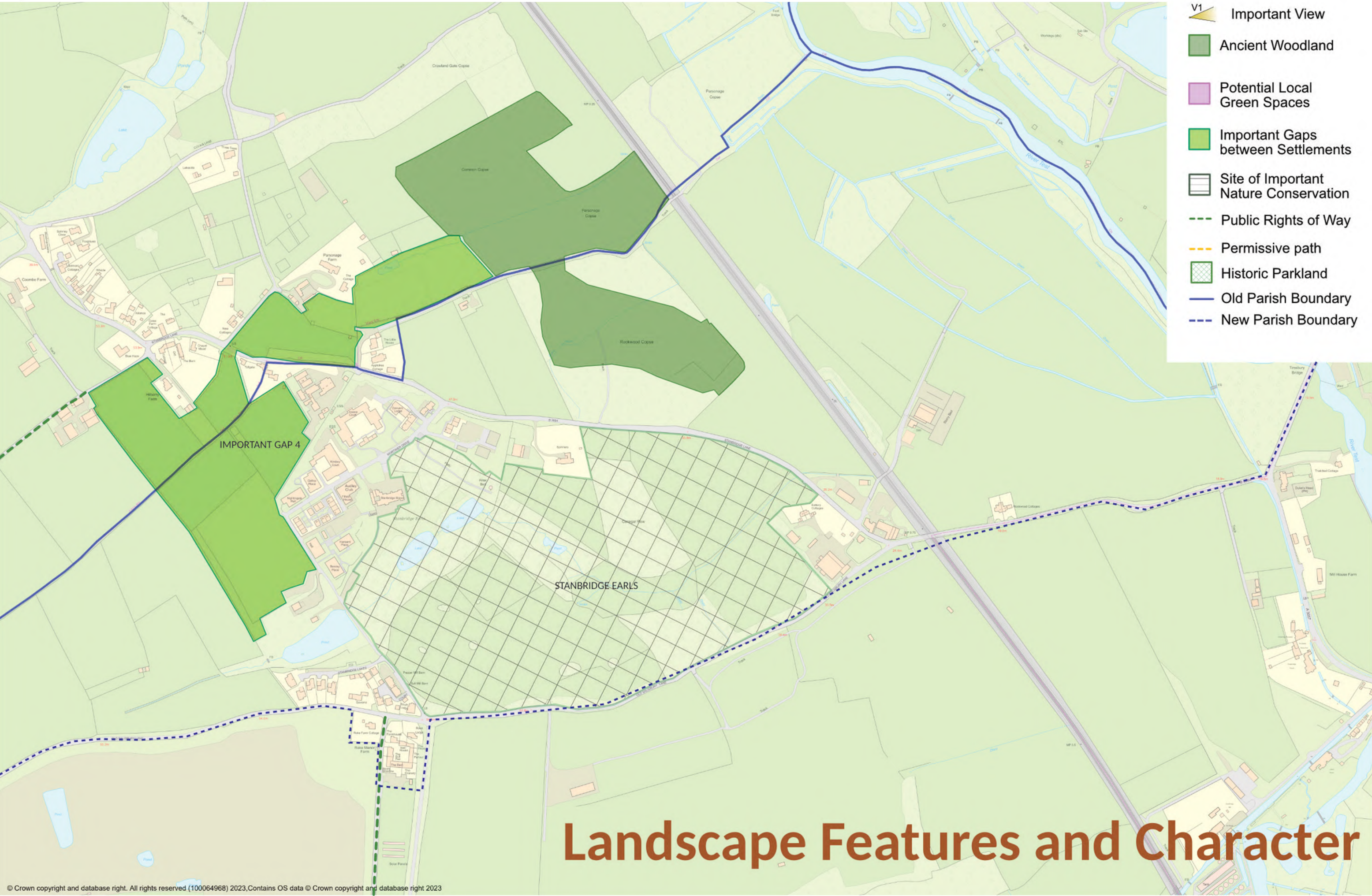
Your Views

- What do you feel are the most important aspects of the character of the area?
- Do you agree with the important views shown? Are there more?
- Which paths do you find most important? Can you travel to facilities safely? Are there paths you would like to see?
- How do you get from settlement to settlement? What is your main reason for these short journeys?
- Would you like to see the individual hamlets remain separate or joined together in the future?

-  V1 Important View
-  Ancient Woodland
-  Potential Local Green Spaces
-  Important Gaps between Settlements
-  Site of Important Nature Conservation
-  Public Rights of Way
-  Permissive path
-  Historic Garden
-  Site under development
-  Parish Boundary



-  V1 Important View
-  Ancient Woodland
-  Potential Local Green Spaces
-  Important Gaps between Settlements
-  Site of Important Nature Conservation
-  Public Rights of Way
-  Permissive path
-  Historic Parkland
-  Old Parish Boundary
-  New Parish Boundary



Landscape Features and Character

Local Green Spaces

What is a Local Green Space?

In particular circumstances communities can protect areas of land that are of value to them.

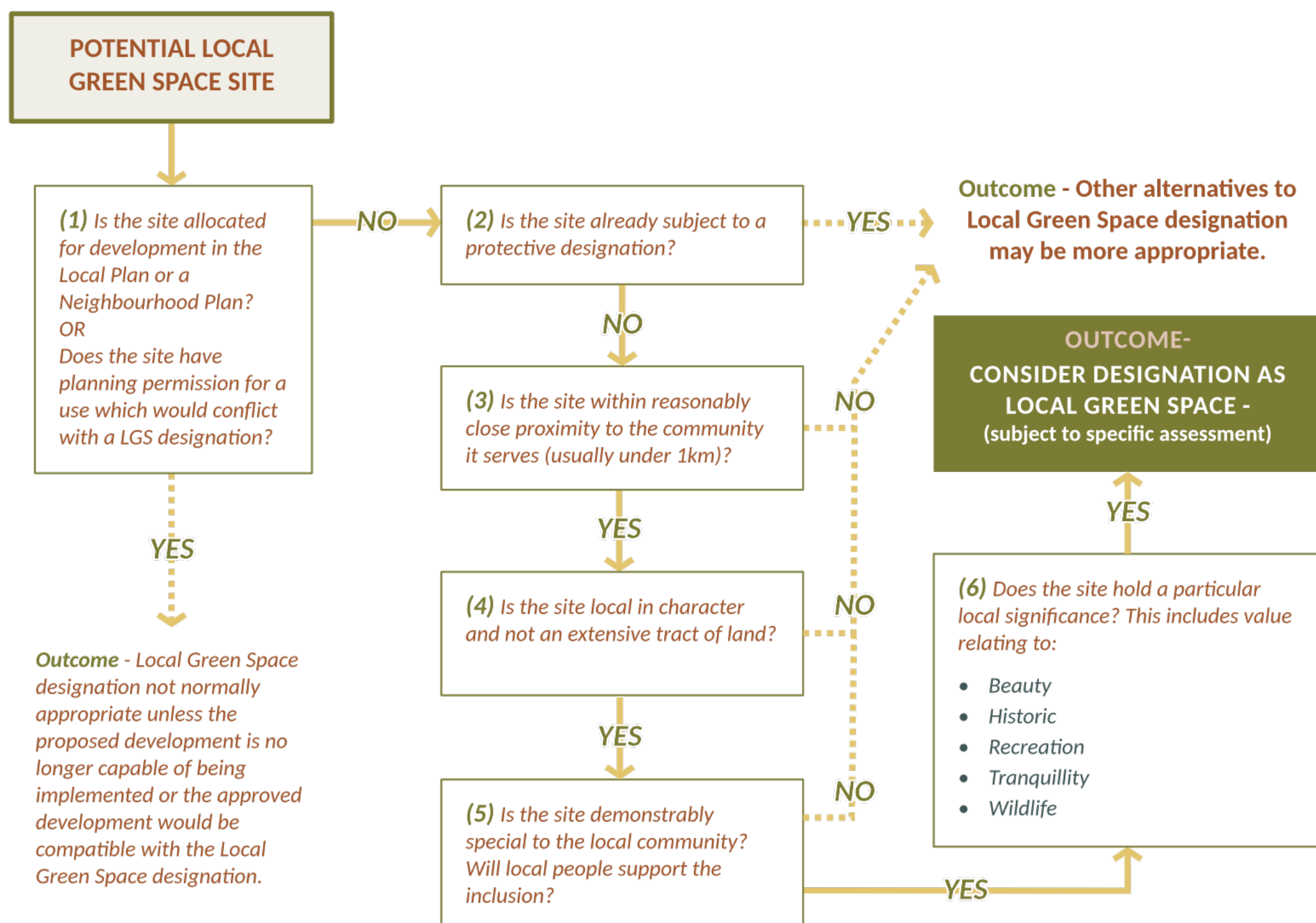
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) publishes criteria (see below) by which an area of value to the local community can be protected. These are known as a Local Green Space (LGS), which can be designated via a neighbourhood plan.

Once the NDP is adopted or 'made', the LGS is subject to the same development restrictions as Green Belt, ruling out new development except in special circumstances such as agricultural buildings and outdoor recreation.

Your Views

- What do you think about the potential LGS within the villages on the maps above?
- Are there any other sites around the village you wish to nominate? If so, do they meet the criteria in the diagram below?

*It should be noted that a LGS does not give the right of public access to spaces where it does not exist already. This is particularly relevant for private enclosed sites or those with wildlife or visual amenity value.





Heritage & Design

The map on this and the pages overleaf show the designated heritage assets located in the Parish and the local character of the area.

Listed buildings are important to the history and heritage of a settlement. Their designation helps understand the significance of the building and its setting celebrate the building's special architecture and historic interest.

Often design inspiration is taken from listed buildings and heritage aspects. This includes materials, scale, form and features such as roof shape or window style.

These design aspects shape the character of an area.

By highlighting what makes our area unique or special, we can ensure new development also continues to contribute positively.

A NP can look at identifying what is known as non-designated heritage assets. These are locally important buildings, structures or areas should be protected due to their historical value. Should we identify these to ensure their long term retention?

Heritage & Design

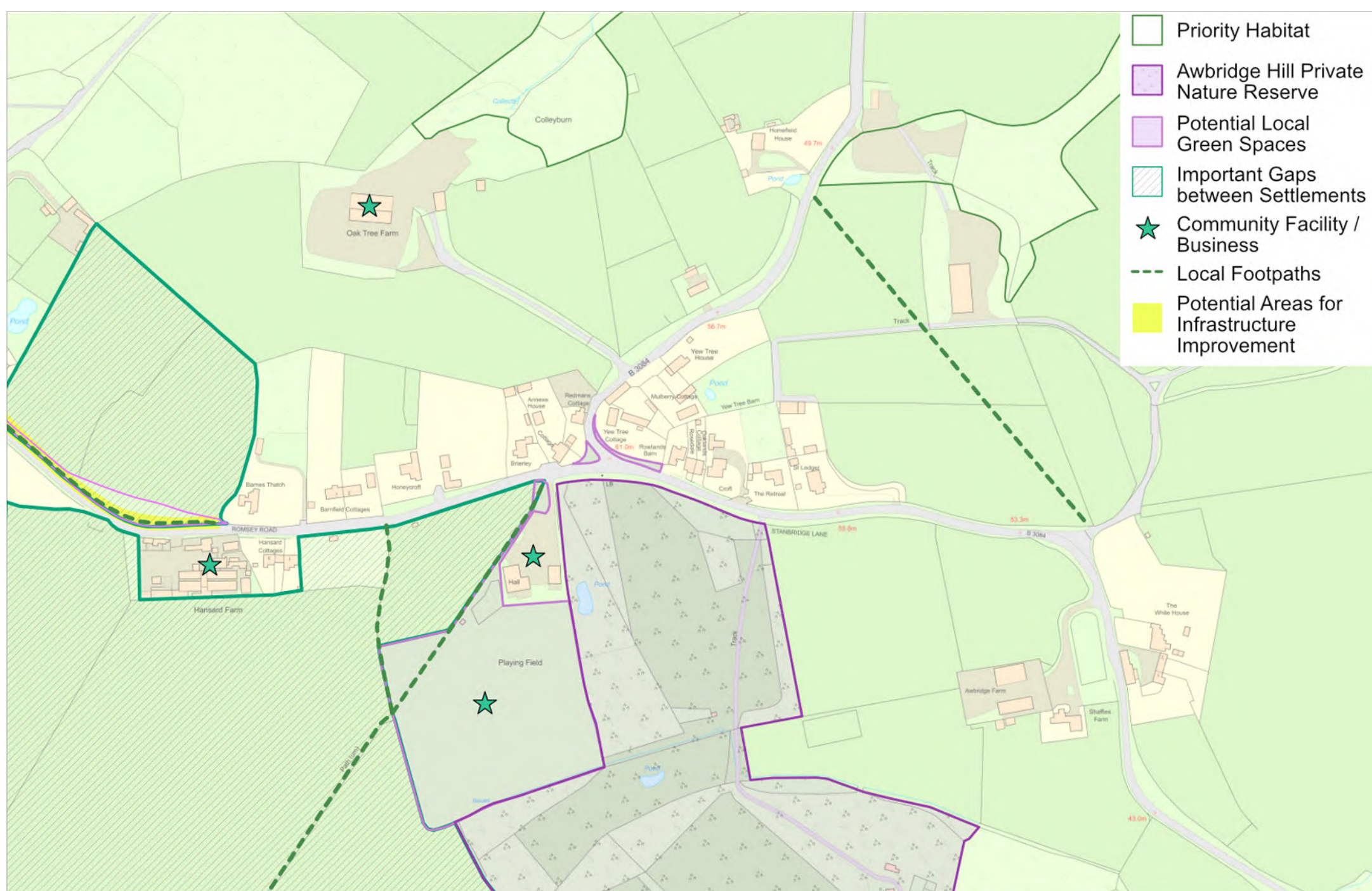


Heritage & Design



Your Views

- What buildings do you think should be noted as a locally important building or non-designated heritage asset?
- What are important landmarks in your Parish?
- How would you describe the local character of the area?
- What do you consider to be a local building materials?
- What design features do you like? What ones do you not like?



Community, Settlements & Highways

These plans show the main areas of community facilities / businesses as well as highlighting areas which may require improvement.

Areas of concern regarding infrastructure have been highlighted on the map.

Do you agree that a goal to create safer access throughout the parish should be considered?

Community facilities, shops and important features are also highlighted on the map. Where do you think important facilities and businesses are located in the Parish?