



BRIMSCOMBE AND THRUPP

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022 - 2040



OUR MISSION

- **CARE** for Each Other and our Natural Environment
- **EQUIP** ourselves for the Climate Emergency
- **ENABLE** Sensitive Development

Referendum Version
March 2024



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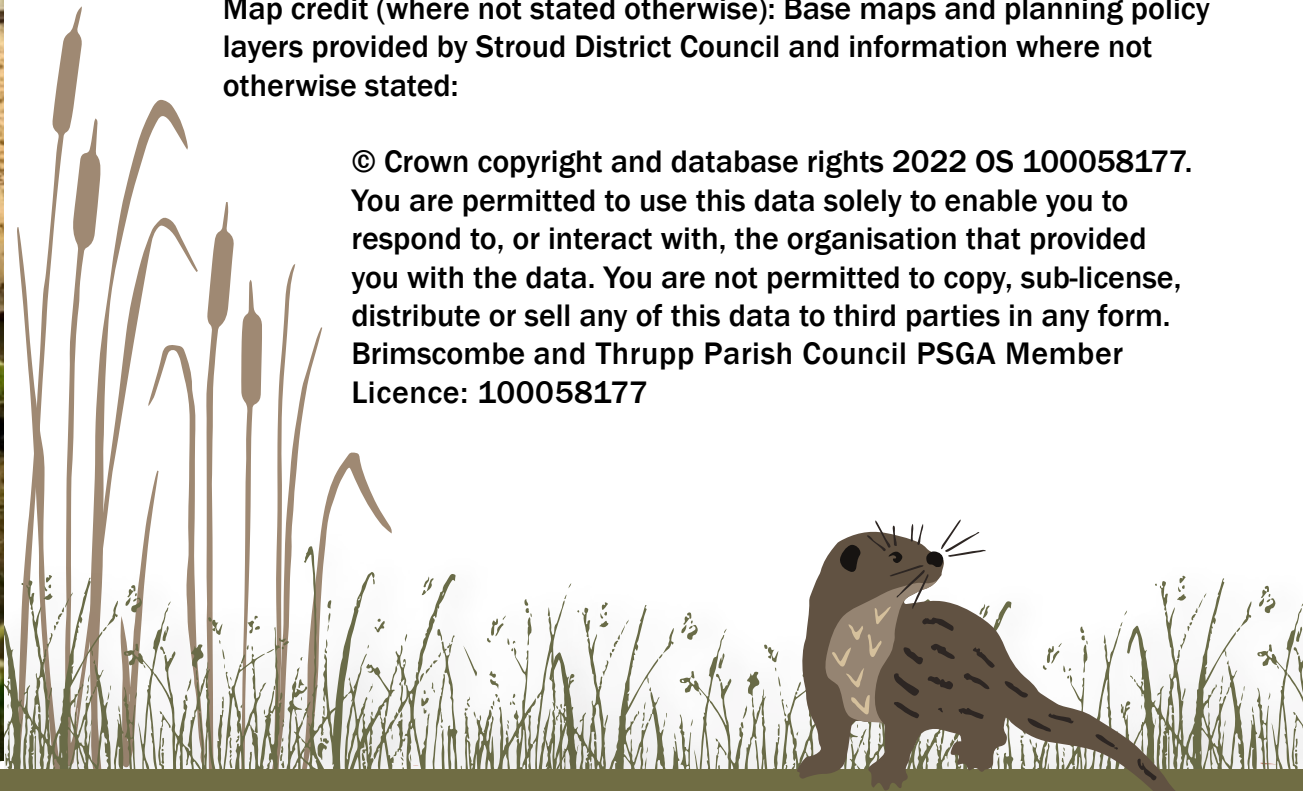
This is the Regulation 15 submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan and together with its associated documentation is to be used for its intended purpose only.

This Neighbourhood Plan has associated evidence base documents which can be found on the Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council website:

www.brimscombeandthrupp-pc.gov.uk/

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Acknowledgements



The Neighbourhood Development Plan for Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish has been led by the Steering Group on behalf of the local community and supported by Neighbourhood Plan Consultants Place Studio Ltd.

We would like to extend a heartfelt **'Thank You'** to the many residents and volunteers who have generously lent their time, expertise, and resources in assisting with the research and development of this project, also members of the Parish Council and Stroud District Council Officers for their support.



Image 2: Brimscombe & Thrupp Party on the Playingfield 2022 © Michelle Grant

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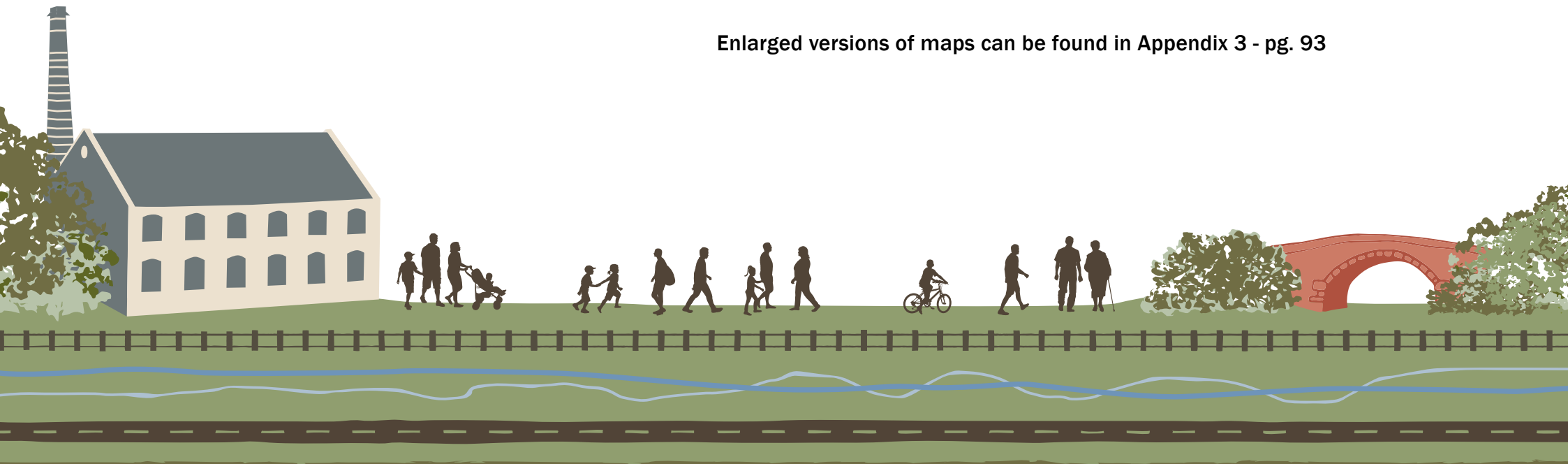
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1

Summary – Quick Read

What am I looking at?

This is the proposed Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Development Plan. It has been produced following many months of public meetings, consultations, and surveys, so we are confident it reflects how our community wants to see the parish developing in future.

What is a Neighbourhood Development Plan, and why do we want one?

A Neighbourhood Development Plan (also referred to as a Neighbourhood Plan and shortened to NDP) describes how we want our parish to develop, and it helps us to be involved in planning decisions that affect us. It fits in with the Stroud District Development Plan, and lets the planners know the kinds of developments we want to see (and don't want to see) in Brimscombe and Thrupp. We were given the powers to do this under the terms of the Localism Act, in 2011.

What were the stages in producing the plan?

We held a sequence of public meetings and consultations dating back to 2017, and these were backed up by surveys to ensure we had a good understanding of the issues that you, our Parish residents, wanted to see addressed in planning future developments. We held a formal consultation on a pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan and made changes to the Plan in response to comments where appropriate. The Neighbourhood Plan is now submitted to Stroud District Council for examination and, ultimately, a referendum where a community 'yes' will give the Plan full weight in planning terms. This means it must be used by Stroud Council officers when considering planning applications in our parish.

What is in our Neighbourhood Plan?

We have a set of Policies – rules and guidelines that describe what we want to see – grouped under 4 areas:

- **Climate Change**
- **Design and Development**
- **Local Economy**
- **Community Well-being**

Each policy specifies our view on a particular aspect of development, such as fitting older buildings with better insulation, protecting the natural environment, or ensuring we have sufficient space dedicated to employment.

What's Next?

Stroud District Council will run a second stage of formal consultation known as Regulation 16. You can comment with the District Council if you wish to. Contact the Parish Clerk for more information at the address below.

After the Regulation 16 consultation the Plan will be independently examined, changes made as a result of the examination will then lead to a final version of the Plan which our community can vote to make a legal part of the Development Plan for our Parish.

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Council Parish Clerk:

Flat 3, Greenhill, Middle Road, Thrupp, Stroud, GL5 2DW

Email: clerk@brimscombeandthrupp-pc.gov.uk

www.brimscombeandthrupp-pc.gov.uk

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Foreword



Image 3: Sunset Field in the Spring, above Thrupp village © Isa Clee

2.1 Parish Neighbourhood Development Plans are being produced to meet the Government's determination to ensure that local communities are closely involved in the decisions that affect them. Our Neighbourhood Development Plan (the "Plan") has been developed to establish a vision for the parish and to help deliver the local community's aspirations and needs for the plan period 2021 – 2040 and be in line with the emerging Local Plan for the district.

2.2 Building from our Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Plan 2011 – 2016, our Neighbourhood Development Plan is a planning policy document that will be a statutory document incorporated into the District planning framework and must be used by Stroud District Council to determine planning applications in our parish.

2.3 Our Plan has been produced by the Steering Group, with the support of the Parish Council, using the views of local residents. The Steering Group has consulted and listened to the community and local organisations on a wide range of issues that will influence the well-being, sustainability and long term preservation of our community. Every effort has been made to ensure that the views and policies contained in this document reflect the views of Brimscombe and Thrupp parish residents.

2.4 The key benefits of our Plan are to:

- **Enable the community to play its part in addressing climate change**
- **Protect the parish from uncontrolled or poorly placed development**
- **Ensure that development is sympathetic to and improves the look and feel of the parish**

The Parish Council would like to thank the members of the Steering Group and pay tribute to their dedication in the production of our Plan. The Parish Council is also grateful for the help and the engagement of many others in the parish without which it would not have been possible to produce this Plan.

Colette Wilson

Chair, Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council

3

Introduction

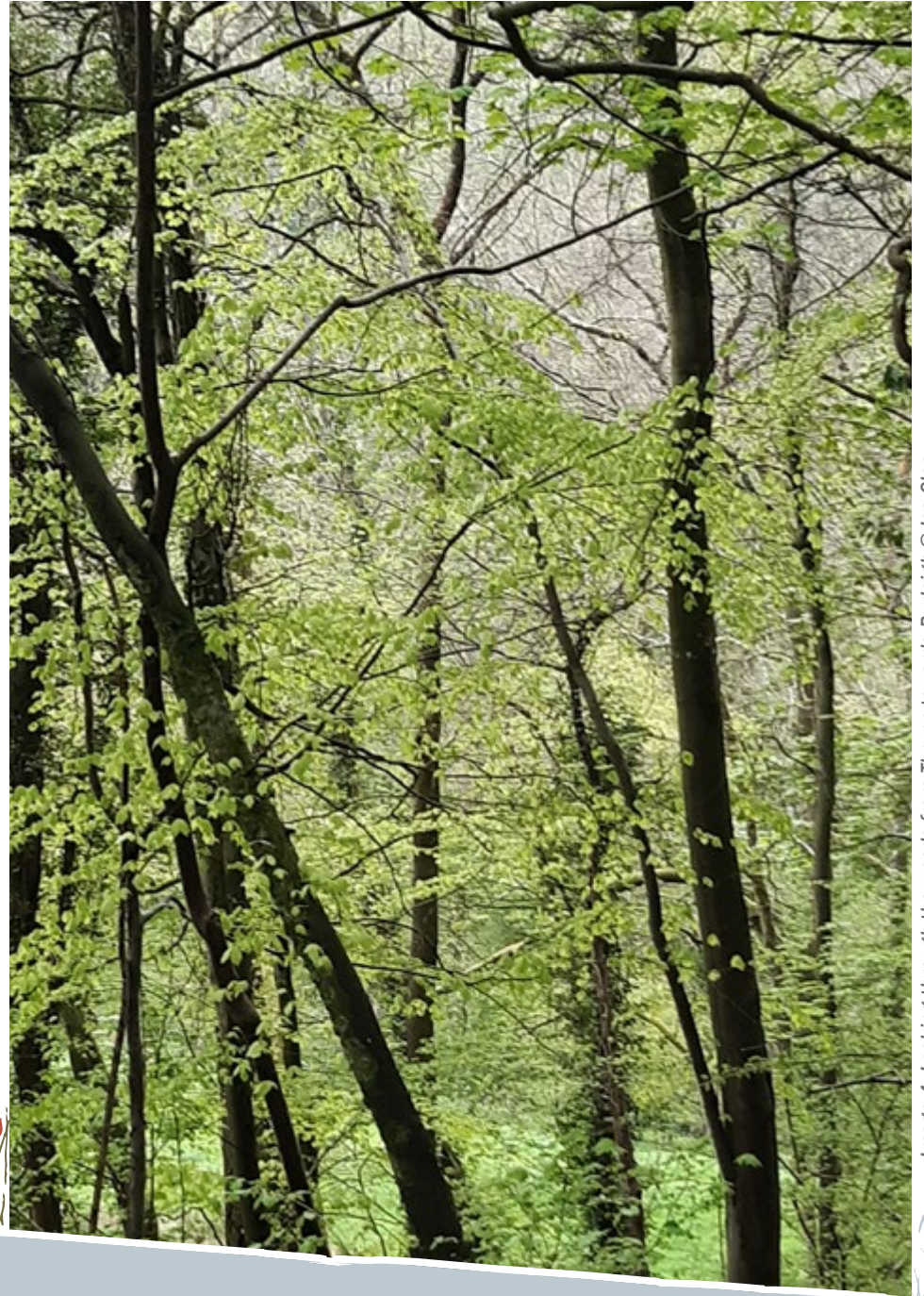


Image 4: Looking through the woods from Thrupp towards Burleigh @ Isa Clee

3.1 How can the community of Brimscombe and Thrupp have a say in the future development of our parish? There are many challenges that face us as we look ahead to a future where we need to address the challenges of climate change whilst also balancing out the need for more houses and jobs, and the need to address biodiversity loss, and ensure a good level of health and well-being for our communities.

3.2 This document is the Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Development Plan (also referred to as the NDP) and it is one of the tools we have to shape the future of our parish. It builds on the views of the community and on research undertaken by local representatives and presents a vision for our area looking ahead to 2040.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

3.3 The Localism Act 2011¹ introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development and promote better land use in their community by preparing Neighbourhood Development Plans. The aim of the legislation is to empower local communities to use the planning system to promote appropriate and sustainable development in their area.

3.4 Neighbourhood Plans must meet some legal requirements: they must have appropriate regard to national policy in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF); must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development; must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the Stroud Local Plan; must be compatible with human rights requirements and must be compatible with EU obligations where they may still be applicable.

1. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

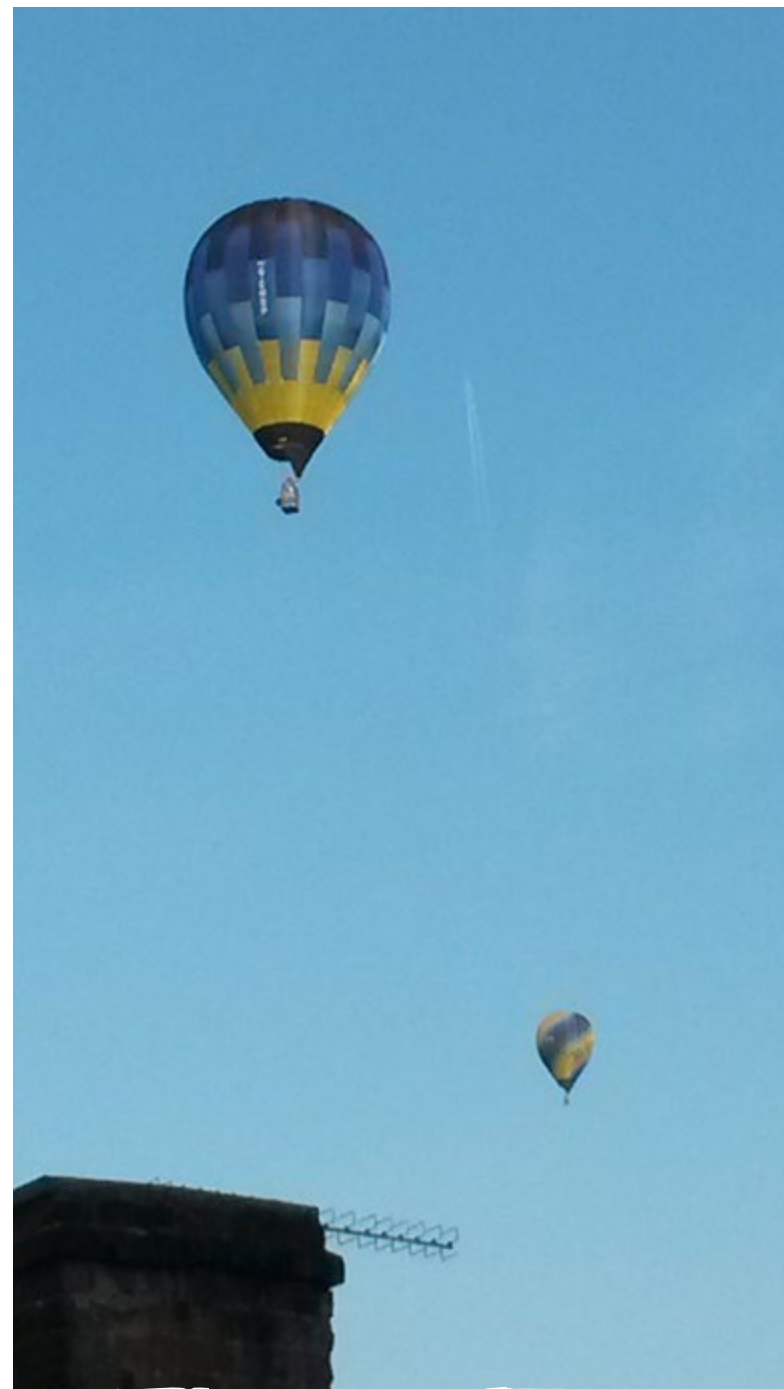


Image 5: Hot air balloons above Thrupp @ Isa Clee

3.5 The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations set out formal steps that must be taken in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, including formal consultation (this document is one of the required formal stages), examination and a parish referendum to approve it. Once adopted – the formal term is ‘made’ - the Neighbourhood Plan becomes part of the Stroud District Development Plan and forms the basis for determining planning applications in Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish.

3.6 The Neighbourhood Plan provides a significant opportunity for local people to influence planning decisions, as planning applications are determined ‘in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise’²

2. *Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 Section 38 (6)*

Why produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Brimscombe and Thrupp?

3.7 A Neighbourhood Plan for Brimscombe and Thrupp will give those who live and work here a positive and proactive format to influence planning and development decisions.

3.8 Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their area. Therefore, each stage of the Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Plan process to date has aimed to build a clear understanding of local community views together with locally produced evidence all set within the context of national and Stroud District planning policy. The Neighbourhood Plan brings together these elements to inform a local approach to development over the coming years.

Neighbourhood Plan Area

3.9 Under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and Part 2 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, Brimscombe and Thrupp was designated by Stroud District Council as a Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of creating a Neighbourhood Plan on 22nd February 2016 (amended in line with Parish Boundary amendments in 2021 that brought Gunhouse Lane into the parish) under the Localism Act 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan area follows the Parish Council boundary as shown in Figure 1 on the next page.



Image 6: Brimscombe Port from above

How does this Plan reflect the views of our community?

3.10. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared over a number of years by local volunteers supported by the Parish Council and specialist consultants. Care has been taken to build up a clear picture and evidence base of local issues and ambitions, issues, and opportunities.

3.11. The evidence is made up of two elements:

- **The views of local communities and those with a stake in the future of the area**
- **Research and fact-finding evidence.**

3.12. To ensure that this plan is a “shared vision” amongst the community, a range of community engagement activities were undertaken over the period that we have been working on the NDP (which was interrupted by the pandemic), for example:

- **Launch drop-in Event (January 2017)**
- **Design Day Event (April 2017)**
- **Climate Change Event (Run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy January 2020)**
- **Stands at local events and in different locations across the Parish (Summer 2021)**
- **Neighbourhood Plan Survey (Autumn 2021)**
- **Formal Consultation on a draft pre-submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan (known as Regulation 14) was held for 8 weeks between July and September 2022 (longer than the minimum 6 weeks to take account of the summer holidays).**

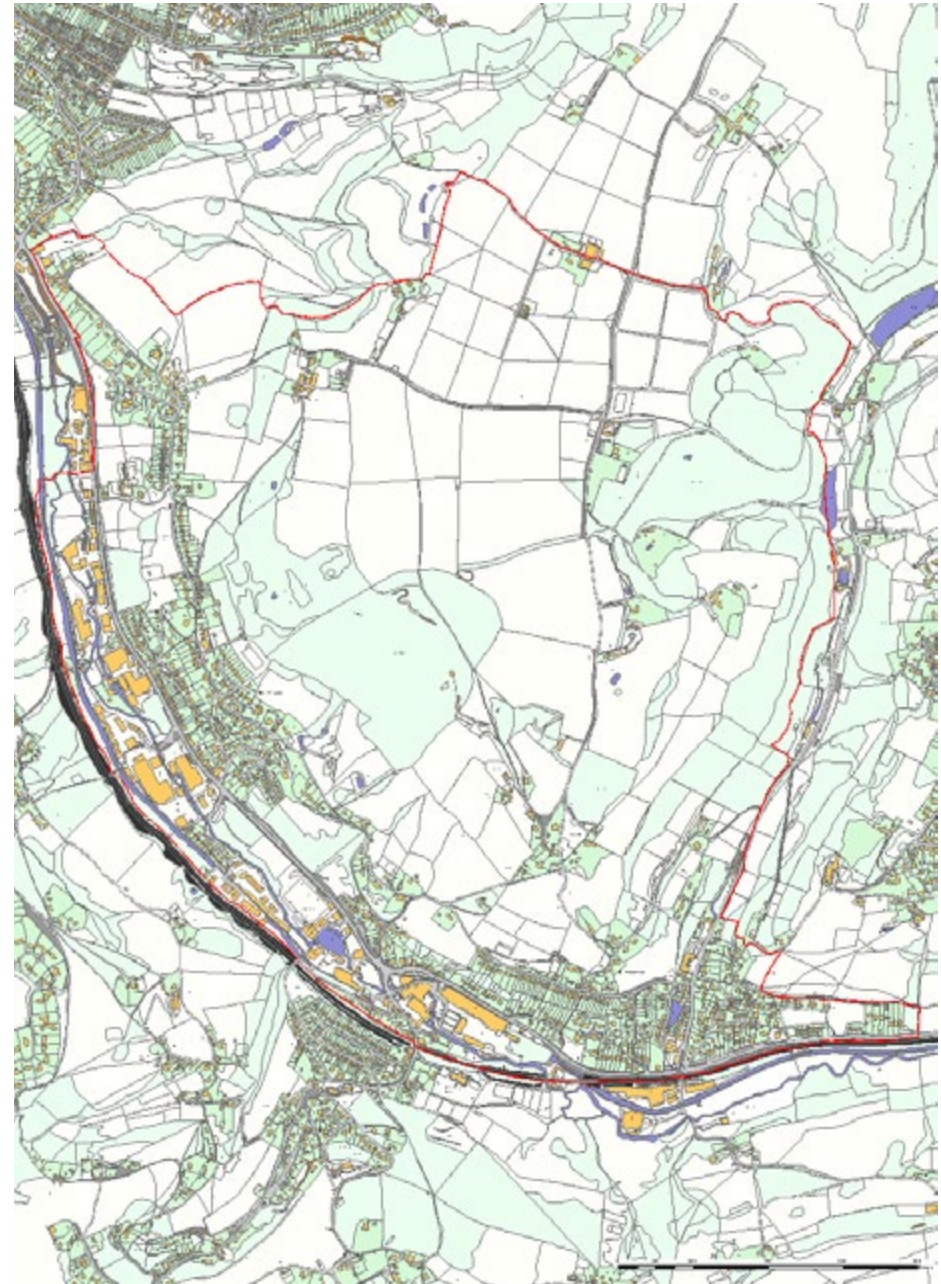


Figure 1: Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area - shown by the red line (Enlarged map pg.93)
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3.13 A full account of the consultation undertaken in developing the plan is recorded in the Consultation Statement which can be found on the Parish Council website: <https://www.brimscombeandthrupp-pc.gov.uk>

3.14 The vision, objectives and policies that are set out in this Plan come directly from the views and opinions gathered through consultation and through work to generate local evidence.

3.15 This is now the Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is submitted to Stroud District Council who will arrange for a second formal consultation before the Plan is examined by an independent examiner. If, again subject to final changes, the examiner agrees that the plan can go to referendum, that process is led by Stroud District Council. If over 50% of those voting in the referendum support the plan, Stroud District Council will then 'make' (a planning term, which means to adopt) the Plan, giving it the same legal status as the Local Plan when it comes to planning applications in this Parish.



Image 7: Severn Thames Canal in the Winter © Martin Phelps

4 Planning Context



Image 8: Interpretation sign © Isa Clee

Stroud Local Plan

4.1 Neighbourhood Plans are required to operate within the context set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 and the latest national Planning Policy Guidance.

4.2 The purpose of the Planning System is to achieve sustainable development, and the SDLP is a key way to achieve that in Stroud District. Sustainable development is commonly defined as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Important aims include minimising the need to travel with a view to reducing the effects of climate change and avoiding environmental impact that compromises sustainable, functional communities.

4.3 National planning policy documents address a wide range of issues relevant to this Plan. The two most significant are the overall requirement to plan to deliver sustainable development and, of particular local relevance, the requirement to be in ‘general conformity’ with the Stroud District Local Plan (SDLP). The SDLP was adopted in November 2015 and is the current primary Development Plan document for the NDP providing a planning policy framework for the District up to 2031.

4.4 The NPPF sets out that the planning system should be genuinely plan-led³ and that ‘succinct and up-to-date plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area’. Looking ahead over a minimum 15 year period.

4.5 The current Stroud District Local Plan provides an overview of how the district should evolve over the Plan period and, through its strategies, aims to help local communities achieve sustainable development for the period 2015 - 2031. However, it is important to note that the Stroud District Local Plan is in the process of being reviewed to set out the Council’s development strategy looking further ahead for meeting growth and development needs up to 2040. This review of the Stroud District Local Plan is now in the examination stage which means we can expect it to replace (update) the current Local Plan in the next 6-12 months.

³ NPPF 2021 paragraph 15

Image 9: View from Sunset Field © Isa Clee





4.6 The Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Plan has a proposed plan period up to 2040 which is the same as the plan period for the emerging Stroud Local Plan Review. Therefore the Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the policies of the existing and the emerging Local Plan. Many of the policies in the Local Plan Review (up to 2040) are updates to policies of the existing Local Plan (and keep the same policy titles), and some new policies are introduced such as Core Policy DCP1 Delivering Carbon Neutral by 2030 which has been introduced as a new policy in response to the urgent need to climate change. The timetable for the Local Plan examination was still being resolved when the Plan was being reviewed post Regulation 14 consultation. Whilst we have been carefully monitoring the progress of the Local Plan review to make sure we can link our Neighbourhood Plan to it as the most up-to-date Development Plan for our district, there has also been a need to progress the drafting of our Plan so our community can see the result of a number of years of hard work.

4.7 The Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Development Plan will last until 2040 which is a significant period, and we recognise that the needs and aspirations of the local community, the challenges and people's concerns may change over the Plan period, and that the Plan is likely to need to be reviewed in that time. It is also anticipated that there may be a need for minor modifications to the Plan as the new Local Plan for the district is put into place to ensure that policy references to the new plan are correct.



Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Plan

4.8 Brimscombe is noted as having a ‘basic local retail role’ in the Stroud District Local Plan, with a small range of neighbourhood shops. There is a good level of local community services and facilities (primary schools and pre-school provision, part time post office, pub, place of worship, village hall/community centre, sports pitches and playground). Access to key services and facilities here and elsewhere is good from Brimscombe and very good from Thrupp. The parish is home to a valuable employment hub.

4.9 Brimscombe and Thrupp is categorised as a Tier 3a settlement by Stroud District and the Stroud Local Plan has a Settlement Development Limit (SDL). Within the SDL, permission will be granted for residential development (or redevelopment) so long criteria outlined in Policy HC1⁴ of the Local Plan are met. The Local Plan also includes a number of designations and allocations in Brimscombe and Thrupp, that seek to protect and enhance a range of aspects that relate to planning. These include protection and regeneration of

existing employment sites (Delivery policies E11⁵ and E12⁶ in the Local Plan), protection of the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area, and allocations for housing, employment and, in the case of Brimscombe Port, canal related tourism uses. See figure 2 below that shows these policies.

4.10 The Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Plan adds local detail to supplement national and the Stroud Local Plan planning policies to add a locally responsive and positive community input into the planning system.

4.11 A Neighbourhood Plan attains the same legal status as the District Local Plan once it has been agreed at a referendum and is ‘made’ (adopted) by the local planning authority becoming part of the statutory development plan.

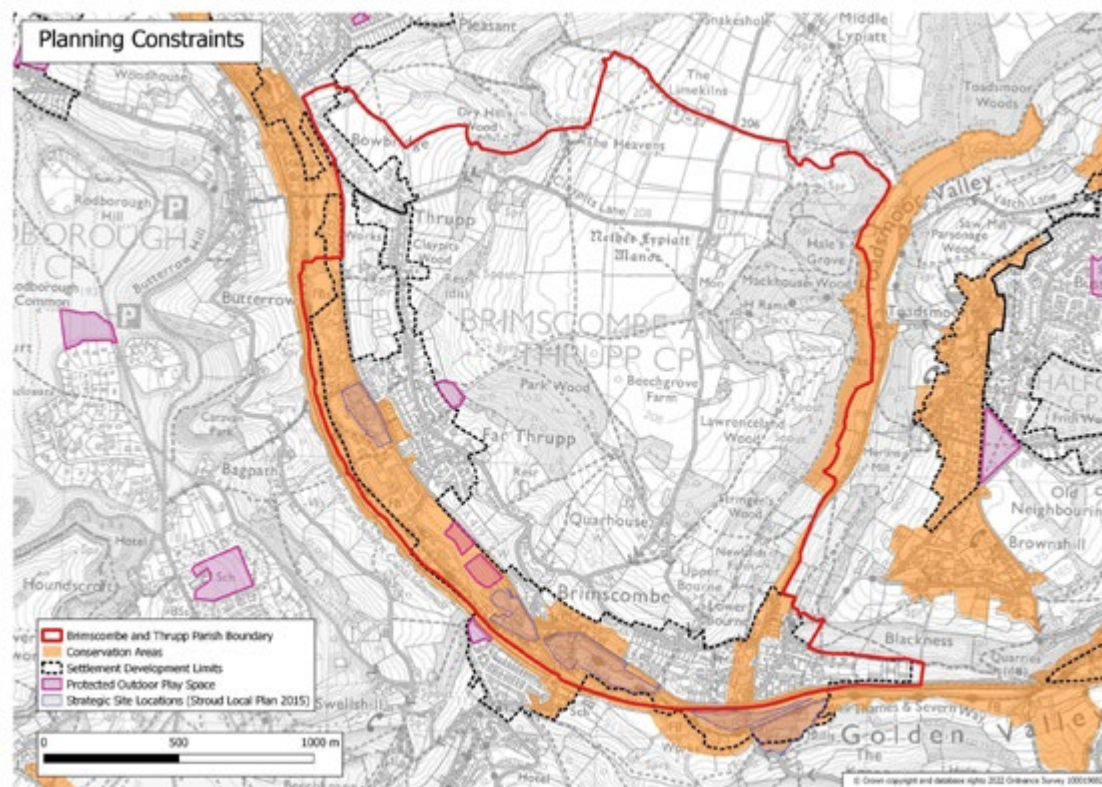


Figure 2: Planning Constraints - Settlement Zones and Boundaries
(Enlarged map pg.94)

4. https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1455/stroud-district-local-plan_november-2015_low-res_for-web.pdf#page=117
5. https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1455/stroud-district-local-plan_november-2015_low-res_for-web.pdf#page=138
6. https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1455/stroud-district-local-plan_november-2015_low-res_for-web.pdf#page=139

5

Brimscombe and Thrupp People and Place



Image 1.1: Brimscombe & Thrupp Party on the Playingfield 2022 © Michelle Grant

A Brief History

Image 12: Brimscombe Port postcard © Unknown



Old postcard of Brimscombe Port and The Bourne.

5.1 The settlements of Brimscombe and Thrupp, together with the Bourne, have always been associated with the industries that grew up along the valley bottom. First came the woollen industries: there was a cloth mill at Thrupp dating back as far as 1381. Though much of the industry over several centuries was built around wool, the industrial revolution brought many different engineering concerns, for example the Phoenix

Iron Works, established by 1828. The early revolution period brought the Thames and Severn Canal and that then brought the large and important development of Brimscombe Port in particular. In later years, the river and canal were added to by the railway line which then brought further and different industries and, slowly, the main road through the Parish – now the A419 – was improved until that too became a major link for local industry.

5.2 Throughout our history the purpose of the area as a place for working people to make their living in industry has stayed as a significant factor that makes our parish a significantly different place from its immediate neighbours.

Image 13: Phoenix Iron Works in Thrupp © Unknown



Phoenix Iron Works at Phoenix Mill, run by Geroge Waller in the 1870's.

Our Parish Today

5.3 We are a small parish, much smaller than our immediate neighbours. There are fewer than 2,000 people living in around 750 homes. We have a mix of different building types and architectural styles. Local buildings and structures are important elements of local history and sense of place, and there are distinctive areas of different character through the Parish.

5.4 We are dominated by the A419, which carries high volumes of through traffic as the road connects Cirencester in the East to the Stroud and the M5 in the West. Road safety and the negative impact of traffic on our quality of life is a significant issue to parish residents.

5.5 There are several brown-field sites available for housing development. The most significant of these is Brimscombe Port which is currently under development by Stroud District Council: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/brimscombe-port>

5.6 We have a number of industrial heritage buildings which we need to preserve in a way that maintains our working environment. Small engineering factories and workshops are an important part of our industrial heritage and current employment base.

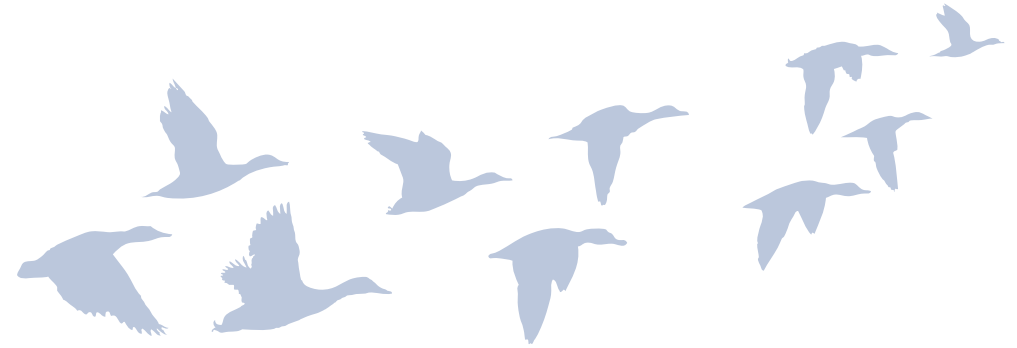


Image 14: Bourne Mills in Brimscombe

5.7 The canal is a highly valued leisure resource, and its ongoing restoration is widely welcomed. The restoration programme is managed by the Stroud Valleys Canal Company, Stroud District Council, and the Cotswold Canals Trust: <https://cotswoldcanals.org/about-us/the-canal-restoration-project/>

5.8 Our parish, although dominated by the industrial areas on the valley bottom, is still placed in a very rural environment. Views across the area reveal the distinctive topography and character of the parish. All of the Parish, except for the valley bottom, is within the Cotswolds National Landscape (the renamed AONB).

5.9 Pockets of green space add recreational and biodiversity value, and there are a series of 'green gaps' that are an important part of the character of the area. There are a number of footpaths in the parish which are widely used and are an important leisure resource. These, along with local wildlife habitats must be protected going forward.

5.10 The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 commits the UK to a carbon emission reduction target of 100% by 2050 compared with a 1990 baseline. The latest carbon budget, which sets interim targets for carbon reduction working towards the 2050 commitment commits the UK to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035. The 2050 commitment requires radical changes in how we live and how we plan our settlements to ensure our energy and transport systems are decarbonised. Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council has adopted the Stroud District Council target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

5.11 There is widespread concern and determination to do something about the climate crisis and to address it at the Parish level – local resilience is important in the face of this global issue. We strongly feel that net zero design and climate adaptation should be integral to all new development, with very high levels of insulation, integrated renewable electricity generation and renewable or low carbon heating. Nothing should be planned without having successfully demonstrated it is fit to take its place in a net-zero emissions future.



Image 15: A poster put up on Thrupp Lane during Covid lockdown

6

Delivering our Vision and Objectives

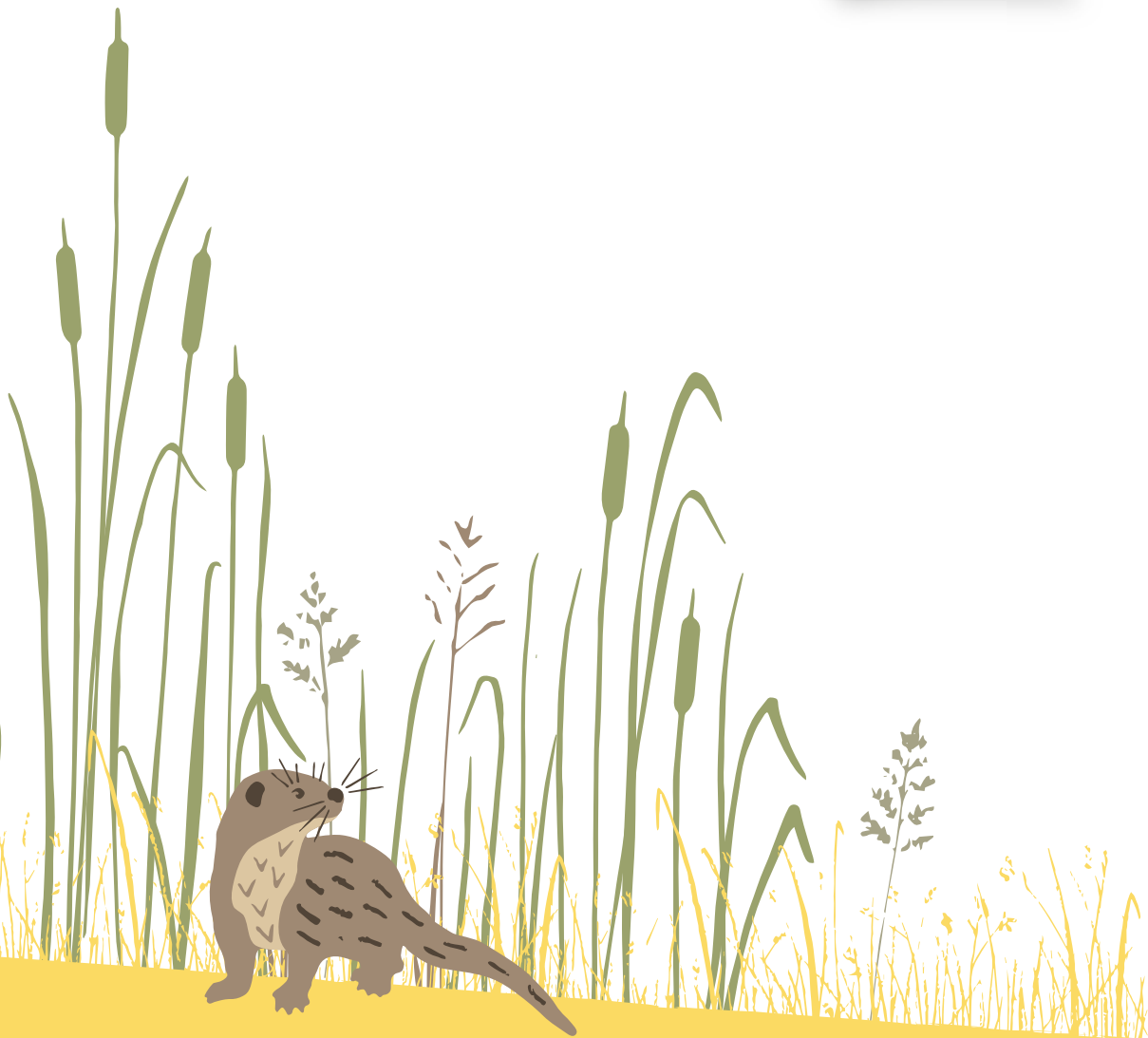


Image 16: A view of Thrupp from across the valley © Martin Phelps

6.1 In summary, drawing from all the community input to date, the following have emerged as important issues and opportunities that can be addressed through a Neighbourhood Plan which must focus on the use and development of land. Subsequent chapters in this plan describe each policy in more detail:

Addressing the Climate Crisis in Brimscombe and Thrupp (Section 7)

Policy CC1: Retrofitting Existing Buildings

Policy CC2: Renewable & Low Carbon Energy Generation

Policy CC3: Sustainable Transport and Active Travel

Policy CC4: Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Locally Responsive Design and Development (Section 8)

Policy LRD1: Locally Distinctive, High Quality Design

Policy LRD2: Locally Valued Views

Policy LRD3: Pre-application Community Engagement

Economy (Section 9)

Policy E1: New and Start-up Businesses

Policy E2: Home Working

Community Well-being (Section 10)

Policy CW1: Green Spaces

Policy CW2: Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycleways

Policy CW3: Community Facilities

6.2 Each of the above policies, together with local projects, contribute to the delivery of the Plan's Vision and Objectives. The vision is aspirational, setting out our ambitions. An objective sets out what it is you wish to achieve, not how to achieve it. Our policies and projects are the 'how' we head towards our vision.



Image 17: View of Rodborough Common from Middle Rd in Thrupp © Greg Pilley

6.3 The planning policies included in the Plan will be used to help determine planning applications within our parish. Government guidance sets out that a policy in a Neighbourhood Plan should be: “clear and unambiguous...It should be concise, precise and supported by appropriate evidence. It should be distinct to reflect and respond to the unique characteristics and planning context of the specific neighbourhood area for which it has been prepared” (Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note 2014).

6.4 The words ‘should’ and ‘will’ in the planning policies in this plan have specific meanings and are defined as follows: The word ‘should’ does not imply that the policy is optional or simply something the Parish Council desires if offered. Where the word ‘should’ is used, this is because it is thought conceivable that a proposal may not be able to fully comply with that policy’s requirements, but that if it aligned with the policy intention as far as possible, it may still, on balance, be found to be acceptable (depending on the reasons

why complying wholly was not possible, and the extent to which the proposal aligned with that policy and the development as a whole). Therefore where the word ‘should’ is used, and if an applicant considers that there are good reasons why their proposal cannot fully meet the policy requirements, they should explain this as part of their application, and show how they have aligned with that policy’s intention as far as possible. Where the word ‘will’ has been used to set out a requirement in a policy, failure to comply with the policy is not envisaged as acceptable, and this failure should be given significant weight in the decision.

6.5 There are many other policy matters that have been left to the adopted (and emerging) Stroud District Local Plan to cover. This has avoided unnecessary repetition of policies between the two plans, though they have a mutual, helpful interdependence.

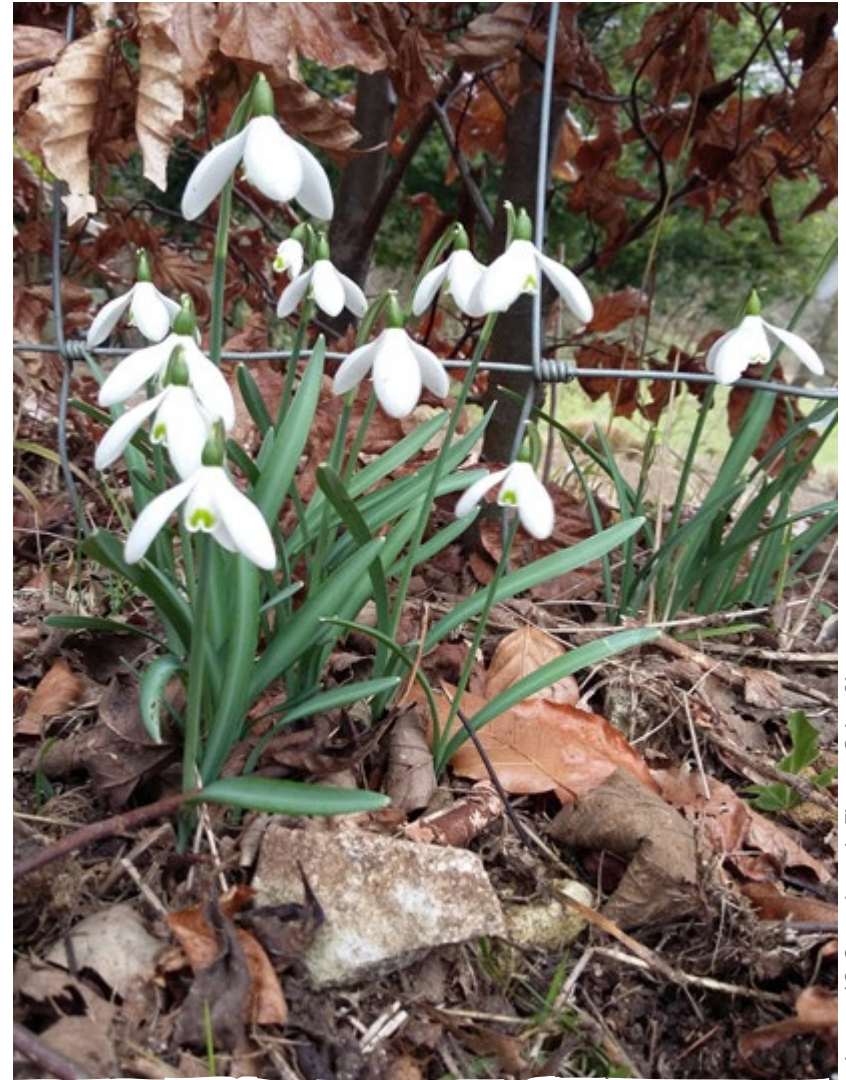
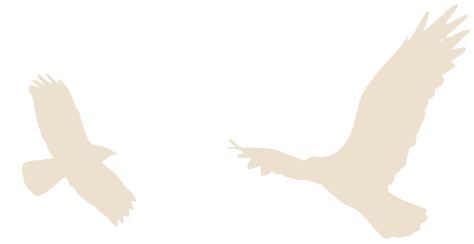


Image 18: Snowdrops in Thrupp © Isa Clee

Vision Statement - Looking Ahead to 2040

A recent winner of the “Most sustainable Parish in the South West” award, Brimscombe and Thrupp is a popular place to live and work, with thriving businesses and successful schools. And that is thanks in part to the long term vision of the Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Plan.

There is now a good range of housing to suit all needs, ages and pockets, including several recent developments on old brownfield sites. Though not directly a result of the Neighbourhood Plan, the plan has helped to ensure that these developments include a mixture of homes of varying sizes and tenure, businesses, leisure and community facilities. Using our Design Statement, the new buildings have been carefully designed to suit the local character and historic environment, while incorporating cutting edge sustainable design. Important historic buildings and landmarks have been retained and sympathetically restored as part of the development work.

The restored canal that links to several of the developments is a popular community attraction popular with boat users. Walkers and cyclists also use the towpath and new cycle track to enjoy the local area or simply to travel to Stroud and beyond. Our plan helped to attract people away from just the canal and encouraged them to enjoy Brimscombe and Thrupp and our lovely surrounding countryside, as well as using local pubs and shops.

As a result, local businesses are enjoying brisk trade from both locals and visitors and several new ventures have been created in response to demand for local shops, cafés and restaurants. The new developments have created opportunities for local people to work in light industry, offices and studios for the creative industries. As a result the number of people travelling outside of the district to work has reduced. Because development has been limited to the brownfield sites in the parish, the surrounding countryside and scenery and its setting within the Cotswold national landscape have been conserved and enhanced to

support a wide range of species and habitats. New wildlife areas have been created on the development sites, which are already home to a number of important species, and we have created some new and highly valued Local Green Spaces. By also managing to keep and enhance our playing fields, local people can still enjoy all sorts of sports and other activities.

There is a strong community spirit in the parish with very low levels of crime and antisocial behaviour. Through some of the ‘Projects’ listed in the Neighbourhood Plan, and by carefully targeting the monies that flow from development, the Parish Council and local voluntary groups have prompted a number of innovative initiatives on a variety of issues including renewable energy, apprenticeships, community enterprise workshops, and home insulation.

Although the additional development has increased the movement of people, the effects of this have been mitigated by improving public and community transport and tackling safety issues along the main road – again things prompted by our Neighbourhood Plan and our ambitious and proactive community.



Image 19: Brimscombe & Thrupp from across the valley © Isa Clee

Objectives

1. To increase our community's resilience in the face of the challenges associated with climate emergency, and to take action locally to make our community sustainable now and for future generations.
2. To address barriers to sustainable transport and active travel.
3. To protect and enhance the area's most valued open spaces and improve connectivity.
4. To conserve and enhance the distinct character of our area, and to enable and encourage good design that contributes positively to our existing environment.
5. To enable early, proactive and positive involvement in the shaping of new places and communities.
6. To ensure the heritage of industry, innovation and broad economic activity continues.
7. To retain and enhance our strong community spirit supported by a range of activities (see projects), services and facilities



Image 20: Stringers Wood (or Cathedral Woods) above Brimscombe © Isa Clee

7

Addressing the Climate Crisis | Policies and Projects

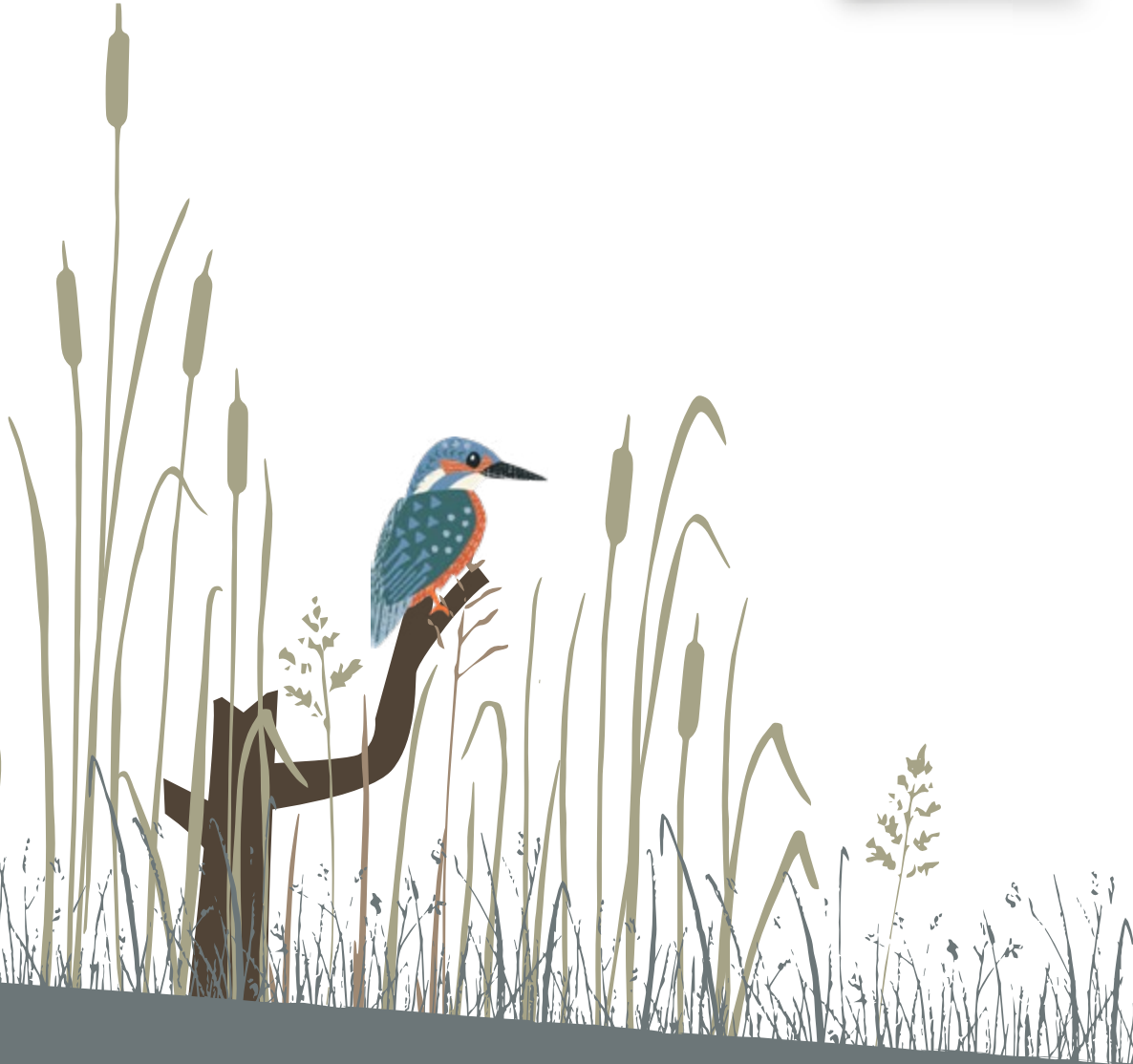


Image 21: Autumn Mist below Thrupp © Rob Morton

7.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019¹⁰ commits the UK to a carbon emission reduction target of 100% by 2050 compared with a 1990 baseline. The latest carbon budget,¹¹ which sets interim targets for carbon reduction working towards the 2050 commitment, commits the UK to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035.

7.2 Government bodies, from the UK Parliament, to Stroud District Council and our Parish Councils have formally declared a **'Climate Change Emergency'**.

Land use planning is recognised as having the potential to make a valuable contribution to sustainable development and to helping to address climate change. Stroud District has committed to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 ahead of the Government target of net Zero Carbon 2050. The emerging Stroud District Local Plan seeks to enable Stroud District Council to address the Climate Crisis through Planning Policies. The emerging Local Plan Core Policy DCP1 - Delivering Carbon Neutral by 2030 outlines how all new development in the district is expected to help meet this target.¹²



Image 22: Thrupp from Rodborough Common © Isa Clee

10. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment): Order 2019 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654>
11. 6th Carbon Budget – committee on climate change: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/sixth-carbon-budget/>

7.3 *Climate Change is a key issue that our community wish to address and this Plan is one of the ways in which the local community will adapt and respond to the climate crisis.*

On 19th January 2020 Brimscombe and Thrupp neighbourhood planning group held a public workshop facilitated by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), looking at the likely predicted impacts of climate change within and beyond the plan period, and of the actions the community could take to address and resolve the climate crisis.

Many practical projects, and policy ideas were generated. Ideas for policies and projects were then further tested with the community as part of the Autumn 2021 survey. This chapter covers a range of issues to adapt and mitigate the climate crisis at the local level.

Retrofitting existing and historic buildings to improve energy efficiency

7.4 In our parish we want to see buildings that are more energy efficient, that place a lower burden on energy supply and generate renewable energy (or small scale production of heat and/or electricity from a low carbon source such as Solar, micro-wind, micro-hydro, heat pumps, biomass, and micro combined heat and power) to contribute to tackling the climate crisis, as well as keeping down energy bills in people's homes, in particular to address issues of fuel poverty.

The website *nongasmap* provides some evidence to support this policy. It suggests quite a high proportion (45%) of properties are off the gas network and reliant on oil or resistive electric heating, the most expensive options available.¹²

7.5 In their 2019 report, 'UK Housing: Fit for the Future?'¹³ the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) warns:

“ We will not meet our targets for emissions reduction without near complete decarbonisation of the housing stock. Energy use in homes accounts for about 14% of UK greenhouse gas emissions. Improving the energy efficiency of existing homes in the parish will contribute to tackling the climate crisis as well as keeping down energy bills in people's homes.



Image 23: Sun coming through the clouds over Brimscombe & Thrupp © Isa Clee

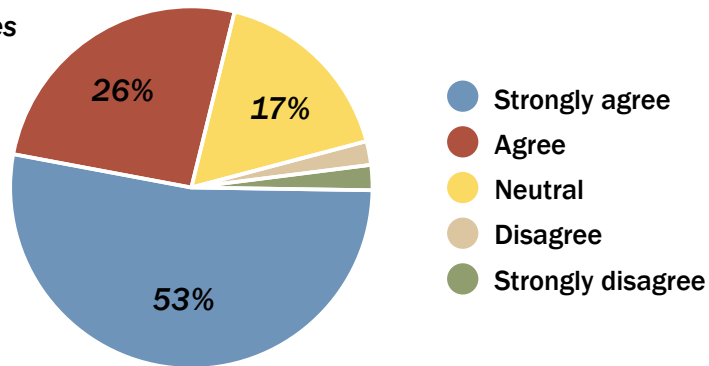
12. <https://www.nongasmap.org.uk>

13. <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/uk-housing-fit-for-the-future/>

7.6 Existing homes in our parish also include Listed Buildings and are within the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area (as can be seen on Figure 2). The sensitive retrofitting of historic buildings is supported by the community as shown in the Neighbourhood Plan Survey (Autumn 2021).

1.3. To what extent do you agree with this statement:
'Homeowners of historic buildings (including Listed Buildings) should be encouraged to improve...ed that their historic interest can be conserved'

100 responses



“Let’s be (even more of) a pioneer parish for carbon reduction!”

(respondent to the Autumn 2021 survey)



POLICY CC1:
Retrofitting Existing Buildings to Improve Energy Efficiency

The sensitive retrofitting of energy efficiency measures and the appropriate use of *small scale domestic renewables* in existing buildings will be supported.

Proposals that help to increase resilience to climate change and secure a sustainable future for buildings in the Conservation Areas, listed buildings, historic buildings or non-designated heritage assets, will be supported where they satisfactorily demonstrate how the special characteristics of the individual heritage assets are preserved and where possible, better enhanced or revealed.

This policy links to objective 1 of this Plan.

Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies: Core Policy 14 / Delivery Policy ES1

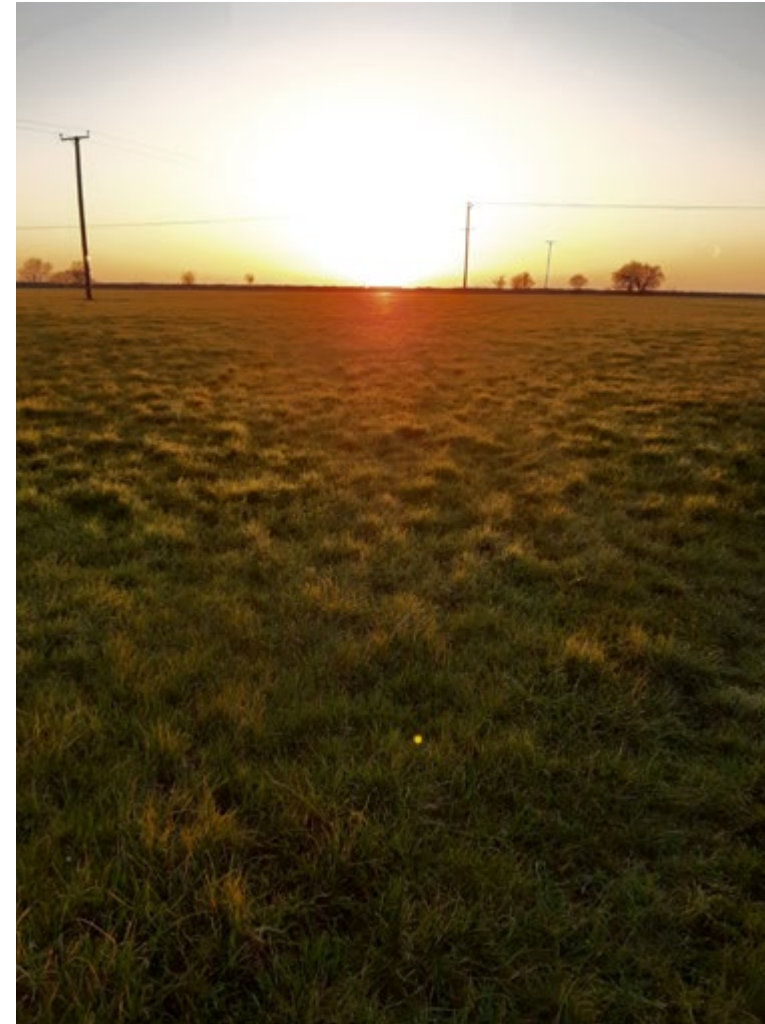


Image 24: Fields at Lypliat © Isa Clee

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

For anyone that needs planning permission to improve the energy efficiency of their home, this policy is supportive – including Listed Buildings (but special care is needed to make sure the special historic character of the building is protected).

Renewable or Low Carbon Energy in Brimscombe and Thrupp

7.7 As well as small scale domestic renewable energy generation, there is potential to generate renewable or low carbon energy on a community scale. The local plan evidence base has maps identifying suitable areas for onshore wind and solar, and shows potentially suitable areas on the hilltops above Brimscombe and Thrupp.¹⁴

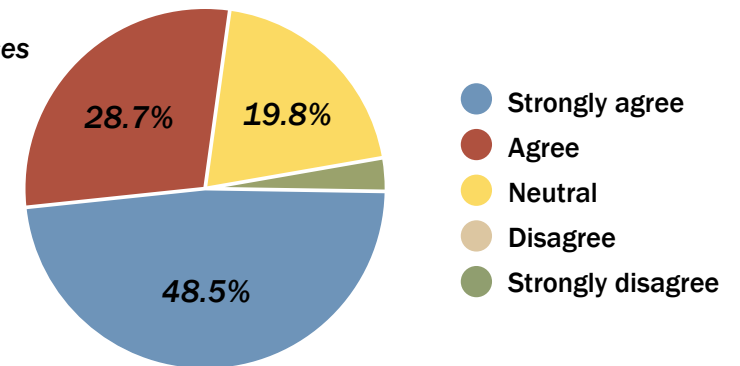
7.8 By law, planning permission for new onshore wind turbines can only be granted if the site has been clearly identified as being suitable for wind development in a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. This means that if our community intends to develop its own wind turbine or farm, or is supportive of commercial wind projects going ahead, it must identify suitable areas and include these in the Plan.

7.9 Policy ES2 (Renewable or low carbon energy generation) of the emerging Local Plan sets out the criteria by which proposals that maximise the generation of energy from renewable or low carbon sources will be supported, and also sets out that community renewable energy schemes will be particularly welcomed where they comply with this policy. The evidence base behind these policies was prepared for Stroud District Council by CSE and Land Use Consultants.

7.10 The outputs of the Brimscombe and Thrupp Climate workshop held by CSE on 19th January 2020 indicated support for renewable energy generation, and the Parish Autumn 2021 survey confirmed this:

1.1. To what extent do you agree with this statement:
'The parish should maximise the proportion of our energy needs met from locally generated renew...energy, to make our parish more self-sufficient'

101 responses



“We must do more to produce renewable energy. The climate crisis is not something we can keep ignoring and we should set an example as a parish by doing our utmost to use renewables. I am a big advocate of using the right renewable energy production in the right place - if we have strong hydrological flow, harness it! Strong winds on certain hills? Harness it! I wonder whether the canal could offer a source of renewable energy.”

(respondent to the Autumn 2021 survey)

14. https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1120845/stroud_re_assessment_report_final_1-2.pdf

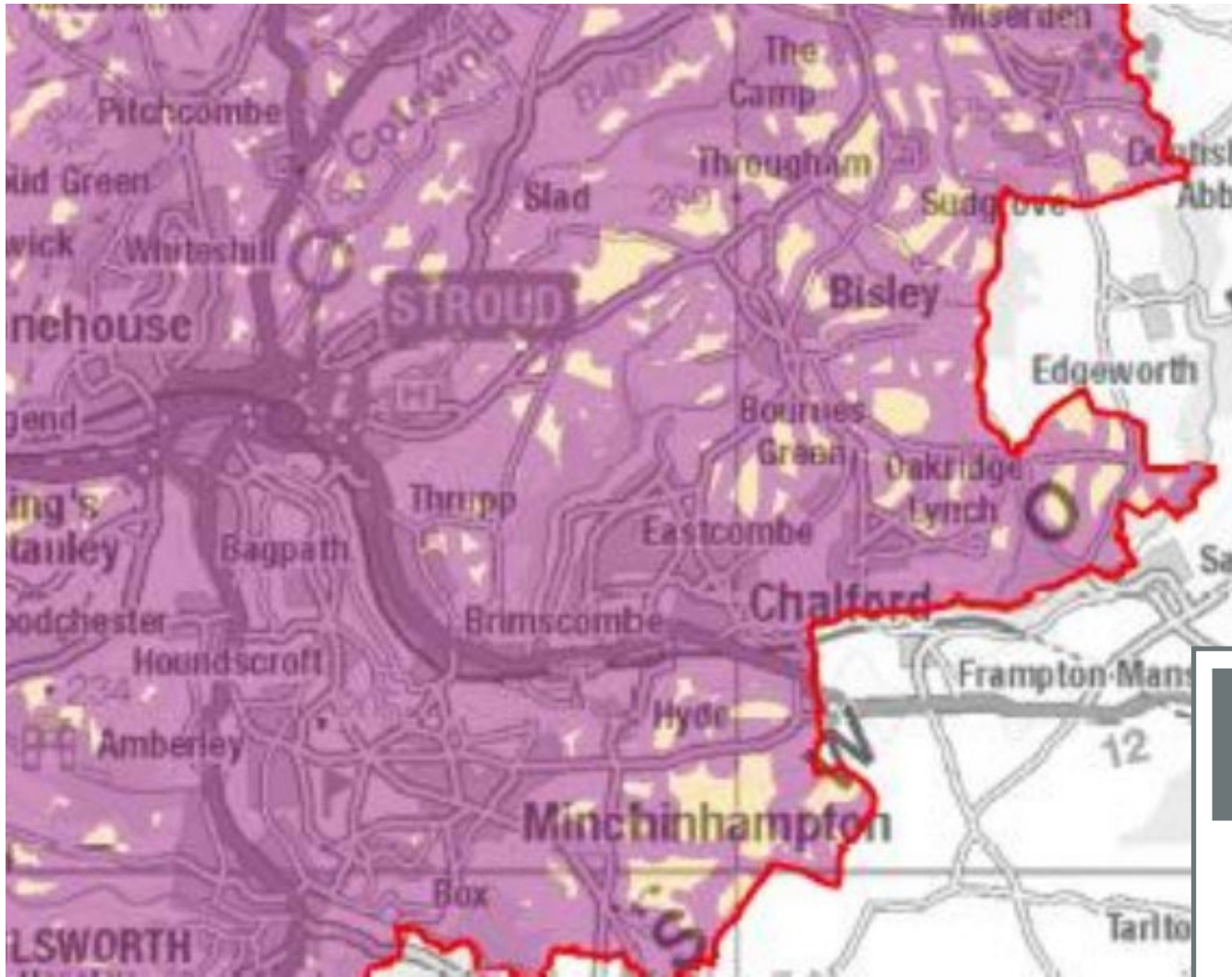





Figure 3: Opportunities and Constraints for Solar Developments / Small Scale Wind Developments – extract maps.¹⁵
(Enlarged map pg.95)

Renewable and Low Carbon Study for Stroud District Council

Figure 4.7: Opportunities and constraints for Small Scale Wind Development

-  Stroud District Council Boundary
-  Suitable areas for small scale wind development
-  Constrained areas for small scale wind development

15. https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1120845/stroud_re_assessment_report_final_1-2.pdf

7.11 Within the parish there is potential for a range of renewable and low carbon energy technologies. As well as areas identified as suitable for small-scale wind development or solar development, we also have a number of former mill sites, at which there may be potential for micro hydro power, and the water resources of our parish also offer potential for water-source heat pumps.

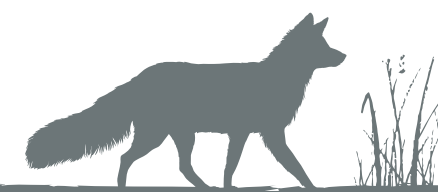
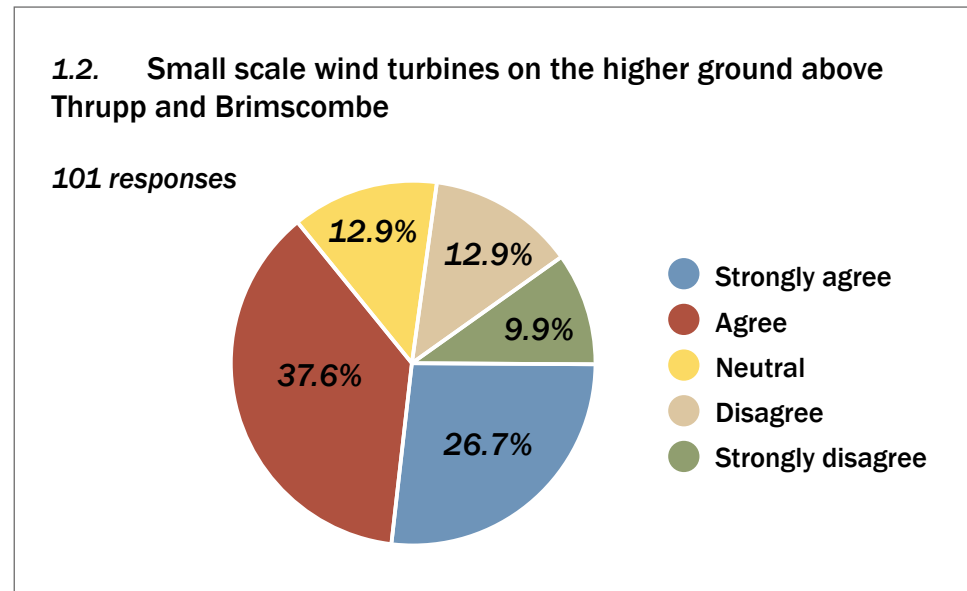
7.12 Survey responses from the community (Autumn 2021) indicate that there is support for a range of renewable and low carbon energy generation, but there is also a need to balance protection of our landscape – much of which is part of the Cotswolds National Landscape, our built heritage and the natural environment:

7.13 Together with the 2020 CSE community event, the Autumn 2021 community survey demonstrated support for renewable energy development that contributes directly to the local community by way of the community owning or holding shares in renewable energy or by providing cheaper energy bills.

“...clearly the distinctive character and beauty of the area, as well as the local wildlife, would need to be fully considered, but in principle I agree that renewable energy that can be more locally sustaining would be preferable to continued dependence on non-renewables. Options which have fewer visual disturbances would be preferable in my view.”

“You have asked about the technologies for renewable energy, but what about the ownership? Community ownership options should be explored, and group purchases to bring down costs e.g. every house in a street buying solar panels.”

(respondents to the Autumn 2021 survey)



7.14 Policy CC2 aims to add local detail to the Stroud District Local Plan policies.

**POLICY CC2:
Renewable or Low Carbon Energy Generation in
Brimscombe and Thrupp**

Proposals for renewable or low carbon energy schemes in Brimscombe and Thrupp will be supported where they:

- a. provide demonstrable community scale benefit and,**
- b. are integrated so that the energy generated can be supplied directly or virtually to domestic, business and other buildings in the parish; or,**
- c. are fully or partly owned by Brimscombe and Thrupp residents and businesses, with Brimscombe and Thrupp residents given priority. This policy does not apply to solar panels placed on existing or proposed new buildings, or within the curtilage of such sites or owner promoted hydro- power on riparian sites; and,**
- d. are sensitively sited in response to ecology, landscape and heritage setting.**

This policy links to objectives 1 and 2 of this Plan.
Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies:
Delivery Policy ES2

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

This policy is supportive of residential scale renewable energy, but is also supportive of community scale renewable energy – particularly where it is owned to some degree by the community – whilst still being mindful not to impact negatively on our beautiful countryside, historic buildings and wildlife.

Image 25: Thrupp from above



Project Box

The listed Port Mill at Brimscombe has recently had a water sourced heat pump installed. This means the old gas boiler has been replaced by a system taking heat out of the river water. This will save 27-46 tonnes CO2 per year and cover its cost over a 20 year period with a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) grant.

Getting Around – Sustainable Transport

7.15 Shifting to more sustainable forms of ‘active’ travel such as walking, cycling and public transport is an important lever to deliver carbon targets.¹⁶ Transport is the single largest contributor to greenhouse gases in the UK; at 33% almost unchanged since 1990. On a local level in Gloucestershire, transport contributes a higher percentage to CO2 emissions at 45%, and this is even higher for Stroud District at 54%.



7.16 The A419 (or the London Road) between Stroud and Chalford is a unique peri-urban corridor with residential areas, schools, and innovative businesses scattered along the beautiful, green Cotswold landscape - christened the ‘Golden Valley’ by Queen Victoria. The valley bottom is home to industrial heritage buildings some of which house thriving businesses and cultural attractions, with the A419, rail, river and Stroud Canal interweaving in close parallel. The road is a high volume corridor carrying around 8,000 vehicles per day east of Toadsmoor Junction, and 17,000 near Stroud. The road is subject to both congestion and speeding, with poor drainage conditions.¹⁷ The Parish Survey in 2021 identified the A419 as the most commonly cited problem in the parish, constraining active travel and with severe safety, air pollution and quality of life issues.



Image 26: Gathering in Brimscombe for a Saturday cycle
© The Cargo Bikers of Stroud

^{16/17}. Golden Valley Route A419 Stroud to Chalford Inspiration Study April 2020

7.17 The road poses a major safety hazard to local residents, and severs north-south connections (locally termed as ‘pitches’) which connect local communities to the valley corridor. Less than 1% of the traffic is cycling, despite the popularity of cycling in the area and the suitability of the commutable distance between Stroud and Chalford which is only 6.5 km and relatively flat. Given the demand from new housing and business growth along this corridor, a ‘do nothing’ scenario is not viable. In response to this, in 2019 / early part of 2020, a study was undertaken to address these issues. The Golden Valley Route A419 Stroud to Chalford Inspiration Study (April 2020)¹⁸ sets out evidenced ambitions to upgrade this corridor as a multi-modal, active green transport corridor. This Inspiration Study provides our community with a view of how the challenges and opportunities of the A419 could be tackled in the future. More detailed analysis is needed to progress the potential improvements identified in the Inspiration Study.

7.18 We are very sympathetic to the concerns of neighbouring parishes regarding traffic, especially across Minchinhampton Common, and will incorporate the need to consider impact on neighbouring areas for any proposal affecting A419 traffic flows. Our vision is that active travel provision in the parish will enhance traffic safety through segregation. We would like to reduce overall traffic volume and speed on the A419, but would not seek to do so at the detriment of traffic across the common. We would strongly support measures to further reduce volumes and speeds across the common.

7.19 Whilst it is acknowledged that car travel will continue to be an important way in which people get about, there is a clear need, and support from the local community, to use more sustainable transport options. In the Autumn 2021 survey, residents were asked if they used sustainable transport and if they aspired to using forms of sustainable transport that they do/cannot currently use. The majority of survey respondents expressed

desires to make better use of sustainable transport options and provided comments on what was preventing them from doing so currently. Walking was by far the most used form of sustainable transport currently with around 68% stating that they already walk regularly. Those that could not currently walk as much as they wanted cited issues with safety (few crossings and high vehicle speed) and air quality on the London Road.

18. <https://www.stroudtown.gov.uk/uploads/golden-valley-route-inspiration-study.pdf>

Image 27: Cycling in Stroud from Brimscombe on the A419
© The Cargo Bikers of Stroud



7.20 Stroud Local Plan Core Policy CP13¹⁹ (Demand management and sustainable travel) addresses the need to reduce the need to travel by locating complementary uses close to each other and by seeking the improvement of public transport systems, pedestrian and cycling facilities, and policy DE1 is designed to achieve modal shift away from the private car and to give priority to sustainable transport improvements above additional road infrastructure. Delivery Policy EI13 Protecting and extending our walking and cycling routes identifies a key route through the Parish for protection as a walking and cycling route, the Eastington-Stroud-Chalford route (both the canal towpath route and the proposed Chalford to Stroud utility route). See figure 2 on page 12.

7.21 The adopted Local Transport Plan 2020-2041 (LTP) and the Stroud Walking and Cycling Investment Plan (Stroud CWIP) will also be taken into account where it applies to our parish:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transport/gloucestershires-local-transport-plan-2020-2041/>

7.22 The 'Link and Place Spectrum within the LTP helps to contextualise areas of the county in terms of transport, service and access provision and potential provision. This highly relevant to Brimscombe and Thrupp.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2115398/stroud-lcwip-final-draft.pdf>



Image 28: Thrupp Cathedral bus stop © Isa Clee

19. https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485609/part-5_pre-submission-draft-plan-2021_final-25-05-21.pdf

7.23 Policy CC3 below adds local detail to the district wide ambition.

**POLICY CC3:
Sustainable Transport**

Applications for major development must demonstrate through an effective Travel Plan how sustainable transport modes are maximised, both within the parish and to key destinations in the wider area, delivering safe and suitable options for all people.

Development proposals, or projects along the A419 corridor which contribute positively to the implementation of an improved environment for pedestrians and cyclists along the A419 (London Road) will be supported.

*This policy links to objectives 1, 2 and 5 of this Plan.
Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies: Core Policy 13
Delivery Policy DE1 / EI13 / ES3*



Image 29: © Th Cargo Bokers of Stroud

Project Box

There is a pilot proposal underway to develop an electric car and bicycle share project. This would enable access to low carbon travel without the capital cost of individual ownership. This would also reduce the amount of space given over to car parking, which is creating problems in some residential streets of the Parish and the viable redevelopment of sites like Brimscombe Port and Ham Mill.

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

This policy will encourage investment and actions supporting road safety, congestion reduction, and we hope will support improved crossing and safer cycling along the A419 (London Rd) and other routes. These will make active travel options more attractive to local residents and improve the quality of the environment for those living or working alongside the movement corridors.

Flooding

7.24 One of the major impacts of a changing climate is an increased risk of flooding. The UK Met Office predicts that in a business-as-usual scenario, Britain could experience a decrease in summer rainfall by up to 47%, and up to 35% more rain in winter by 2070. In addition, there is an increased likelihood of high intensity rainfall.

7.25 Both the Toadsmoor and Frome Valleys are potentially at risk of flooding and some other areas are susceptible from the accumulation of localised run-off, such as:

- **Thrupp Lane beside Thrupp School**
- **Claypits Lane**
- **Knapp Lane under the railway bridge**
- **Brimscombe & Thrupp football club playing fields**
- **Halliday's Pitch down to the London Road**

7.26 Any development has the potential to worsen surface water flooding. Paragraph 161 of the National Planning Policy Framework, sets out that new development should make use of opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding, where appropriate through the use of natural flood management techniques. Section 6 of the Stroud Local Plan (Our environment and surroundings) includes policies (notably Delivery Policy ES4 Water resources, quality and flood risk) that provide strong and detailed policies on managing flood risk. The favoured approach in Stroud District is Natural Flood Management for dealing with surface water. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) aim to mimic natural drainage processes and remove pollutants from urban run-off at source. A policy in this Neighbourhood Plan is therefore not included but it was felt important to include local detail on this important issue.



Image 30: Bridge over Severn Thames Canal

Natural Environment

7.27 We live in a beautiful place and our natural environment is highly valued. Consultation to date on our Plan has shown strong support for preserving and enhancing biodiversity through use of wildlife corridors / wildlife friendly gardens / bird boxes and promoting the canal ecosystem. There was a desire for education for people on how to better protect and enhance wildlife in our area. Designated wildlife sites are shown on figure 4 (the numbers on the map link to a spreadsheet with more detail which can be found on the Parish Council website on the Neighbourhood Plan pages).

7.28 The combined issues of the climate emergency, biodiversity loss, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, highlight how the protection and investment in our natural environment is vital. We need to focus on supporting our natural environment to mitigate and adapt to climate change through nature-based solutions. This means recognising what nature does for us and taking it into account when we make decisions about using and/or managing land water, living creatures and products from nature.

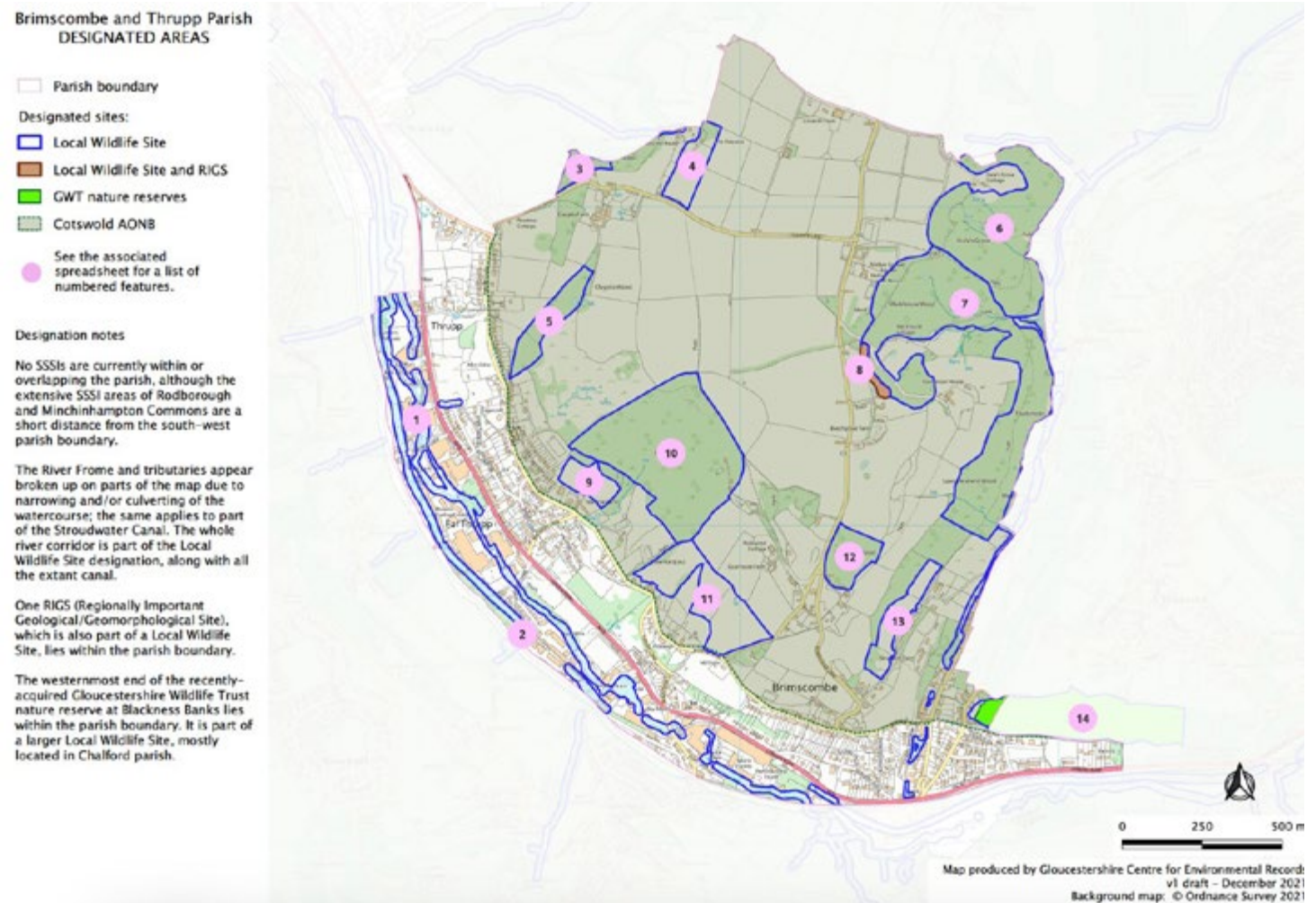


Figure 4: Designated Wildlife Sites
(Enlarged maps pg.96)

**Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish
NOTABLE HABITATS**

- Parish boundary
- Habitat types:**
- Grassland (semi-natural)
- Amenity grassland
- Open water
- Woodland – semi-natural
- Woodland – plantation
- Scrub
- Scattered scrub
- Parkland/scattered trees
- Traditional orchard
- Allotments

Habitat notes

Priority Habitats are outlined in red. Note that some of the ponds and the older hedgerows may also be in a Priority Habitat category, depending on their stage of establishment and use. These are often too small for Natural England to map on the Priority Habitat Inventory, but are known to be locally important.

High-input farmland such as arable, silage and rotation grassland fields, along with domestic gardens, are not mapped individually. Whilst they may not support as much biodiversity as Priority Habitats they do, however, provide significant food and cover for some wildlife and their omission from the habitats legend should not be seen as an indication that these areas offer nothing for wildlife.



Figure 5: Notable Habitats
(Enlarged map pg.97)

Valuing our local ecosystem and natural capital

7.29 Our environment is our life support system; from the air we breathe to the water we drink and food we eat, to the range of resources provided by the environment that drive our economy. We use the term “Ecosystem Services” to describe the benefits that people and society get from the natural environment (also called Natural Capital). An ecosystems approach helps us to identify the benefits we get from nature, value them and build them into planning, decision making and management.



Image 31: View through the woods towards Burleigh
© Isa Clee

7.30 There are a range of benefits and ecosystem services provided by the environment in Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish such as:

- Historically, the abundance of natural watercourses made the valley ideal as the base for manufacturing and industry, as the flowing water provided power for the mills, and in time as a location for the canal as an important transport system;
- The valley continues to be an important location for industry & employment.
- Countryside walks, swimming and recreation, for health and enjoyment.
- The peace and tranquillity that people draw from the beautiful landscape to counteract the stresses of modern life.
- A nationally recognised landscape, with a range of places, from the Stroud Water canal and the River Frome in the valley bottom to higher land of within the Cotswold National Landscape on both sides, that residents value and tourists want to visit;
- Food produced on farmland (mainly permanent pasture used for sheep and cattle), local gardens, allotments and orchards – some of which are ‘traditional orchards’, a priority habitat area;
- Mixed deciduous woodland, mainly on the valley sides with low intensity of management, providing a range of services;
- People’s gardens also provide small scale, but important eco-system services.

7.31 The Gloucestershire Natural Capital Mapping Project has identified thirteen key ecosystem services which we benefit from directly as a result of the county's natural environment. The majority have both a baseline map showing the extent of the existing service, and an opportunity map showing the degree to which a service is being delivered where it is needed. This map is illustrative only to use as an idea of how biodiversity could be improved – they may be areas of high opportunity in the future outside of the areas prioritised in this map. The services fall within four main categories and are derived from a wide range of source data and methodologies.

7.32 The goal of the Gloucestershire Natural Capital Mapping Project is to help guide land-use and planning decisions, identify opportunities for investment in the enhancement of natural capital in the county and provide a tool for delivering positive, integrated benefits for people, wildlife and the economy.

Project Box

The proposed Brimscombe and Thrupp Community Composting scheme will support this policy by encouraging residents to manage their gardens in a more environmentally friendly way. Less green waste will be transported out of the Parish, bonfires with the accompanying smoke pollution will become less prevalent and everyone will have a locally produced supply of peat free compost to encourage and support their gardening efforts



Image 32: Dandelion © Isa Clee

Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish
Ecosystem Services:
Biodiversity opportunities (relational)



Low opportunity >>> High opportunity

 Existing Priority Habitats

Biodiversity is treated as a natural capital 'bundled benefit', comprising the ability of a habitat to support a diverse range of species, thus providing a variety of environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Biodiversity has both a baseline and an opportunity map. The maps are relational, with both the underlying habitat inventory and other factors being taken into account for scoring.

For the opportunity layer, the Nature Recovery Network was used as a modifier, along with potential connectivity gains and a blanket category of existing Core Habitats. Thus the areas of highest opportunity are darkest/warmest on the map, but existing (assumed low opportunity) Priority Habitats are highlighted in green.

For more information, please see the Map Metadata section of the Gloucestershire Natural Capital Mapping Project website: <https://naturalcapital.gcoerdata.com/>

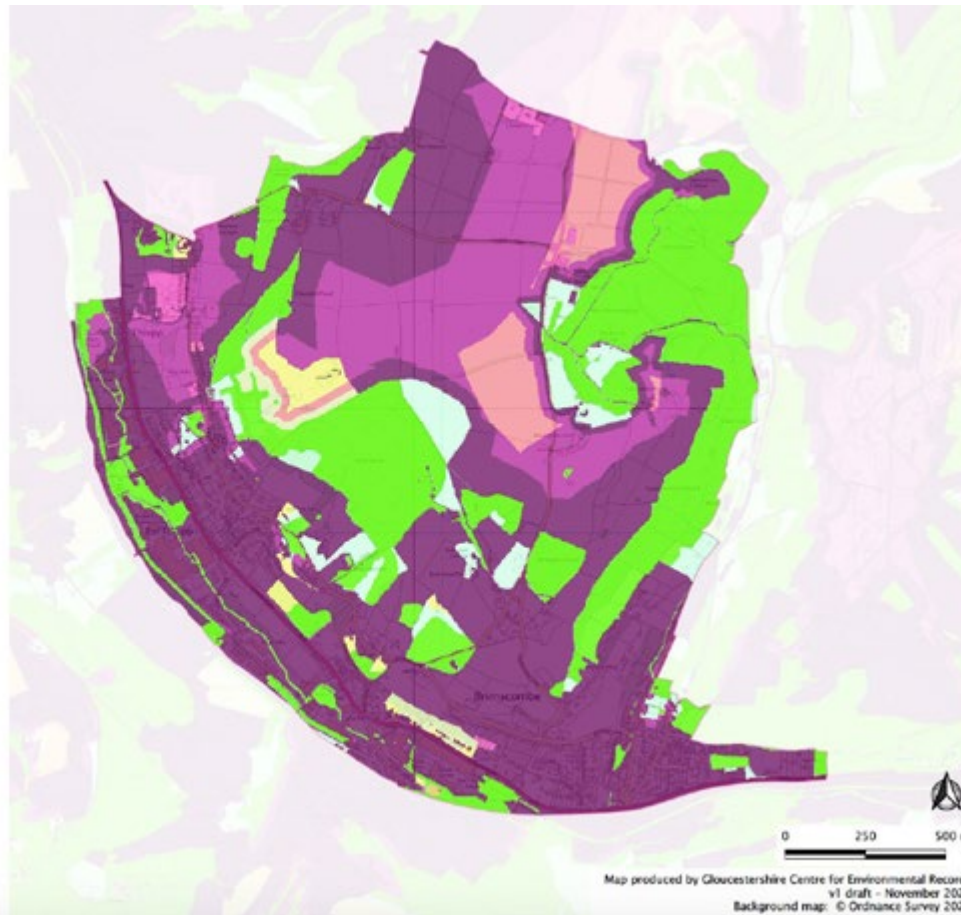


Figure 6: Biodiversity Opportunity Map
(Enlarged map pg.98)

7.33 There are also specific areas and opportunities where we would like to see an uplift and improvement in our local natural capital:

- Increase in trees and hedges (and replace tree loss - e.g. due to ash dieback), including along the London Road as envisaged in the Golden Valley Route project to provide shade, contribute to local carbon capture and contribute towards a more pleasant environment.
- Air pollutant removal (again linked to an improved environment along the London Road). This could be through tree planting and other wildlife-friendly linear features (e.g. native, mixed-species hedgerows), particularly along the edges of roads to improve air quality.
- Ensuring opportunities are taken to capture, filter and manage excess water that can lead to localised flooding; for example, planting a native hedge could contribute to storing surface water (as well as create habitats and provide food for wildlife, and improve air quality), or installing a green roof or rain-garden.
- Rewilding / reforestation.
- Productive farmland can be maintained and managed to encourage bio-diversity and carbon capture in soil.
- Connecting different elements in our wider and overall Green (woodland / allotments / play areas etc) and Blue (River Frome / Canal) Infrastructure of the parish.

7.34 We can all play a role and contribute towards making a positive difference to the natural environment of our Parish. Policy CC4 (below) asks that new development, or changes to existing properties, think about development to the benefit of people and wildlife. This is also about nature based solutions that recognise what nature does for us, helps us to be more resilient to climate change and delivers enhanced health of the environment around us so as to maintain, or even better, improve the range of benefits we receive from it. It adds local detail to Stroud local plan Core Policy CP14 High quality sustainable development, and Delivery Policy ES6 Providing for biodiversity and geodiversity, and is in line with national policy .

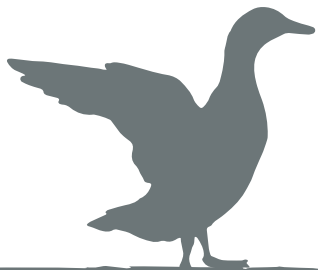


Image 33: Side entrance to the Brimscombe & Thrupp playingfield © Isa Clee

POLICY CC4:

Natural Capital and Ecosystems Services

Applications should demonstrate, where relevant to the scale and form of the development and its location, how the proposal:

- a) Improves the area's resilience to, and mitigation of, climate change, such as the need to manage and mitigate the increased risk of flooding;
- b) Adopts best practice in application of nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems to deliver a whole surface water drainage system linked to the wider Green and Blue Infrastructure network (as indicated on figure 9);
- c) Connects into and where appropriate extends the network of the Green Infrastructure of the parish (woodland / allotments / play areas etc) and Blue (River Frome / Canal);
- d) Increases the ability of the natural environment to store carbon through new planting or other means;
- e) Incorporates habitat features of value to wildlife within the development and building design, including those which meet the needs of local species (such as provision of nesting features for swifts, swallows, house sparrows, bats and hedgehog fences, and native pollinator-friendly planting in landscaping proposals);

f) Supports the sustainable production of food;

g) Reduces levels of pollution, especially along the London Road; and,

h) Provides opportunities for access to the natural and cultural resources, such as the Stroudwater Canal, which contribute to the special qualities of Brimscombe and Thrupp and improve opportunities for people's health and wellbeing.

*This policy links to objectives 1, 3 and 4 of this Plan.
Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies: Core Policy 14
Delivery Policy ES6*

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

The policy asks how development can include Ecosystem Services actions to the benefit of everybody. This could be applied to a single home because even small actions can deliver multiple benefits for both people and wildlife. For example, if you want planning permission for a small extension, you could improve the environment by including bat or bird boxes in the new build section, by replacing a large concrete parking area with permeable surface, planting a native hedge, or wildflowers could create habitats and provide food for wildlife, whilst also storing surface water and improving air quality.

8

Locally Distinctive, High Quality Design | Policies and Projects



Image 34: Ham Mill © Greg Pilley

8.1 Our parish is one of several along the valley extending south east from Stroud into the Cotswolds and including Stroud town itself. They all share three basic characteristics:

- A clear, slowly winding valley bottom where transport routes are located (canal then railway then road), linked in previous times mainly to employment uses, now focusing more on leisure.
- Housing from many different periods on the slopes up from the valley bottom, predominantly to the east and north of the transport corridor, stopping where hills became too steep.
- Green slopes leading up the scarp face of the Cotswolds to the plateau. Given the narrowness of the valley, the slopes and the plateau form the majority of the land in each parish – even Stroud; development forming just a small strip. With development mainly on one side of the valley, this creates stunning views for our residents across the valley to almost completely green slopes – in our case to Rodborough and Minchinhampton parishes.

8.2 The quality of design in general is a key issue not just for our community but also now – and increasingly so – at national level. The 2021 update of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) highlights the importance of a design-led approach: As paragraph 126 of the NPPF 2021 comments ‘The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process’.

8.3 The NPPF also sets out that “Neighbourhood planning groups can play an important role in identifying the special qualities of each area and explaining how this should be reflected in development” (para. 127).



Image 35: Stafford Mill Chimney © Isa Clee

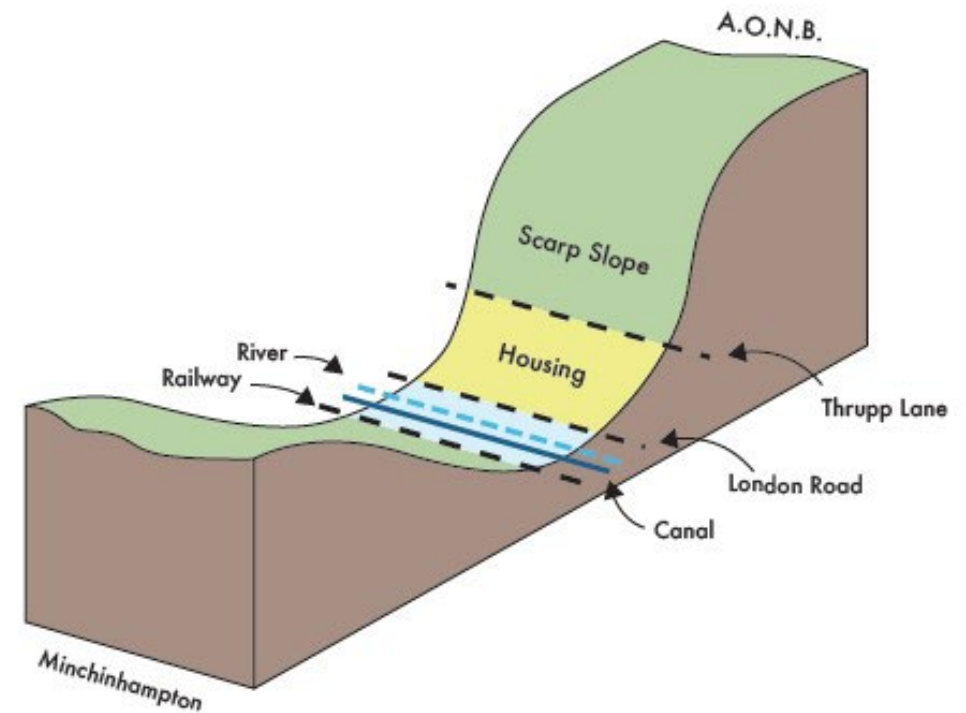
Local Distinctiveness

8.4 Important designations cover both the built and natural environment, notably the large and significant Conservation Area (Industrial Heritage Conservation Area (IHCA) and much of the Parish lies within the Cotswolds National Landscape where additional care is necessary.

8.5 Our parish has a distinct and highly valued landscape setting. It is set within a valley formed by the River Frome which runs beside the canal. Views are dramatic from the hills down into the site and along the valley. Houses and industry are found in the lower parts of the valley, which rises steeply up to the Cotswold plateau.

8.6 The built areas of our parish are also distinct; there are three main sections to the built settlements themselves, incorporating eight character areas as identified in the Community Design Statement and shown in figure 7 on the next page.

Image 36: View of the Parish from across the valley © Isa Clee



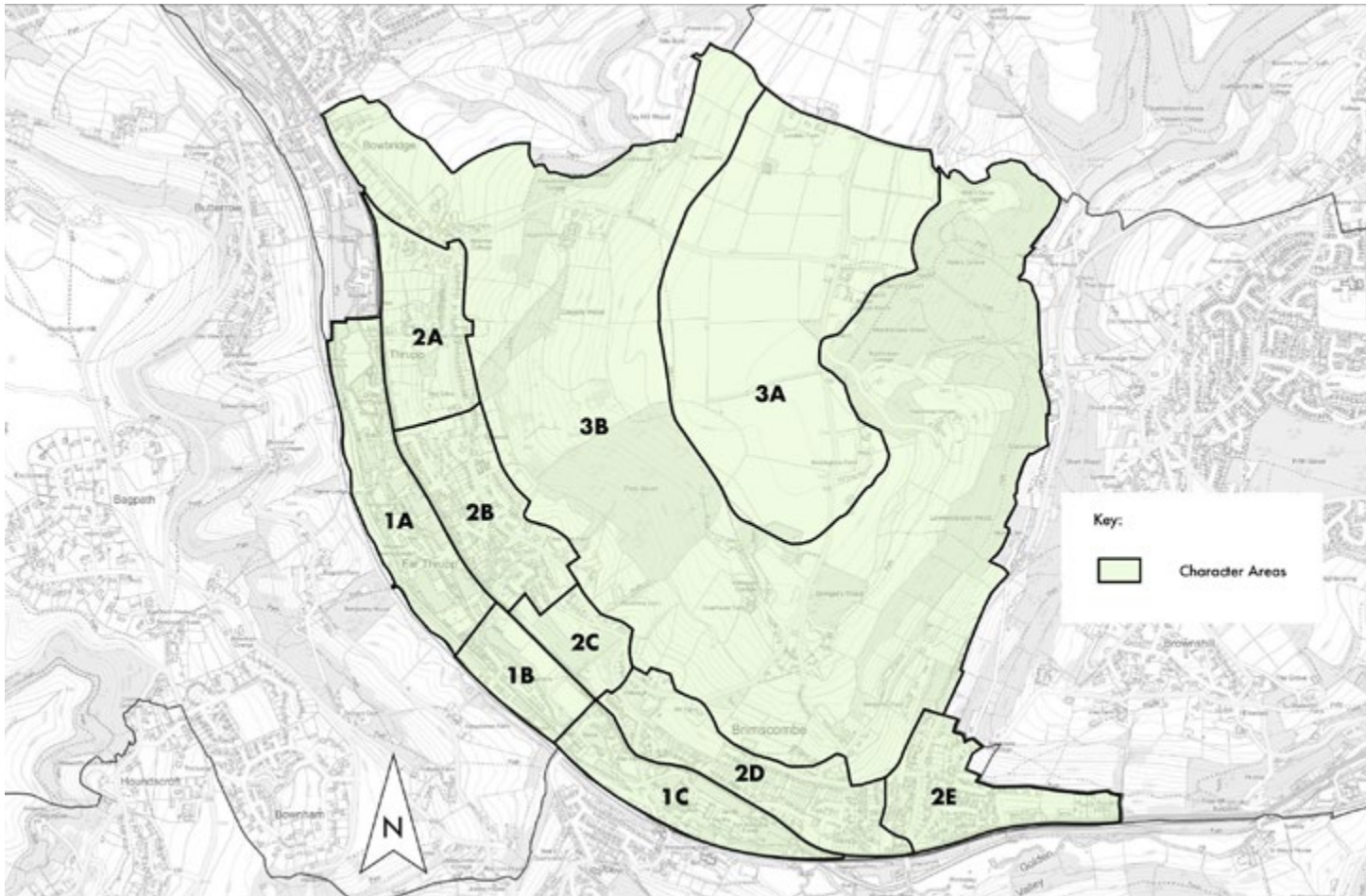


Figure 7: Character area map
(Enlarged map pg.99)

8.7 The landscape character of the Parish is within a broad area described as Cotswold Upland Landscapes and falls into two categories as described by the Stroud District Council Landscape Character Assessment²² (2000) - Wold Tops and Secluded Valleys. From the high and wide open landscape of the Wold Tops, to the wooded and intersecting valleys, the variety and beauty of the landscape that our community lives in is highly valued.

8.8 Policy LRD1 below sets out a policy approach to secure high-quality design in the neighbourhood area. Applicants should demonstrate the way in which they have taken account of the Brimscombe and Thrupp Design Statement in preparing their design and access statements to accompany planning applications. Where appropriate developers should also demonstrate compliance with Building for a Healthy Life (Homes England 2020) a design guide which sets out a broad range of considerations to be taken into account in the design process in order to achieve high quality, well designed places.

22. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1070964/stroud-district-landscape-assessment-spg-november-2000.pdf>

8.9 Some construction works by utility companies will need planning permission and others may not. In the latter case, whilst needing to ensure public safety and performance, proposed utility development should be sensitively positioned to respect the natural landscape in the wider neighbourhood area and the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area.'

POLICY LRD1:

Locally Distinctive High Quality Design

In order to create high quality buildings and places that are beautiful and enduring, development proposals will be expected to respond positively and distinctively to the National Model Design Code, National Design Guide, and the Brimscombe and Thrupp Community Design Statement as appropriate to their scale, nature and location. In particular, development proposals should be designed in a way which takes account of their surroundings in their built form, height, materials, historic character and boundary treatments.

Developments which feature innovative and/or modern designs will be supported where they respect their surroundings and complement the setting of other buildings in terms of their height, massing and use of materials.

This policy links to objective 4 of this Plan.
Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies:
Core Policy 14 / Delivery Policy ES10, ES12

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

The Community Design Statement is a useful document to help inform people thinking about any development proposals. If you are proposing development, the Community Design Statement should be helpful in achieving good design needed for planning permission.



Image 37: View of Thrupp from across the valley

Locally Valued Views

8.10 Consultation has highlighted how people value the views that our dramatic landscape can afford the viewer.

8.11 The selection of Locally Valued Views satisfy at least some of the following criteria:

- Visible from a publicly accessible location (including public rights of way or public highways)
- Selected for a specific reason i.e. overreaching far view, view to an historical or public interest building/monument
- A high quality and distinctive 'visual amenity' (the overall pleasantness of a view, its setting and value to the community)
- An historic link to an important event or person
- Where facilities for their enjoyment i.e. parking places and interpretive boards are included.

Image 38 View of Stroud from Thrupp
© Isa Clee



“Views of the fields and woods are all really important. For example, the views from Thrupp Lane across the valley and up the hillsides; the views of the area known as the Heavens which is used by walkers and children a lot.”

(respondent to the Autumn 2021 survey)

8.12 For clarity, a view is defined as what can be seen from a particular place. Specific views (selected to demonstrate key and sometimes promoted viewpoints within the landscape or towards it) and representative views (chosen to represent views from a particular places or routeways) have been identified.




8.13 The identified views are by no means exhaustive and are instead intended to give a representation of the range of valued views. The views have been assessed using a simple classification as follows:

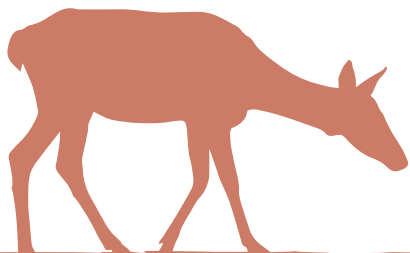
E = Exceptional, unique to Brimscombe and Thrupp

I = Important, perhaps not unique but still of considerable significance

T = Typical, showing an example of what is important, rather than of specific significance.




8.14 Specific views have been identified and listed in the table in the following pages and have also been mapped (see appendix).

ID		Assessment	Rating
1		<p>LVV1 Claypits Lane</p> <p><i>Looking west from Lypiatt Fields towards Dove Row and the River Severn.</i></p> <p>This is typical of the long-distance views that are available from the high ground in the parish, and are a significant asset.</p>	E
2		<p>LVV2 Rodborough Common</p> <p><i>Looking south east - View of Thrupp from Rodborough Common. This is a view of the parish from a neighbouring hill top.</i></p> <p>It exemplifies the way that our domestic environment, even within the settlement area, is closely linked with the natural wooded setting that adjoins it.</p>	I
3		<p>LVV3 Swells Hill</p> <p><i>Looking east - The Bourne is a settlement at the south-eastern end of the parish.</i></p> <p>The industrial buildings from the 1960s are visible in the lower part of the image, they have now been demolished to make way for the port development</p>	I






8.15 The creation of new views within large scale development proposals should also inform master planning processes - such as towards local heritage landmarks such as The Mill Chimney in Brimscombe Port.

8.16 Design Statements are extremely valuable but cannot achieve high quality design on their own. The successful delivery of high quality design on specific sites is also dependent on providing the local community with an early input into the design of new developments.

ID		Assessment	Rating
4		<p>LVV4 Laurenceland</p> <p>Looking south, south east - A view of The Bourne, with Burleigh in the background.</p> <p>The building site for the Wimberley Park Estate is visible in the centre. Although outside the parish border, this development will bring over 100 homes within a few hundred metres of the centre of Brimscombe</p>	T
5		<p>LVV5 Laurenceland</p> <p>Looking south - A characteristic view of Swells Hill from the parish, nearby settlements are visible but very much integrated with the natural landscape, surrounded by trees and other vegetation.</p>	I
6		<p>LVV6 Park Wood</p> <p>Looking north west - Footpath through Park Wood.</p> <p>A network of much-used footpaths criss-cross Park Wood and surrounding areas. They form a significant part of the leisure environment for residents of and visitors to the parish.</p>	T

8.17 Although there is no statutory requirement for a developer to engage with the Local Planning Authority prior to submitting a planning application (para. 40, NPPF), Planning Practice Guidance, together with the National Planning Policy Framework places emphasis on developers/applicants to undertaking early pre-application community engagement as follows: “Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot.” (NPPF 2021 para. 128).

8.18 The National Planning Policy Framework also stresses that “Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community” (NPPF 2021 para. 39).

ID		Assessment	Rating
7		<p>LVV7 River Frome</p> <p>Looking south - The River Frome runs roughly parallel and close to the canal.</p> <p>The river has a distinctly different feel to the canal, it is crossed by paths at various places and forms an important wildlife corridor with wild areas between the crossing points.</p>	I
8		<p>LVV10 Stroudwater Canal</p> <p>Looking south - The Stroudwater Canal, together with the River Frome, provide an exceptional wildlife and scenic corridor extending the entire length of the parish along its western edge.</p>	E
9		<p>LVV11 Mill Pond at Brimscombe Mill</p> <p>Looking east - The Mill Pond is an exceptionally beautiful stretch of water, and should be a key component of the environment adjacent to the canal corridor.</p>	E

8.19 When introduced at an early stage, community involvement can change the form and nature of a development for the better – it affects land use. In the same way that engaging early through formal Pre-application discussions with planning officers can change a development for the better, community engagement undertaken early in the process can improve developments in all senses.

8.20 The policy below, together with our own and Stroud District's Pre-application Community Engagement Protocol, is intended to facilitate a structured approach to provide a means to enable effective involvement of the local community in development applications in order to address all aspects of a proposal from design and layout to issues of climate change and energy generation. Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council have adopted the Protocol and are already actively using it. The Pre-application Engagement Protocol can be seen in Appendix 1 to this plan on page 80.

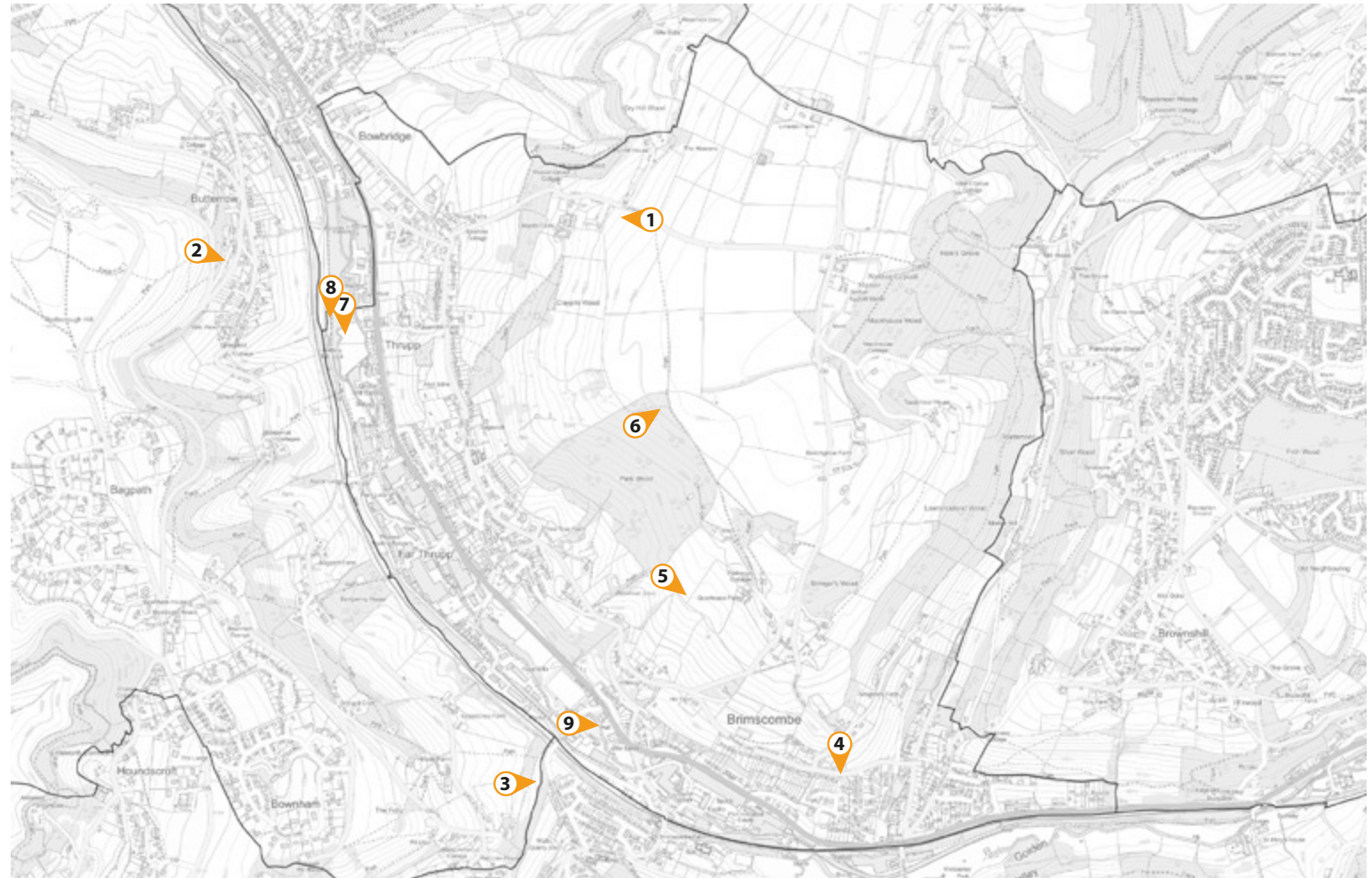


Figure 8: Locally Valued Views
(Enlarged map pg.100)

POLICY LRD2: Locally Valued Views

Development proposals must take account of their potential impact on views and vistas to and from the site, and are encouraged to create views towards heritage assets, or out to the wider landscape from new public spaces within developments where possible.

Major development proposals will be expected to show whether the development would be visible from the identified Locally Valued Views as shown in table 1 and mapped on figure 8 and where there is intervisibility how the development would be viewed from those viewpoints. Any mitigating measures should be incorporated into the development as necessary.

Proposals that would have an unacceptable detrimental impact on any of the locally valued views will not be supported.

This policy links to objective 4 of this Plan.

Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies: Core Policy 14 / Delivery Policy ES7



Image 39: View of Stroud from Thrupp © Isa Clee

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

This policy aims to highlight important views and to ensure that any development proposals are considered in terms of this wider context. (Especially major proposals which is defined as a residential application for 10 dwellings or more / or an outline application for residential development on a site of 0.5 hectares or larger / or an application for offices, general industrial, storage and distribution or shops, where the floor space exceeds 1000sqm.)

POLICY LRD3:
Pre-application Community Engagement

Potential applicants are encouraged to follow the approach set out in the Brimscombe and Thrupp Community Pre-Application Engagement Protocol and the Stroud Council Statement of Community Involvement.

Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive, proportionate and effective engagement with the community will be looked on more favourably than applications that have not, in line with National Planning Policy.

Pre-application community engagement is also encouraged for Reserved Matters Applications as well as Outline or Full.

This policy links to objective 1 and 5 of this Plan.
Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies:
Core Policy 14 / Delivery Policy ES12

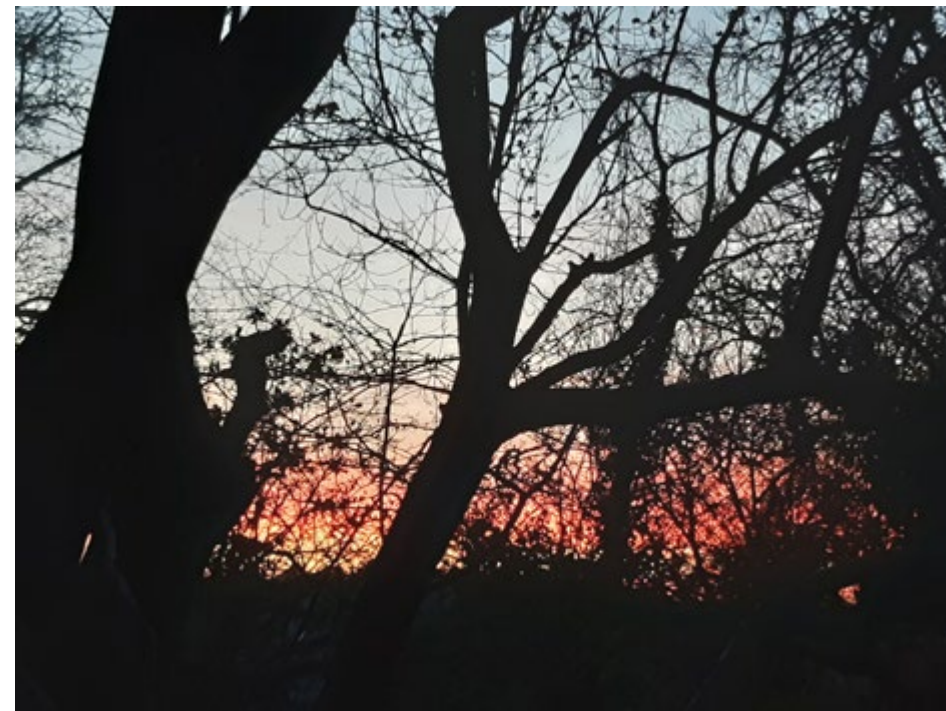


Image 40: Sunset through the trees © Isa Clee

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

This policy aims to enable positive and proactive early engagement on development proposals. The level of engagement should be proportionate to the proposal. So, for example, if just a single house is proposed, the pre-application engagement is likely to be with just the immediate neighbours and be informal. For large projects the community of impact – those to engage - would be agreed locally.

Development and Site Allocations in the Stroud Local Plan

8.21 Early and effective Pre-application engagement of the community in our Parish is considered to be especially important in relation to the strategic site allocations made by Stroud District. The process of community engagement undertaken should be proportionate to the proposed development; the nature of the proposal, scale and setting should inform a mutually agreed approach.

8.22 There are two sites allocated for development in the Stroud Local Plan.²³ Both sites represent important and significant opportunities for our community to see investment and regeneration in the Port Area.

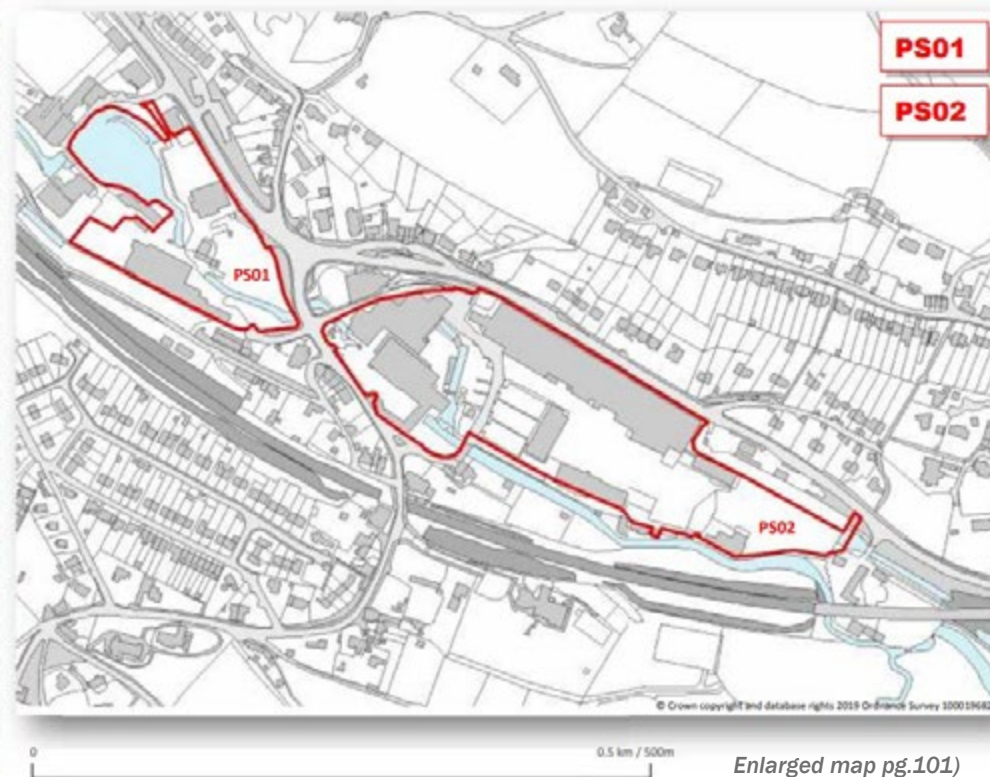
Draft site allocations

PS01 Brimscombe Mill:

Land at Brimscombe Mill, as identified on the policies map, is allocated for a development comprising 40 dwellings and employment uses and associated community and open space uses, together with enabling infrastructure. Detailed policy criteria will be developed where necessary to highlight specific mitigation measures and infrastructure requirements. A development brief incorporating an indicative masterplan, to be approved by the District Council, will detail the way in which the land uses and infrastructure will be developed in an integrated and co-ordinated manner.

PS02 Brimscombe Port:

Land at Brimscombe Port, as identified on the policies map, is allocated for a development comprising 150 dwellings, canal related tourism development and employment uses and associated community and open space uses, together with enabling infrastructure. Detailed policy criteria will be developed where necessary to highlight specific mitigation measures and infrastructure requirements. A development brief incorporating an indicative masterplan, to be approved by the District Council, will detail the way in which the land uses and infrastructure will be developed in an integrated and co-ordinated manner.



23. https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485602/part-3a_pre-submission-draft-plan-2021_final-25-05-21.pdf (pages 75-77).



Brimscombe Port

8.23 The site has been included in the Stroud District Local Plan for some time now and was consulted on as part of the local plan process. It is expected to deliver the canal restoration, a minimum of 150 homes, some commercial and community space.

8.24 In October 2021, Stroud District Council released an Output Specification²⁴ to support the procurement of a Developer for the Brimscombe Port. The specification includes the vision for Brimscombe Port, which was developed as part of earlier consultation processes for the Port; to deliver a sustainable new residential-led mixed use community that meets the needs of both existing and future residents.

8.25 Once the Council has appointed a developer partner, the next step will be to prepare a planning application, with the aim of securing permission to start work in the summer of 2023 and to continue for a couple of years.



Image 41: Brimscombe Port from above

8.26 The six objectives, as set out Stroud District Council for the site, are to:

1. Create a distinctive and memorable place, appropriate to its context and history with a strong character and identity;
2. Build sustainable, energy efficient buildings and low impact development that minimises harm to the environment;
3. Create a vibrant and inclusive community that provides for a range of ages, affordability and demographics;
4. Create and integrate landscape comprehensively, enhancing biodiversity and creating new habitats that bring nature into the site;
5. Encourage wellness and healthy lifestyles through the new open spaces and enhance existing routes to increase the recreational uses in the area and commutable travel routes across the site;
6. Create a financially sustainable canal to ensure the ongoing quality of the waterside setting

24. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1766386/output-specification-october-2021.pdf>

8.27 There have been a series of consultations since 2004 on community wishes for the re-development of Brimscombe Port. Key wishes have included the reinstatement of sufficient water to ensure the scale of the historic port was reflected in the new development, a community focus at the centre of the port to ‘put the heart back into Brimscombe’ to integrate existing and new residents of the parish and to ensure the port will be connected to the main canal network.

8.28 Through the Neighbourhood Plan Autumn 2021 consultation, it is clear that people are keen to see the Port sensitively developed. People were given a number of options for what they would like to see included in a development at the port in the survey. In order of priority of those options considered very important or important were:

- energy efficient buildings to fight climate change (92%)
- connected canal and port with boats (82%)
- greenspace/community garden (82%)
- a community run café with meeting space (78%)
- social enterprise (78%)
- shops and café (70%)
- employment space (67%)
- outside play equipment (e.g. Table tennis) (67%)
- Homes with at least 30% affordable/rented (64%)

8.29 From the comments following this question it is apparent there is a concern that if there were to be any shops in the development, they should not compete with the existing offer in the area.

8.30 In terms of activities to be provided by the redeveloped port there was strong support for activities for adults to combat isolation, fun activities for all ages, keep fit, outside and youth/adult activities like table tennis, outside toddler play equipment, greenspace/community garden, a community run café with meeting space, social enterprise and men’s (and women’s) shed.

8.31 When asked if there were any other facilities they wished to see in the port development that had not already been mentioned respondents highlighted that they felt it should include a skatepark to replace the loss of Rush Skatepark, places to socialise, active travel provision and space for nature. There were also several mentions of the demand for affordable workspaces.



Image 42: A419 at Brimscombe Port © Greg Pilley

8.32 Example comments from the Autumn 2021 consultation:

“Genuine work spaces i.e. workshops for tradesmen not just office hubs style facilities. Huge demand for affordable practical workshops in area unmet”

“Restaurants and cafes would be great. An excellent opportunity to have a proper water side social area”

“A playpark or open communal space would be very beneficial for the valley. There is no communal gathering space at the moment. Including this in the development of Brimscombe port would be very welcome with all the locals.”

“I think the regeneration of the port area needs to fully respect the fact that this area has become part of the public realm of the parish, with people making use of the canal path and walking through from the shops on the main road. A permeable design that allows public access / walking and recreation is important. A development that converts much of the area into private space whether for housing or commerce would be unacceptable - my point being that even housing and commercial areas can be designed and laid out in a way that encourages and accommodates public access.”

(respondents to the Autumn 2021 survey)



Image 43: Old postcard of Brimscombe Port



Image 44: Old postcard of Brimscombe Port

Community Building in Brimscombe Port

8.33 Free land or space for a community enterprise centre (CEC) will be made available to the local community as part of the redevelopment. The Autumn 2021 survey therefore asked the community what they would like to see in a community building in the port redevelopment. Respondents were presented with options and asked what they thought were “good ideas”, what facilities they would use and what facilities they would be willing to help run.

8.34 There was strong support for all the options given, even for those where the respondent would not themselves use e.g. many people supported the provision of youth and toddler activities, even if they themselves did not have children of the age to use.

8.35 There was highest support for:

- **A large hall for events and for hire (73%)**
- **Space/activities for youth (69%)**
- **Activities for adults to combat isolation (68%)**
- **Fun activities for all ages (66%)**
- **Parent and toddler activities (65%)**
- **A community café (64%)**
- **Keep fit (62%)**
- **Outside youth/adult sports (e.g.table tennis) (60%)**
- **Outside toddler play equipment (55%)**
- **Desks/space for start-up business (55%)**
- **Men’s (and women’s) shed (47%)**

8.36 Other suggestions included music, yoga, swimming pond, outdoor gym equipment, smaller meeting rooms and healthcare facilities.



Brimscombe Mill

8.37 The site has been included in the Stroud District Local Plan for some time now. It was consulted on as part of the local plan process and is allocated for 40 dwellings, subject to master planning. The northern part which is out of the flood zone is considered more suitable for housing and the southern part for employment. The site is in private ownership with two main landowners. The site includes an exceptionally attractive mill pond and stream with important biodiversity and landscape value. The southern part between the river and canal has some attractive mill buildings which have recently been rented and rehabilitated by local social enterprises, providing significant community value. The Brimscombe and Thrupp Social Centre, a 300m² wooden building comprising a hall, small meeting room, kitchen and toilets owned by a Charitable Trust, is situated on the northern edge alongside the A419. The site has some access constraints to the north onto the A419. Access from the southern part is currently along the route of the canal onto Brimscombe Hill, this will be lost when the canal is re-opened.

8.38 As part of future development it is essential that the mill basin and river corridor to Brimscombe Port is protected for biodiversity and landscape reasons. Sensitive public access on foot along the river and around the millpond should be enabled. The continued rehabilitation and use of the existing mill buildings by social enterprises should be welcomed and encouraged.

Ham Mill

8.39 Ham Mill was a cloth mill for three centuries from 1608 before being occupied by a carpet manufacturer. It is a 2 hectare site unused since 2000 situated between the A419 and the River Frome with a listed five storey Mill building as well as some less attractive 1920s factory buildings. Planning permission was applied for in 2015 and permission given in April 2017 (S.15/1751/FUL) for 100 new homes, 686sqm office space and 286 sqm flexible space, with part of the site set aside as a nature area and river frontage. There was significant consultation and the proposals were largely welcomed by the neighbouring community. Sadly redevelopment never started and the planning permission has since lapsed. There is evidence of deterioration of the unused listed building and there is concern about mis-use and safety of this site. The community would like to see the site brought forward for redevelopment as soon as possible, including a pelican crossing of the adjoining A419 in line with the previously approved proposals.

Wimberley Park

8.40 Development needs to take into account the natural catchment area of our parish rather than simply its strict boundaries. One example is the old Wimberley Mill site, now renamed Wimberley Park, is currently (as at Spring 2022) being redeveloped. The intention is to construct approximately 104 homes. Although these are not situated within Brimscombe and Thrupp parish, they are located less than 500m from the centre of the Port development. It is reasonable to assume therefore that many of the residents of the new development may wish to make use of any existing or new facilities in this area.



Image 45: Entrance to Ham Mill © Isa Clee

In-fill housing outside the settlement boundary and social sustainability

8.41 Currently in-fill housing development (often in large gardens and spaces between individual houses) is permitted within the settlement boundary of our main communities. Sometimes these ‘spaces ‘ are already quite constrained which can cause friction between close neighbours and sometimes car-parking issues.

8.42 Stricter policy criteria are applied for new development outside the Settlement Boundary (and therefore deemed to be in the ‘open countryside’). In the Stroud Local Plan, it states that development will be restricted to that which contributes to diverse and sustainable farming enterprises, recreation or tourism, or involves the conversion of rural buildings and the provision of essential community facilities, and in some places, locally needed and supported housing (Core Policy CP15). There is also a policy on Sustainable rural communities that seeks to support social sustainability of rural communities, and address changing local housing needs and support a more varied future population in these rural communities. This policy applies to tier 3b and 4 settlements. Brimscombe and Thrupp is a tier 3b settlement.

8.43 There are a number of what we might term ‘micro settlements’ (often 1-10 houses) in our wider Parish, that are in planning terms, in ‘open countryside’ - some of these however are in locations where people can walk in 10 minutes to local services such as a bus stop (areas along Bourne Lane and Thrupp Lane).

8.44 Many of houses outside of the Settlement Boundary are being extended as single dwellings, increasing house value but reducing the availability of more affordable homes and further reducing the income and age-mix of these settlements and therefore impacting on social sustainability. Opportunities for in-fill (e.g. in gardens) outside of the formal settlement boundary are limited by local plan policies. This currently reduces the opportunity to address some of the local affordable housing need.

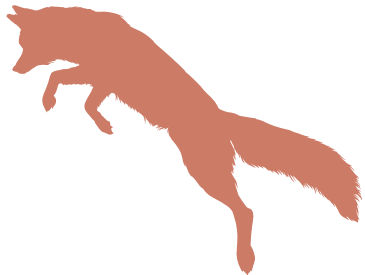


Image 46: Dalloway in Thrupp © Isa Clee

9

Economy - Policies | Projects



Image 47: Shops at Brimscombe Corner © Isa Clee

9.1 Supporting the economy is a key element of delivering sustainable development, economic growth and prosperity. The district Local Plan (submission version) includes key points about employment in the mini-vision for the Stroud Valleys, with the inclusion of principles that relate to ‘maintaining existing jobs or delivering new job opportunities at the same level or above the level last employed on site’, as well as ‘create a focus for creative and green industries, to support a well skilled workforce.’²⁵ The Stroud Local Plan also includes policies to protect and develop employment sites. In the emerging Local Plan, Delivery Policy EI1 identifies three sites to retain as employment sites, and Delivery Policy EI2 identifies Ham Mills for regeneration as a mixed use site for employment and housing.

9.2 Brimscombe and Thrupp has a very good number of local employment sites, employing both local people and those from outside the parish. These contribute greatly to the quality of life in the Parish and also help to maintain the village’s attraction as a place to visit.

9.3 As elsewhere, the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have impacted on the viability of some of our local employment while, at the same time, the number of those working from home and needing and valuing local services is likely to increase. Retention of local provision is clearly threatened by the increased ability of employers to convert employment premises and sites to housing due to recent changes in permitted development rights. Permitted development rights (PDRs) are a national grant of planning permission which allow certain building works and changes of use to be carried out without having to make a planning application, subject to conditions and limitations intended to protect local amenity.



Image 48: Griffin Mill © Isa Clee

25. *Guiding principles for the stroud valleys. Stroud Local Plan Pre Submission Draft May 2021*
https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485602/part-3a_pre-submission-draft-plan-2021_final-25-05-21.pdf

Employment and Business in Brimscombe and Thrupp

9.4 Brimscombe and Thrupp's industrial heritage and local modern industry and economy is an important aspect of our Parish. The comprehensive policies of the Local Plan provide support not only to protect and regenerate existing sites (as set out above), but also seeks to supports employment opportunities and small scale enterprise and home working as well as live-work development.²⁶ The continuation of local enterprise and people living and working in our thriving Parish is the aim behind the two policies presented in this section.

9.5 In particular, we want to support the business community to minimise the carbon footprint of employment in Brimscombe and Thrupp. Maximising the opportunities for living and working within the Parish is primary to this. During consultation (Employment and Business Survey & Analysis (2021)) local business owners identified the need for high-quality mixed-use business space. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to support new employment in the parish – in the wide range of ways that people can now build a business, including working from home harnessing the internet

9.6 As part of the Autumn 2021 survey, people were given a number of options to choose from relating to improvements to services and the local economy. They were asked to rate them based on their importance. The most popular of these were supporting independent shops and business, supporting local social enterprise, making it easier to cycle or walk to local shops, jobs and services and making it easier to work from home (supporting home offices and improving broadband speeds). All of which were rated very important by more than 65 respondents.

9.7 There was also significant support for protecting existing employment land and buildings, improving local retail, providing a serviced work-hub and office space. There were also several mentions of the demand for workshops for tradespeople. Providing services and facilities to attract visitors was seen as less important by respondents.

26. Stroud Local Plan Pre submission Core Policy CP11 / Delivery Policy DHC3
https://www.stroud.gov.uk/media/1485609/part-5_pre-submission-draft-plan-2021_final-25-05-21.pdf



Image 49: Phoenix Mill © Isa Clee

POLICY E1:
New and Start-up Businesses

The provision of local employment, the expansion of the Parish's small employers and the establishment of new start-up businesses will be supported in principle, subject to an assessment of the impact of the proposals and any severe impacts are appropriately mitigated on:

- a. residential amenity; and
- b. the transport network and parking conditions; and
- c. biodiversity and the environment.

Proposals will be expected to be supported by proportionate and appropriate information to enable an assessment of these impacts to be undertaken.

Tourism and leisure development that enhances the offer and which does not detract from the vitality and viability of the Parish will also be supported.

This policy links to objective 6 of this plan.
Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies:
Core Policy 14 / Delivery Policy EK3,EK4,EK5, ER1, ER2,ER3

POLICY E2:
Home Working

Proposals that increase opportunities for residents to work from home (such as a home office for remote working) and/or to work from within the parish will be supported.

Where working space at residential properties, and where planning permission is required, support will be given to proposals for small scale, proportionate residential extensions or modest conversions of existing buildings in the gardens of residential properties proposals should clearly demonstrate that the work area for its occupants:

- a. is ancillary to the primary residential use
- b. does not have an unacceptable impact on the amenities of residential properties in the immediate locality
- c. incorporates measures to mitigate the impact of traffic generation, noise and odours

Measures which would improve internet efficiency will be supported.

This policy links to objective 6 of this plan.
Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies: EI3

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

These policies seek to support local economic activity. Each planning application is considered on its own merits, but overall the aim is to be supportive of planning applications that contribute to local businesses.

10

Community Well-being | Policies and Projects



Image 50: Severn Thames Canal © Martin Phelps

10.1 Brimscombe and Thrupp is designated as a Tier 3 settlement, an ‘accessible settlement with limited facilities’ (Stroud Local Plan). The villages provide a range of local services and facilities for their communities, and are well-connected to near-by Stroud which means there is good access to a range of services and facilities.

10.2 Public transport provision however is very limited, and walking or cycling are not options open to everyone, especially with traffic and safety issues linked to the London Road as set out earlier in this document. The facilities in the layby at Brimscombe Corner are well used, but further local facilities such as planned for the Port when it is redeveloped would enable more community interaction and events. Existing buildings such as the Brewery, the old Social Centre and outdoor spaces are used for events and special occasions, which are an integral part of life in Brimscombe & Thrupp. There are informal play spaces in local woods, fields and PROW, links to which could be enhanced.

Green Spaces

10.3 The Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Plan has identified a network of green spaces in the Parish that the community use for enjoyment and have a wildlife benefit and value. A number of spaces have been identified which form part of the ‘Green and Blue Infrastructure of the parish. Access to a network of open spaces and opportunities for physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.

10.4 National Policy allows for the designation of Local Green Spaces which provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to the community. The designation has a similar effect on the management of the land to Green Belt policy. Each Local Green Space location must satisfy all 5 tests including at least one aspect of Test 5:



Image 51: Bridge over the Severn Thames Canal

1. Is the location the subject of a planning application or would it conflict with strategic planning policy for the district?
2. Is the green space in close proximity to the community it serves?
3. Is it local in character, and therefore not an extensive tract of land?
4. Will it serve the purpose described for the whole of the plan period and beyond?
5. Is it demonstrably special to the local community, holding a particular local significance for one of the following aspects: beauty/historic significance/recreation value/ tranquillity/richness of wildlife

10.5 There are 10 green spaces identified in Policy CW1 and shown on Figure 9 that are considered to meet the criteria set out in the NPPF, and are therefore proposed for designation as Local Green Space. Further detail on each proposed Local Green Space and how they may meet the 5 tests can be found in appendix 2 on page 83.

10.6 Hearing back from the community and landowners at this consultation stage will inform and clarify whether the nominated spaces meet the 5 tests and inform the final set of spaces that will go forward in our submission Neighbourhood Plan that we send to Stroud District Council following this consultation, this final version of the Plan will go through a further stage of consultation and finally examination and referendum.

10.7 Whilst not all open space can meet the criteria to be protected Local Green Space, the parish contains numerous other open and green spaces which also contribute to local amenity and character. As set out in national policy “Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.”(NPPF paragraph 98). The policy below therefore also identifies other open spaces (termed Green Spaces of Community Significance) which are part of our overall Green Infrastructure Network and seeks their preservation, and where possible, enhancements that will increase their broad range of benefits for health, wellbeing and biodiversity. Again this is in line with national policy (NPPF Paragraph 99)

10.8 This policy also supports the provision of new green spaces where required as our population grows. When asked if there were any types of green spaces that the parish was lacking, respondents to the Autumn 2021 survey highlighted that they felt there was a lack of communal open space for gathering such as a “green”. The lack of spaces for children to play with appropriate play equipment was the most highlighted shortcoming of Brimscombe and Thrupp’s green space provisions, and a need for allotments or community gardens was also highlighted. There was also a desire for more natural greenspaces to enjoy the local nature and biodiversity. Dog friendly parks were noted as lacking in the local area with the existing spaces often too busy.

“It would be lovely to have a dedicated swimming/paddling spot with picnic tables and maybe an outdoor ping pong table and play equipment where people could enjoy the river to its full extent in the summer”

(respondent to the Autumn 2021 survey)

**POLICY CC1:
Local Green Spaces**

The following sites are designated Local Green Spaces, in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 101 to 103 of the NPPF (September 2023 version) as shown on figure 9 and listed below, will be protected from inappropriate development, particularly regarding the characteristics underpinning its designation, such as beauty, historic importance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of wildlife.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| LGS 1. Thrupp Lane Allotments | LGS 6. Fromside Riverside Path |
| LGS 2. Yew Tree Playing fields | LGS 7. Stringer's Wood |
| LGS 3. Yew Tree Corner | LGS 8. Bourne Orchards |
| LGS 4. Fromside Playing Fields | LGS 9. Charlea Community Gardens |
| LGS 5. Fromside Wilde Area | |

Development that would positively enhance the beneficial use of these spaces, such as to provide improved access or to allow opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation, to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity, will be supported, provided their openness is preserved.

This policy links to objective 1,3,4 and 7 of this plan.
Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies:
Core Policy 14, 15 / Delivery Policy ES12, ES13, ES14

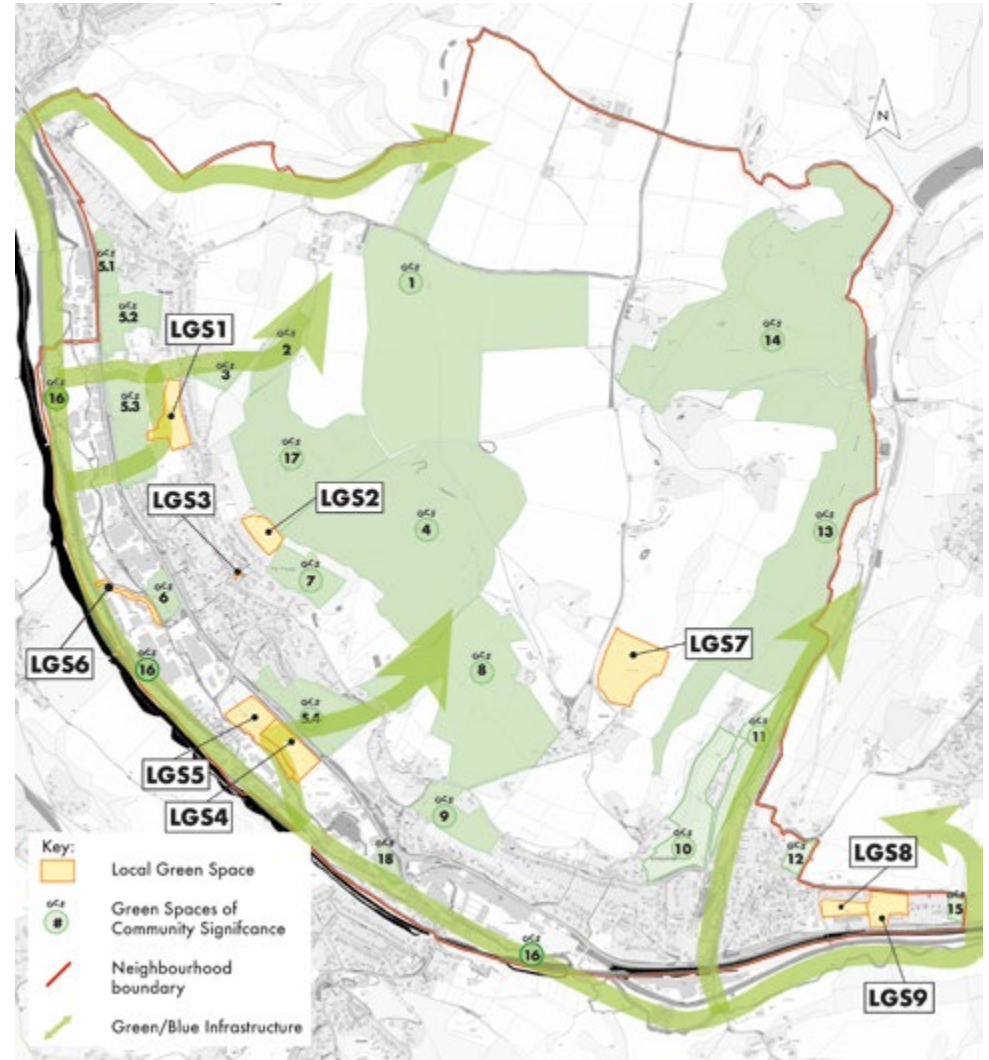


Figure 9: Local Green Spaces and Green Spaces of Community Significance (Enlarged map pg.102)

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

This policy seeks to protect and where possible extend the network of green and open spaces that we all enjoy.

POLICY CW2:
Green and Blue Infrastructure

Individual Green Spaces and the overall Green and Blue Infrastructure Network, as listed on page 58 and shown on figure 9 should be protected and where possible enhanced.

Identified Areas of Green and Blue Infrastructure

GCS1:	Lypiatt Fields	GCS9:	Hill Farm Field
GCS2:	Claypits Wood	GCS10:	Toadsmoor Valley 1
GCS3:	DB Field	GCS11:	Toadsmoor Valley 2
GCS4:	Park Wood	GCS12:	Blackness Right to Roam Area
GCS5.1:	A419 Green Corridor	GCS13:	Lawrenceland Wood
GCS5.2:	A419 Green Corridor	GCS14:	Mackhouse Woods
GCS5.3:	A419 Green Corridor	GCS15:	Vulnerable Area at East Border of Parish
GCS5.4:	A419 Green Corridor	GCS16:	Canal & River Corridor
GCS6:	Ham Mill Flood Plain	GCS17:	Claypits Farm Field
GCS7:	Far Thrupp Field and Orchard	GCS18:	Mill Pond and River Frontage at
GCS8:	Quarhouse Farm Fields		Brimscombe Mills

More detail on these spaces which have been identified as spaces which the community valued for recreation and contribution to overall parish character can be found on a google map that has been prepared.

As set out in the National Planning Policy Framework,²⁷ access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.

Whilst recognising that there is no formal status that can be attached to these spaces, these spaces have been identified because the Parish Council believes that these spaces are widely recognised and valued within the parish and although they do not qualify as Local Green Space, they should be protected and where possible enhanced as open spaces in recognition of their role in the network of green spaces in the Parish, delivering a wide range of ecosystem services.

27. NPPF 2021 paragraphs 98/99

Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycleways

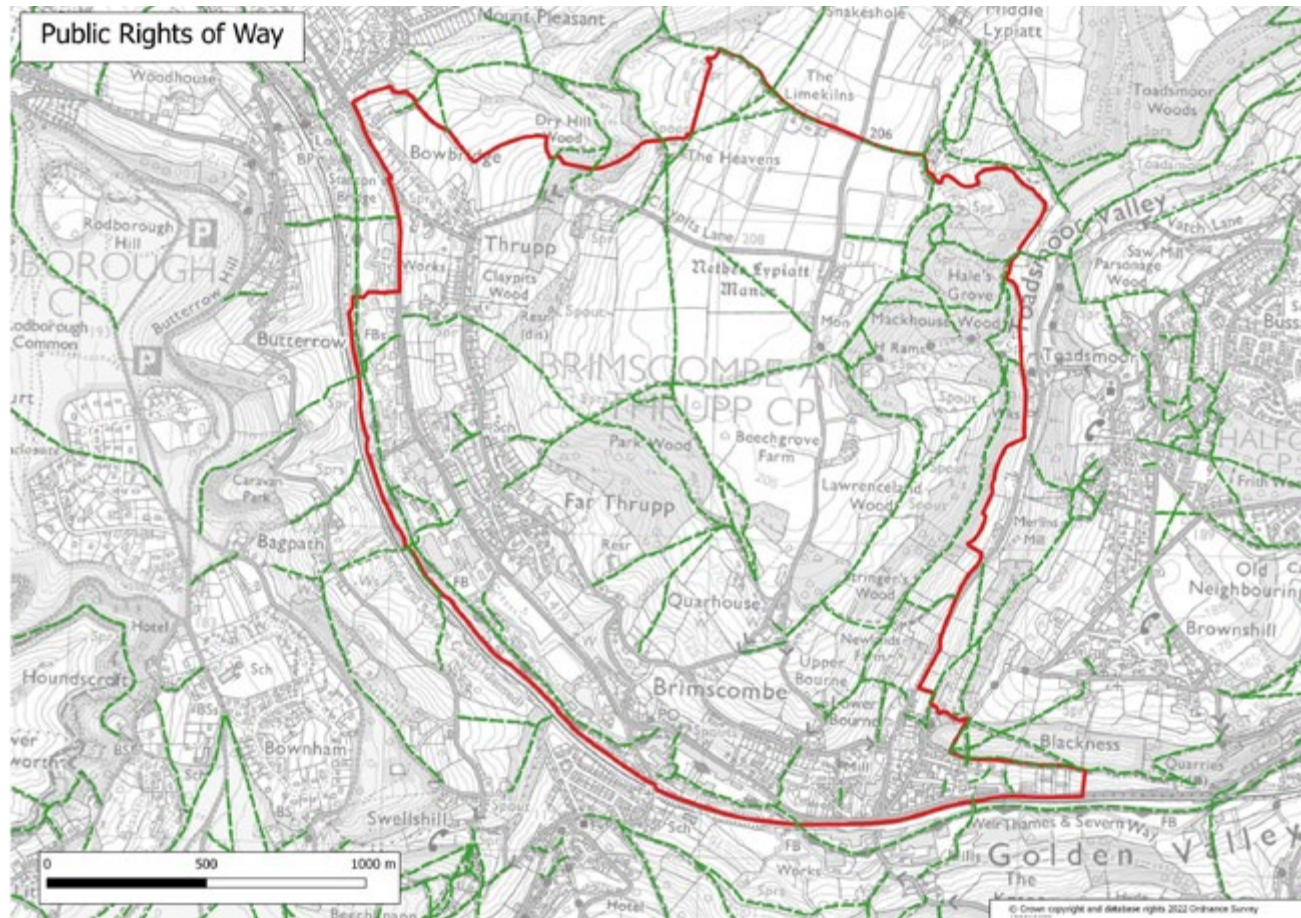
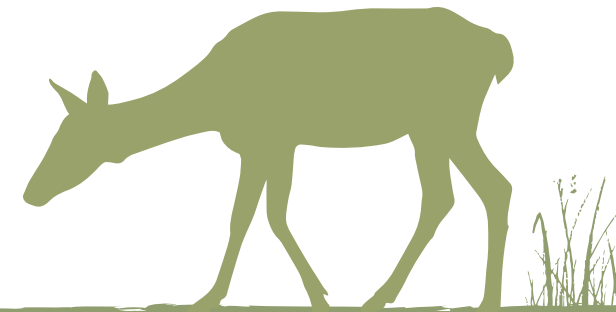


Figure10: Public Rights of Way
(Enlarged map pg.103)

10.9 Overall people highlighted how much they valued footpaths. Local paths to hill top walks were highlighted as being as valued, but many people commented that all the footpaths were valued – especially those through Toadsmoor Valley and woods and the fields at Lypiatt, through Stringers Wood and the canal towpath was highlighted as a key asset.

“We are lucky to have a great place to walk!”
... but some commented...
“Paths need sorting out in areas”

(respondent to the Autumn 2021 survey)



10.10 In the Autumn 2021 survey, people were asked about what paths needed improving and protecting, and specifically about what improvements could be made to the canal tow-path to make the most of this resource?

Canal Tow-path: Top answers	No. of mentions
Widen the path and make a better shared space for cyclists & pedestrians	19
Maintenance – cutting back of plants (sensitively) / puddles	16
More bins – especially for Dog mess	6
Lighting (sensitive to wildlife) for safety reasons	5
Benches and Signage	3
Needs to connect through to Stroud town centre	2

10.11 There are numerous footpaths throughout the Parish, some tight between buildings, some by or crossing green spaces. Some are Public Rights of Way (PROW), others are not, but many – including some PROWs – are poorly used and maintained.



Image 52: Footpath on the Severn Thames Canal © Isa Clee

10.12 Many footpaths are mainly for local use, but some go up the hill and out beyond the Parish into the Cotswold Landscape where they connect to a wider network (see figure 11). This pattern of paths up and down the hill is long-established, linking residents to their traditional workplaces in the valley. Although that local link may no longer seem as important as it was, it is crucial for people to access local shops, bus stops, the canal towpath and other uses. Many paths are not continuous, but they can link together using short stretches of relatively safe roads. The heavy traffic on the London Road does, however, make it difficult for people coming down the hill to cross to access the canal towpath, there are few controlled crossings or traffic islands and accessing the canal towpath can mean using roads in or going to industrial estates; so not very safe.

10.13 The aim of the policy below, together with a practical local project (see the project box after the policy) is to protect and extend the network where possible.



**POLICY CC3:
Footpaths, Bridleways and Cycleways.**

Applications for developments that are adjacent to Public Rights of Way as shown on Figure 10, should, where it is appropriate, ensure links to those routes are provided.

Applicants are encouraged to make contributions to other local routes adjacent to or near to those sites that could ensure a more fully linked local network.

Measures to improve and extend the existing network of public rights of way and bridleways are supported so long as their value as biodiversity corridors is recognised, protected and efforts are made to enhance biodiversity as part of the ‘development’ work wherever appropriate.

This policy links to objective 1 and 3,4 of this plan.

Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Policies: Delivery policy EI11



Image 53 Footpath on the Severn Thames Canal

Project Box

The Mid Cotswolds Tracks and Trails Group have a project underway to ensure that all local trails and bridle paths are open and working and correctly registered: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1409115252563376/>

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

This policy seeks to protect and extend our network of non-vehicular routes

Community Facilities

10.14 There is a very active and vibrant community in Brimscombe and Thrupp, making use of a good number of community facilities. Not only is it seen by local people to be extremely important to retain these facilities but the likely addition of new housing and hence a growth in population suggests a need to improve or add to these facilities in future.

10.15 Through our consultation on preparing this Plan, it is clear that local community facilities are highly valued. When asked in the Autumn 2021 survey what facilities are missing the most requested facilities was a doctor's clinic. An improved village shop was also mentioned many times, respondents want to be able to buy local fruit and veg, fresh baked goods and meats. The lack of facilities for young people was a cause for local concern as was the lack of an informal village centre - our facilities are spread around so we lack a focal point in the Parish.

“We have lost two of the most precious youth resources in Brimscombe, the skate park and indoor football. Youth services are continually cut and not adequately replaced and we wonder why youth crime rates go up. Rush skate park was a lifeline to my son and all young boys around the parish and further. There is a kids playground in Brimscombe. But nothing for secondary school age”

(respondent to the Autumn 2021 survey)

10.16 Examples of key facilities within the Parish:

- Thrupp Primary School
- Brimscombe Primary School
- Brimscombe and Thrupp Social Centre
- Brimscombe and Thrupp Football club
- Fromeside Playing Fields
- Charlea Community Gardens
- Thrupp Allotments
- Stroud Brewery - Bar and meeting space
- Bourne Mills - Arc Cycles & Felt Café
- Brimscombe Corner - Local Shops
- Brimscombe Mill - Social enterprise collective
- Griffin Mill - Enterprise centre and Fitness Mill
- Cotswold Canals Trust bookshop



**POLICY CW3:
Community Facilities.**

There will be a presumption in favour of safeguarding existing community facilities against any proposals that would result in their loss. Proposals that could result in loss of any facility will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer fit for purpose or viable, or where an equivalent facility is available in the Parish.

Where local provision for youth provision, children's play, sport and recreation, health and other community facilities will be inadequate to meet the projected needs and shortfalls of new and existing residential development, additional provision will be sought to meet any identified shortfall.

Facilities should be provided in tandem with population growth and in safe and accessible locations that will facilitate safe routes to the venue for both new and existing communities and be directly accessible to a pedestrian and cycle network.

This policy links to objective 7 of this plan.

Relevant Stroud District Local Plan Polies: Delivery Policy E16



Image 54: Stroud Brewery at Phoenix Mill ©

Project Box

Hope Mill Car Park is an area of land that belongs to the Parish Council that is useful in its current form as a car park, but that also offers opportunities for delivering on future aspirations for delivering community benefits.

What does this mean for me as a resident of the Parish...?

We want to see community facilities and services that match the needs of our new and existing community – and indeed serve as a way to integrate and bring our community together. Community facilities services should be accessible by walking or cycling too.

11

Plan Delivery and Monitoring

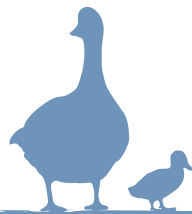


Image 55: View over the Severn Vale from Sunset Field © Isa Clee

11.1 In order to ensure this is a live and active document, the Parish Council will be carrying out monitoring for its own benefit and that of the future usefulness of the plan. Feedback on plan performance and use can be summarised at the Parish AGM.

11.2 Monitoring will:

- Monitor the predicted significant effects of the plan
- Track whether the plan has had any unforeseen effects
- Ensure action can be taken to reduce / offset any significant negative effects
- Ensure the evidence base is kept up-to-date
- Consider the need for updating or amending the plan



11.3 As part of this the Parish Council will produce an annual Local Monitoring Report (LMR) and this will be available for the LPA to use. It will also be made available to the community via the parish Website.

11.4 The LMR will take the form of a simple table plus a few paragraphs of explanatory and advisory text.

11.5 The written summary and conclusion of the LMR will allow the Parish Council to identify not only whether the policies are working, but also what other issues are emerging. It will also enable the Council to judge the effectiveness of mitigation measures proposed. In some cases, monitoring may identify the need for a policy to be amended or deleted, which could trigger a review of the NDP.

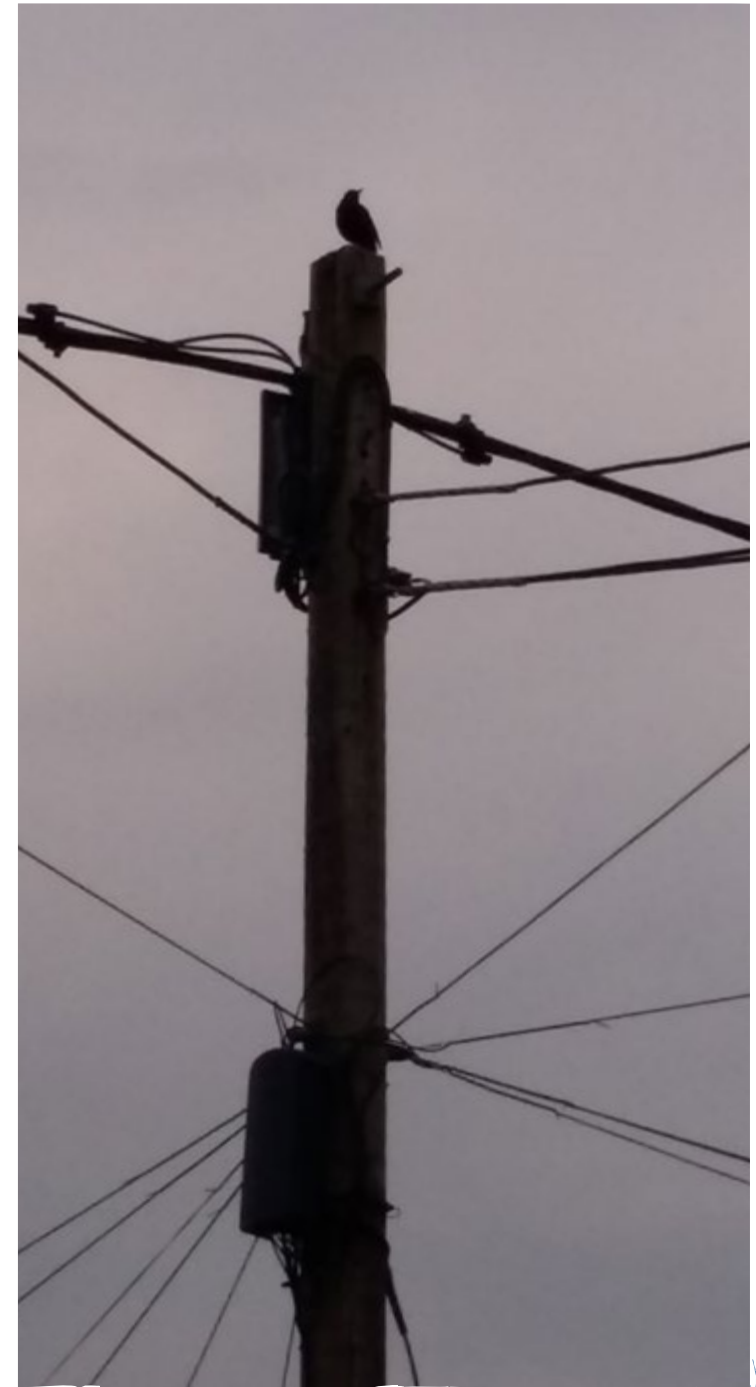


Image 56: Telegraph Pole in Thrupp © Isa Clee

- **Appendix 1: Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council Pre-application Engagement Protocol**
- **Appendix 2 - Local Green Spaces**



Image 57: Brimscombe & Thrupp Party on the Playingfield © Michelle Grant

Appendix 1

Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council Pre-application Engagement Protocol

This Protocol is appended to the Brimscombe and Thrupp Neighbourhood Development Plan, and links to Policy LRD3: Pre-application Community Engagement, it is also an adopted document of the Parish Council.

The aim of the Protocol is to enable the design of good quality places to live and work, and as a means of working towards improved outcomes for the current and future communities. One particularly effective way of achieving this is through early, planned engagement with the community via the Parish Council.

Use of this Protocol is without prejudice to the eventual judgement of Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council on the merits of any final application, even if a good engagement process has been agreed and followed.

Context

National Planning Policy and Guidance:

The revised National Planning Policy Framework (2021) makes several mentions of the considerable value of pre-application involvement, for example in paragraph 39:

“Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community.

The Planning Practice Guidance Note Design:

process and tools (2019) also highlights the importance and benefits of early engagement:

“Communities can effectively shape both design policies and development through a collaborative process of meaningful participation. Early engagement and linking engagement activities to key stages of design decision-making and plan-making can empower people to inform the vision, design policies and the design of schemes.

“ It is important that local planning authorities or applicants demonstrate how all views are listened to and considered.

Stroud District Council – Statement of Community Involvement (2019):

The SCI sets out the ways in which the District Council will inform, engage and consult people when formulating planning policies and considering planning applications and how feedback will be given to the community on the results. The District Council emphasises the importance of the community and other stakeholders having the opportunity to get involved and have their say.

The 10 Commitments for Effective Pre-application Engagement²⁸ published by a group representing planning, industry and community groups states that:

“ Early, collaborative discussions between developers, public sector agencies and the communities affected by a new development can help to shape better quality, more accepted schemes and ensure improved outcomes for the community. These discussions also avoid wasted effort and costs.

Whilst there is an emphasis on early and positive pre-application engagement in ‘major development’ proposals, it is the view of Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council that, for their community, the above should also apply to smaller developments in the Parish because these can have at least as much impact as larger ones. Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council fully support and endorse all of the above and will play their appropriate role in delivering high quality pre-application engagement with themselves and the wider Brimscombe and Thrupp community as proposals come forward.



Image 58: Brimscombe Hill © Greg Pilley

28. <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/development-mgmt/pre-application-advice/pre-application-ten-commitments-effective-engagement>

Process

Drawing from the 10 Commitments and other guidance on best practice, potential applicants should work with Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish Council to fulfil the following principles:

- **‘Day One’ contact:**
By far the best results for all emerge when contact is made with our Parish Council, and through us with our local community, at the very start of any process; consulting people late with already prepared schemes is not productive.
- **Agreed Process:**
A key aim of this early contact is to discuss and agree the nature, scope, timetable, information and so forth of the engagement – i.e. the process to be followed.
- **Applicant Leadership but Shared Responsibility:**
Although it is the applicant’s role to lead and fund engagement, the Parish Council will offer as much support as possible to any agreed process; for example by providing local information, contact details for local groups, advice on meeting places, access to newsletters and so forth.
- **Openness and Transparency:**
Building trust between all and ensuring an agreed outcome depend heavily on having a process that is as open as possible on all sides, though the Parish Council will respect any issues of clear commercial confidentiality.
- **Agreed Community:**
A project may have an impact on a limited number of people or on all of the parish. The details of those to be involved will need to be discussed and agreed for any project, as will the potential ways to contact and engage them.
- **Agreed Scope:**
There will also need to be agreement about the scope of the engagement, i.e. what is and is not open to change (e.g. layout, quantum of development, design etc.). Proportionality: The nature and scale of engagement will be balanced in appropriate proportion to the scale and likely impact of any proposals.
- **Final Reporting:**
The applicant should submit, with any final application, a thorough report – a full report - describing and summarising the outcomes of the engagement, demonstrating how the proposals have (or have not) responded to results. If they have not, a short note should be included to explain this. If the process has been followed fully, Brimscombe and Thrupp Council will endorse this report; if not they may submit their own evaluation of it.

Initial contact should be made at the very outset with the Parish Council via the Clerk: clerk@brimscombeandthrupp-pc.gov.uk

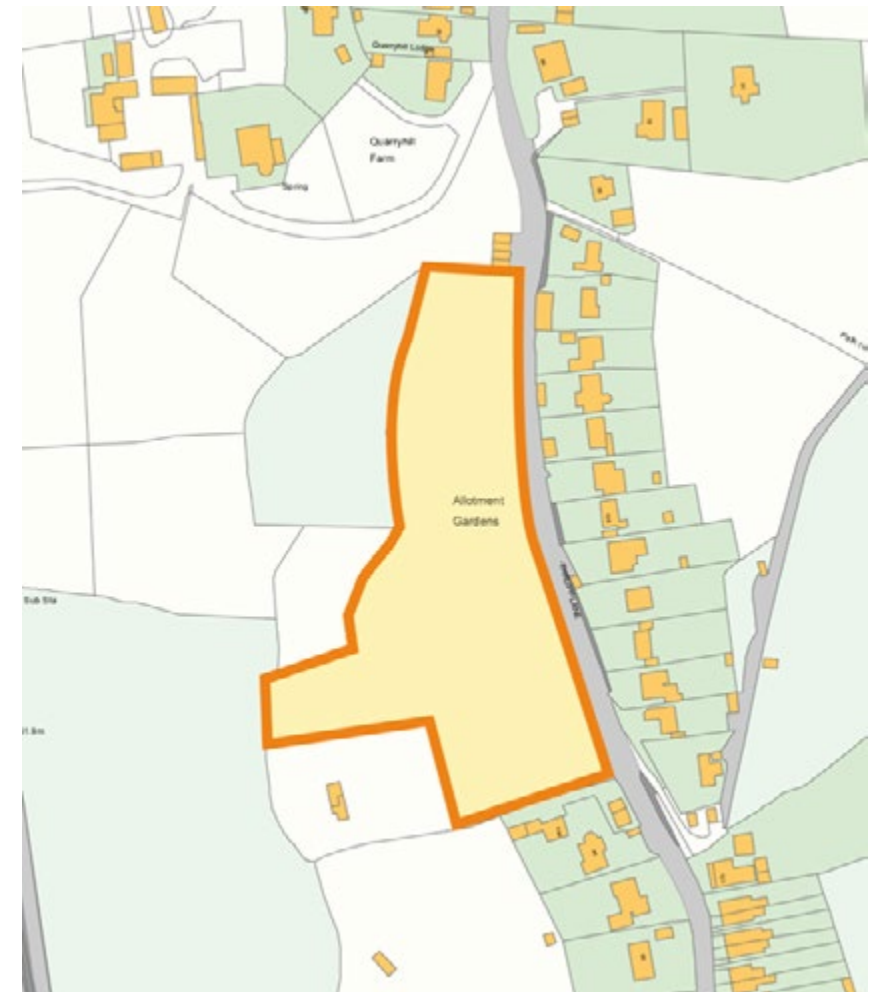
The Parish Council commits to doing all possible to arrange an initial meeting as soon as possible following this contact.

There is considerable benefit for applicants in also sharing any process with Stroud District Council, as planning authority, and securing their agreement to it. As per the opening proviso, endorsement of an engagement process and results does not necessarily mean support for the resulting proposals.

Appendix 2

Local Green Spaces

Name	LGS1: Thrupp Lane Allotments			
Description	Relatively large allotment site enclosed / surrounded by existing development with clear boundaries delineated			
Designations	AONB			
Planning history and landowner feedback where relevant	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. No response given.			
Distance to Settlement	Within settlement			
Size (ha)	1.73ha			
Capable of enduring beyond plan	Yes			
Demonstrably Special	Beauty	✓	Tranquillity	✓
	History	✓	Wildlife	✓
	Recreation	✓		
<p>These allotment gardens are unusual because they include some grazing meadow plots. The area is well enclosed and is a significant resource not just for allotment holders but for the whole community</p> <p>Consultation with the local community has confirmed the space as demonstrably special (Suggested in Autumn initial consultation in 2017 / 2021 Survey).</p>				



Name	LGS2: Yew Tree Playing Fields			
Description	Field above the village in which the school playing area is located.			
Designations	AONB Designated as Protected outdoor play space under Policy ES13			
Planning history and landowner feedback where relevant	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. No response given.			
Existing Permissions or Local Plan Allocation	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. No response given.			
Distance to Settlement	Adjacent to residential development.			
Size (ha)	0.85ha			
Capable of enduring beyond plan	Yes			
Demonstrably Special	Beauty	✓	Tranquillity	✓
	History	✓	Wildlife	✓
	Recreation	✓		
<p>Small planted area on the hill part of Yew Tree Way and Thrupp Lane. It has a bench which is in the custodianship of the parish council. It is the only green space that provides a place for people to rest, and chat as they go about their day in the immediate area - it is important for wellbeing and recreation in this particular area. It also contributes to local wildlife and local character.</p>				



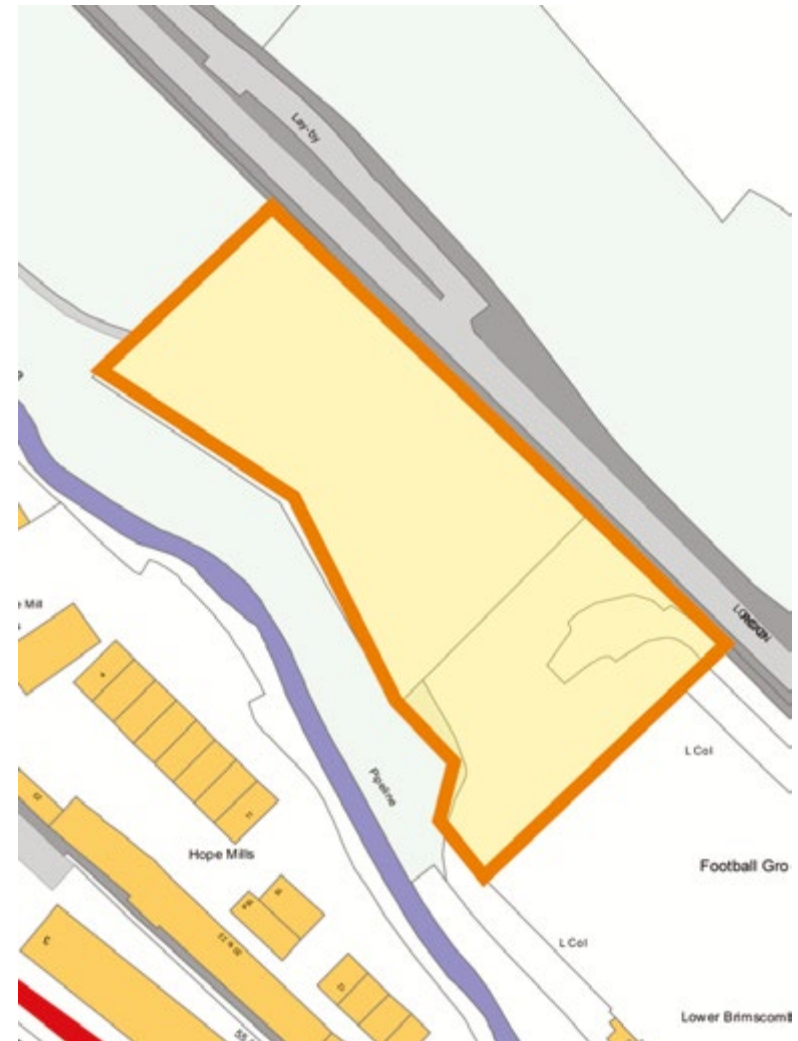
Name	LGS3: Yew Tree Corner			
Description	Small planted area on the hill. Part of Yew Tree Way and Thrupp Lane.			
Designations	AONB Designated as Protected outdoor play space under Policy ES13			
Planning history and landowner feedback where relevant	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. No response given.			
Distance to Settlement	Within the settlement, surrounded by residential properties.			
Size (ha)	0.15ha			
Capable of enduring beyond plan	Yes			
Demonstrably Special	Beauty		Tranquillity	
	History		Wildlife	✓
	Recreation	✓		
<p>Space contains a bench which is in the custodianship of the parish council. It is the only green space that provides a place for people to rest, and chat as they go about their day in the immediate area - it is important for wellbeing and recreation in this particular area. It also contributes to local wildlife and local character.</p>				



Name	LGS4: Fromeside Playing Fields
Description	Playing field at the bottom of the valley adjacent to London Road and Brimscombe and Thrupp Football Club.
Designations	Industrial Heritage Conservation Area. Part of the site is also designated as Protected outdoor play space under Policy ES13
Planning history and landowner feedback where relevant	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. No response given.
Distance to Settlement	>500m
Size (ha)	0.56ha
Capable of enduring beyond plan	Yes

Set between the A419, Brimscombe and Thrupp Football Club, the River Frome and Hope Mills Lane, the majority of the land is made-up land on top of landfill and experiences a degree of subsidence. Currently the largest part is a playing field, which is also used for community events like the Parish Party; there is also a wildlife area and an area without landfill which is under consideration for Community Compost or other community use. Recently the site has been improved with community led hedge and tree planting. There is scope for further design and development of the site for community use, including increasing the access to the bank of the River Frome, possible footpath linkage to Brimscombe Mills and provision of seating and play infrastructure.

Consultation with the local community has confirmed the space as demonstrably special (Suggested in Autumn initial consultation in 2017 / 2021 Survey).



Demonstrably Special	Beauty		Tranquillity	
	History		Wildlife	
	Recreation	✓		

Name	LGS5: Fromeside Wild Area			
Description	Adjacent to the playing field (LGS5). This land is an area of wild land with frontage onto the River Frome.			
Designations	Industrial Heritage Conservation Area			
Planning history and landowner feedback where relevant	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. No response given.			
Distance to Settlement	<500m			
Size (ha)	1.3ha			
Capable of enduring beyond plan	Yes			
Demonstrably Special	Beauty	✓	Tranquillity	✓
	History	✓	Wildlife	✓
	Recreation	✓		
<p>Made-up land on top of landfill that has re-wilded, with trees and brambles. Includes significant wild frontage onto the River Frome. Potential for increased sensitive community use for wild play, linked to the existing managed playing field. The space provides habitats for a variety of species due to its wild nature.</p>				



Name	LGS6: Frome Riverside Path - Land adjacent to River Frome from Kingfisher Business Park to Ham Mill			
Description	Secluded footpath following the Frome River adjacent to the industrial estate.			
Designations	Industrial Heritage Conservation Area Key Employment Site			
Existing Permissions or Local Plan Allocation	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. No response given.			
Distance to Settlement	Adjacent to settlement			
Size (ha)	0.2HA			
Capable of enduring beyond plan	Yes			
Demonstrably Special	Beauty	✓	Tranquillity	✓
	History	✓	Wildlife	✓
	Recreation	✓		
<p>The area between the river and the canal forms a riverside walk along the rear of the trading estate and is part of the flood plain, and is a rich habitat (though the Himalayan Balsam needs strong management!). It is well used and much valued in the community, and provides one of the few places in the Parish that offer access to the river and the weir.</p>				



Name	LGS7 Stringers Wood			
Description	Stringer's Wood is regularly used by the community, attractive beech wood with understorey flowers, rare snails. Owned by SDC, management contract with GWT. Candidate for open access/right to roam.			
Designations	AONB			
Planning history and landowner feedback where relevant	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. No response given.			
Existing Permissions or Local Plan Allocation	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. No response given.			
Distance to Settlement	<250m			
Size (ha)	2.5ha			
Capable of enduring beyond plan	Yes			
Demonstrably Special	Beauty	✓	Tranquillity	✓
	History	✓	Wildlife	✓
	Recreation	✓		
Stringer's Wood is a picturesque hillside wooded area regularly used by the community, attractive beech wood with understorey flowers,rare snails.				

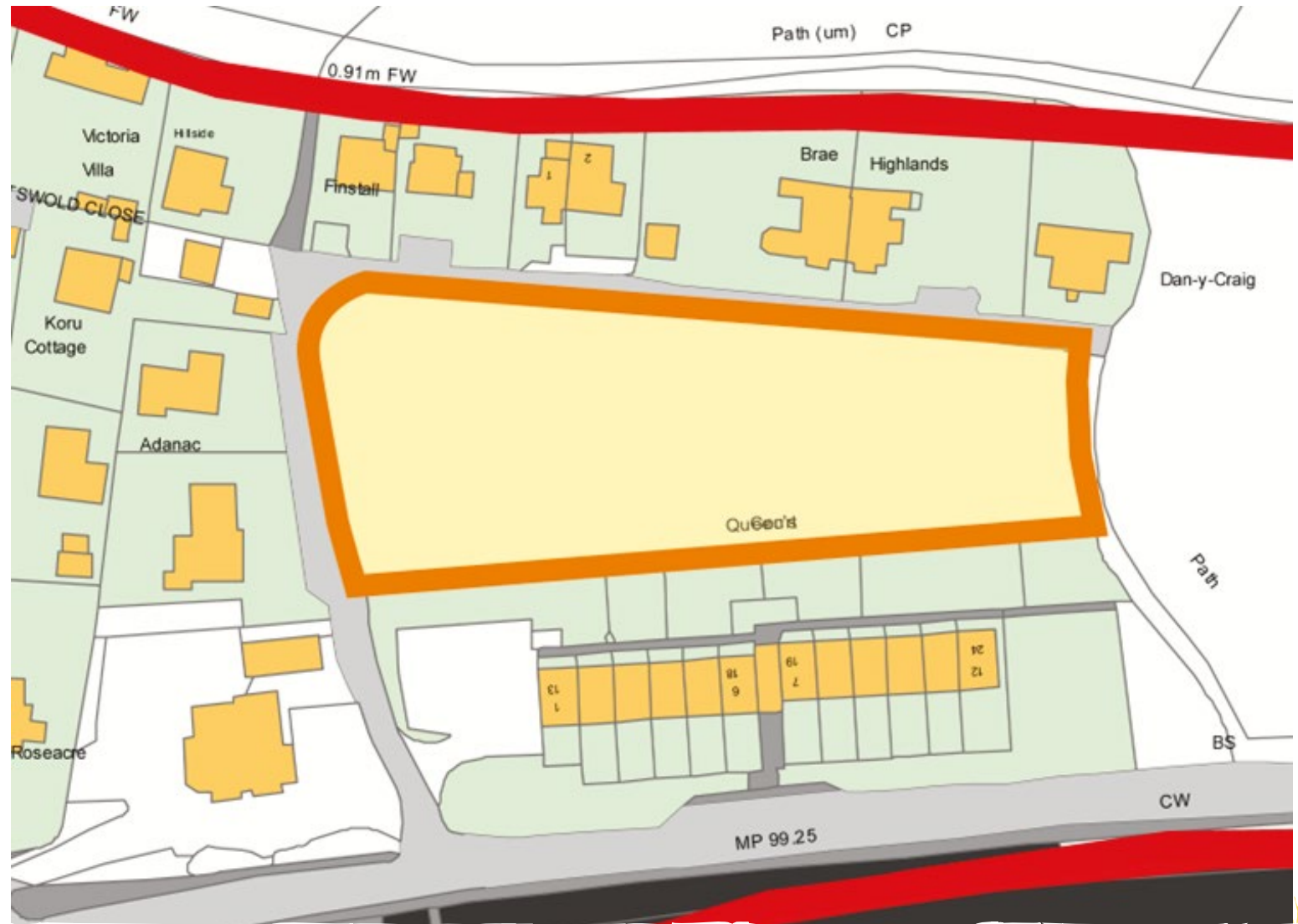


Name	LGS8 Bourne Orchard
Description	Play area for nearby apartments with fruit trees, a basketball hoop and shelter.
Designations	None. Green Space within the settlement boundary
Planning history and landowner feedback where relevant	<p>A number of previous planning applications for the redevelopment of the site. The most recent application was submitted on the 24th May 2021 under reference; S.21/1240/FUL. The planning application was refused at the DCC meeting on 15th November 2022</p> <p>S.18/2353/FUL REFUSED 2019 Erection of 8, three bedroom, three storey properties to the land behind Queen's Court, Brimscombe. Play Area The Bourne Brimscombe Gloucestershire</p> <p>The Orchard is assessed in the Stroud District Council's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, under reference BRI014 as public open space. The western part of the Orchard benefits from planning permission for play space use under the reference 2742/B which is dated March 1973.</p> <p>Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. Planning Consultant responded on behalf of the landowner to object to the designation. The objections have been carefully reviewed and considered, but the Steering Group have made the decision to retain the draft allocation and continue to progress it through the Neighbourhood Plan for examination. The space is of community value, is not designated for development and is an important green space. Recent refusal of planning application on 15th November 2022 also noted.</p>
Distance to Settlement	Within the settlement boundary adjacent to residential properties.
Size (ha)	0.5ha
Capable of enduring beyond plan	Yes. Though it must be noted here that there is a long history of unsuccessful planning applications so there is a clear intention by the landowners to change the nature of the area – and response from landowner agents at Regulation 14 consultation sets out a clear objection to designation of the space as LGS. The Regulation 14 response from the landowners also states that there is no public accessibility or use of the site.

<p>LGS8 Bourne Orchard continued...</p>	<p>This is an historically well used play area to the rear of Queens Court Flats. There are many fruit trees. The entire orchard is surrounded by a combination of trees, hedges and the path to the rear of Queens Courts Flats. An OS extract dated 1985 clearly shows the western part of the site as a “play area”. There is however no play equipment in the Orchard, as it was removed some years ago.</p> <p>No facilities provide a formal play space within walking distance for the residents within the vicinity of Queens Court, and it is clear from local representation and comments on this site, that given the opportunity, the site would become a more important local asset for recreation.</p> <p>The green space provides important recreation space for the community in this part of the Parish - notably the residents of Queens Courts Flats - some of whom don’t have access to private gardens so this space is particularly special for them.</p> <p>It has not been well maintained as a community space by the current owner. However Charlea Community Gardens C.I.C recognise the community value of this site and have offered a six figure sum to the owner to purchase. There is a long established use by the local community - more elderly - people can remember using the orchard/play area over the past 50 years or so.</p> <p>The orchard can be seen on Figure 5 of the Neighbourhood Plan as a Notable habitat, with mature trees including a significant large mature walnut tree prominent on the site and protected by TPO. Perimeter hedgerows also of habitat value despite negligence.</p> <p>The abundance of wild birds is significant. Local residents feed and monitor the birds that use this area. They include: Blackbirds, Chaffinches; Blue Tits; families of Long tailed tits (on the Red list); robins; Pied Wagtails (on the Red List); Jenny Wren (on Red List); Hedge Sparrows (on Red List); various corvids, a pair of Tawny Owls and a Mistlethrush. Bats are also regularly observed.</p> <p>The area provides important open space, and mature vegetation that provides high levels of visual amenity. Importantly, the site provides a significant landscape in the near vicinity to the Cotswolds Landscape. The site is clearly visible from a number of vistas within the area and provides a beautiful outlook.</p> <p>The area also makes a very small contribution to the setting of the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area, and is one of a series of sites that form a historic link between the industrial valley bottoms with the agricultural landscape and settlements that contributed to the growth of the wool trade.</p> <p>Consultation with the local community has confirmed the space as demonstrably special (Suggested in Autumn initial consultation in 2017 / 2021 Survey). There have also been efforts to have the space designated as a community asset but the space was not consider to meet the necessary criteria by the Local Authority.</p>
<p>Demonstrably Special</p>	



LGS8 Bourne Orchard continued...	Beauty		Tranquillity	✓
	History	✓	Wildlife	✓
Demonstrably Special	Recreation			



Name	LGS9: Charlea Community Gardens
Description	Area of green land managed by adjacent residents trust use for community events and shared chicken and pig rearing activities.
Designations	None
Planning history and landowner feedback where relevant	Landowner consulted at Regulation 14. The Directors of Charlea confirmed they have no issues with Charlea land being identified as a green space.
Distance to Settlement	Within/adjacent to settlement.
Size (ha)	0.7ha
Capable of enduring beyond plan	Yes

It is managed by the adjoining residents as part of a trust and used for community events, and shared chicken and pig keeping activities.

Consultation with the local community has identified the space as demonstrably special (Suggested in Autumn initial consultation in 2017 / 2021 Survey).

Former allotment site - previous allotments were extinguished by the previous owner in advance of planning applications.

Freehold acquired in 2016 by Charlea Community Gardens C.I.C and now a 'locked in community asset'. Charlea has also been recognised as a Village Green and cannot therefore be developed under current legislation – the LGS designation would mean this space would be recognised and mapped in planning policy also.

Emphasis upon community engagement with a strong environmental conservation ethic. Community actively involved in improving the amenity of the site with inter alia planting of an orchard; hedge laying to improve habitat; bird boxes; bee boxes; and wildflower seeding. Community working parties bring people together. Community Chicken Club brings local people together to keep chickens in a collaborative way. Community Pig Club, brings local people together to keep pigs in a collaborative way.



Demonstrably Special	Beauty	✓	Tranquillity	✓
	History	✓	Wildlife	✓
	Recreation	✓		

Appendix 3

Enlarged Maps

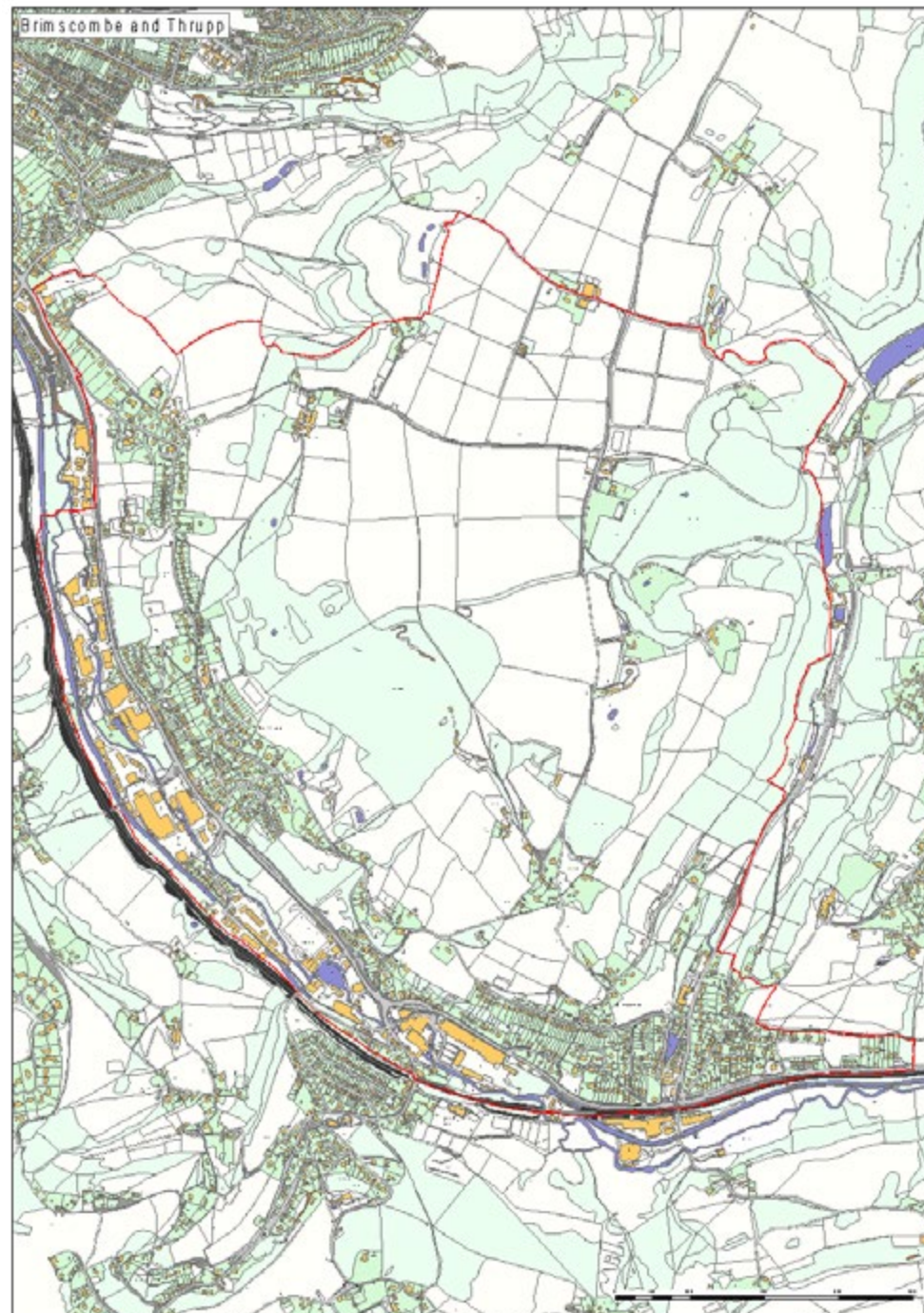


Figure 1: see pg.7
Designated Neighbourhood Plan Area -
shown by the red line
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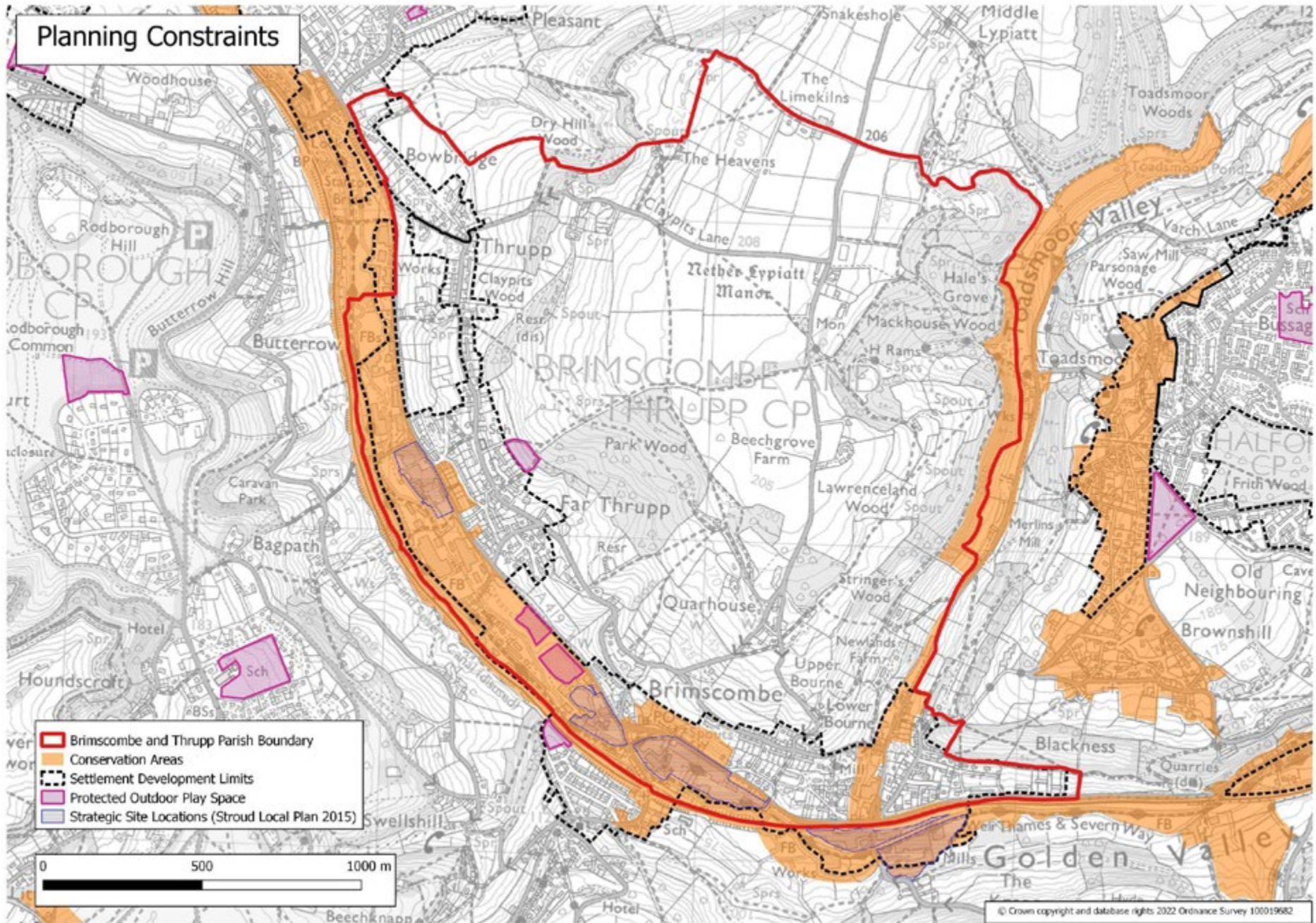
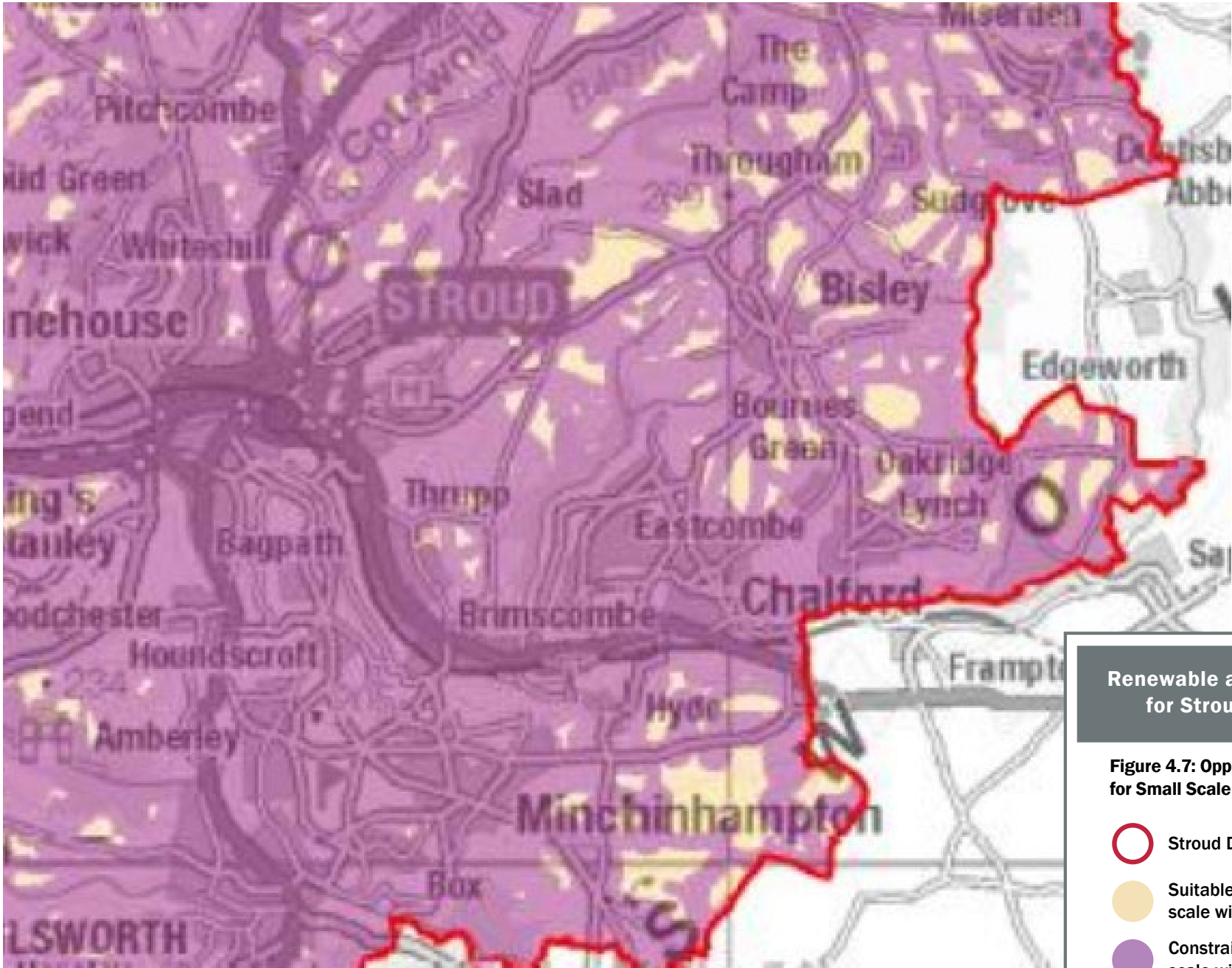


Figure 2: see pg.12
 Planning Constraints - Settlement Zones and Boundaries



**Renewable and Low Carbon Study
for Stroud District Council**

**Figure 4.7: Opportunities and constraints
for Small Scale Wind Development**




-  Stroud District Council Boundary
-  Suitable areas for small scale wind development
-  Constrained areas for small scale wind development

Figure 3: see pg.28 Opportunities and Constraints for Solar Developments / Small Scale Wind Developments – extract maps.¹⁵

**Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish
DESIGNATED AREAS**

-  Parish boundary
- Designated sites:
-  Local Wildlife Site
-  Local Wildlife Site and RIGS
-  GWT nature reserves
-  Cotswold AONB
-  See the associated spreadsheet for a list of numbered features.

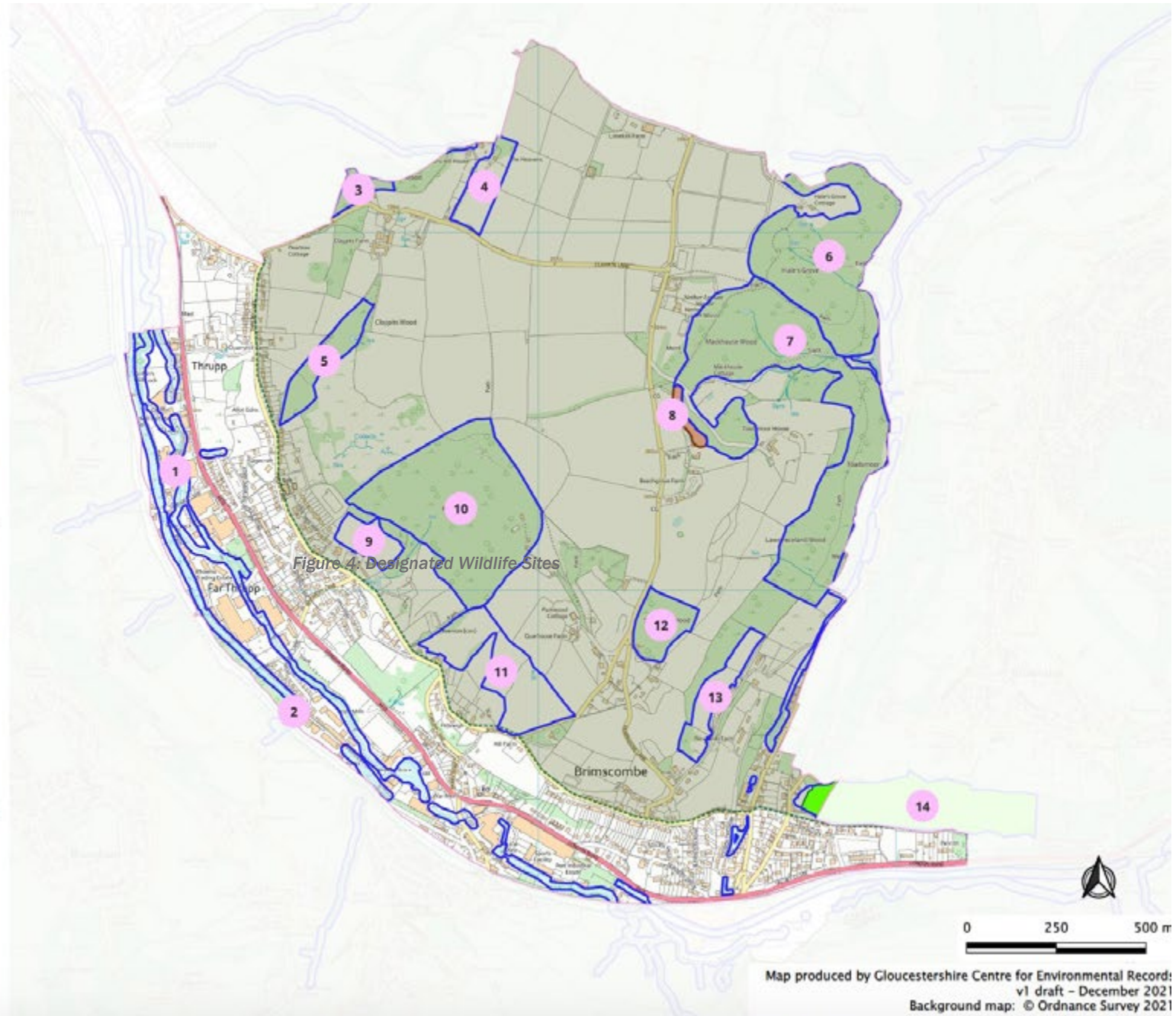
Designation notes

No SSSIs are currently within or overlapping the parish, although the extensive SSSI areas of Rodborough and Minchinhampton Commons are a short distance from the south-west parish boundary.

The River Frome and tributaries appear broken up on parts of the map due to narrowing and/or culverting of the watercourse; the same applies to part of the Stroudwater Canal. The whole river corridor is part of the Local Wildlife Site designation, along with all the extant canal.

One RIGS (Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Site), which is also part of a Local Wildlife Site, lies within the parish boundary.

The westernmost end of the recently-acquired Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust nature reserve at Blackness Banks lies within the parish boundary. It is part of a larger Local Wildlife Site, mostly located in Chalford parish.



Map produced by Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Record:
v1 draft - December 2021
Background map: © Ordnance Survey 2021

Figure 4: see pg.36 Designated Wildlife Sites

**Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish
NOTABLE HABITATS**

- Parish boundary
- Habitat types:**
- Grassland (semi-natural)
- Amenity grassland
- Open water
- Woodland – semi-natural
- Woodland – plantation
- Scrub
- Scattered scrub
- Parkland/scattered trees
- Traditional orchard
- Allotments

Habitat notes

Priority Habitats are outlined in red. Note that some of the ponds and the older hedgerows may also be in a Priority Habitat category, depending on their stage of establishment and use. These are often too small for Natural England to map on the Priority Habitat Inventory, but are known to be locally important.

High-input farmland such as arable, silage and rotation grassland fields, along with domestic gardens, are not mapped individually. Whilst they may not support as much biodiversity as Priority Habitats they do, however, provide significant food and cover for some wildlife and their omission from the habitats legend should not be seen as an indication that these areas offer nothing for wildlife.



Figure 5: see pg.37 Notable Habitats

**Brimscombe and Thrupp Parish
Ecosystem Services:
Biodiversity opportunities (relational)**



Low opportunity > > > High opportunity

 Existing Priority Habitats

Biodiversity is treated as a natural capital 'bundled benefit', comprising the ability of a habitat to support a diverse range of species, thus providing a variety of environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Biodiversity has both a baseline and an opportunity map. The maps are relational, with both the underlying habitat inventory and other factors being taken into account for scoring.

For the opportunity layer, the Nature Recovery Network was used as a modifier, along with potential connectivity gains and a blanket category of existing Core Habitats. Thus the areas of highest opportunity are darkest/warmest on the map, but existing (assumed low opportunity) Priority Habitats are highlighted in green.

For more information, please see the Map Metadata section of the Gloucestershire Natural Capital Mapping Project website: <https://naturalcapital.gcerdata.com/>

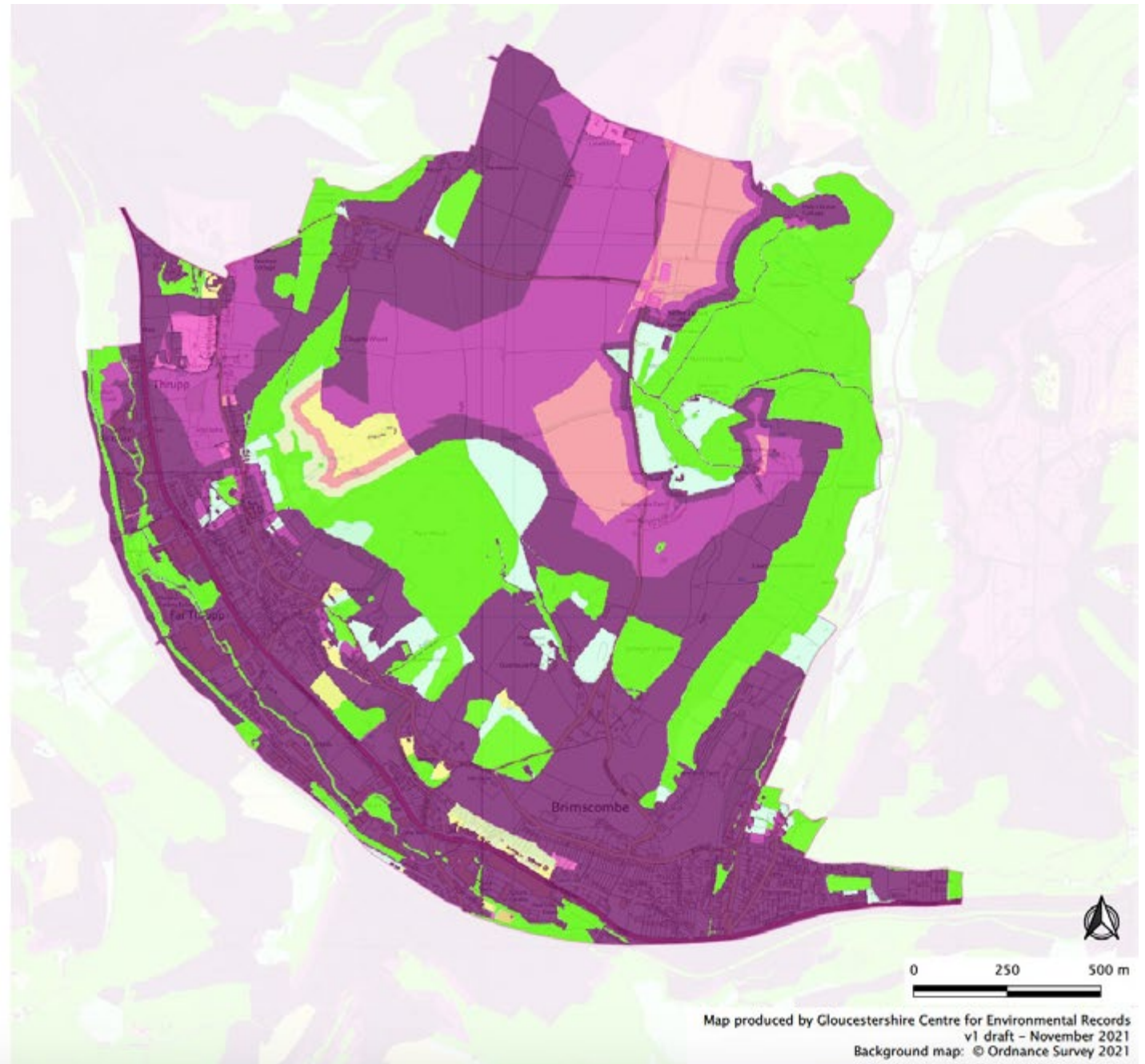


Figure 6: see pg.30 Biodiversity Opportunity Map

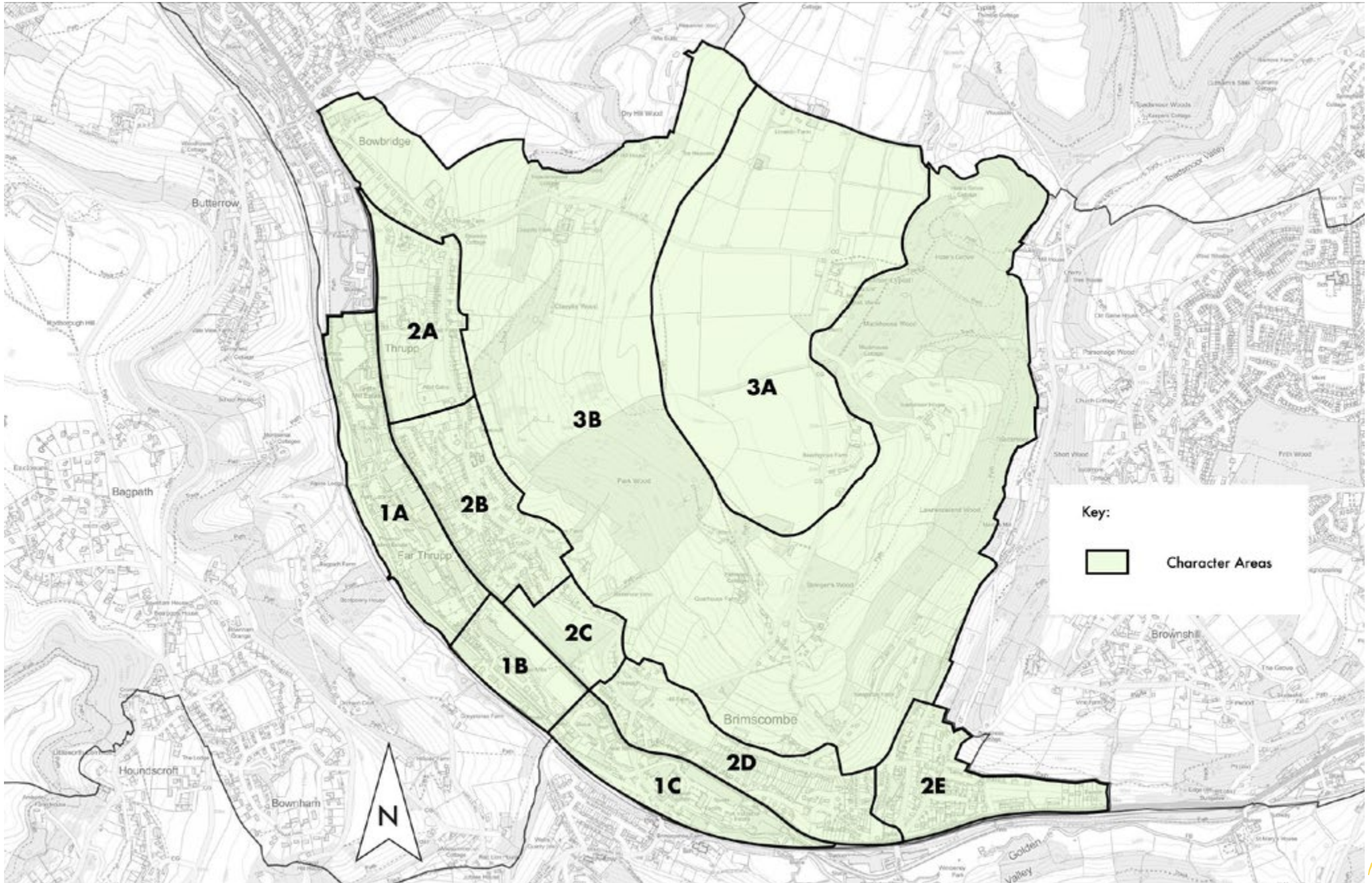


Figure 7: see pg.46 Character area map

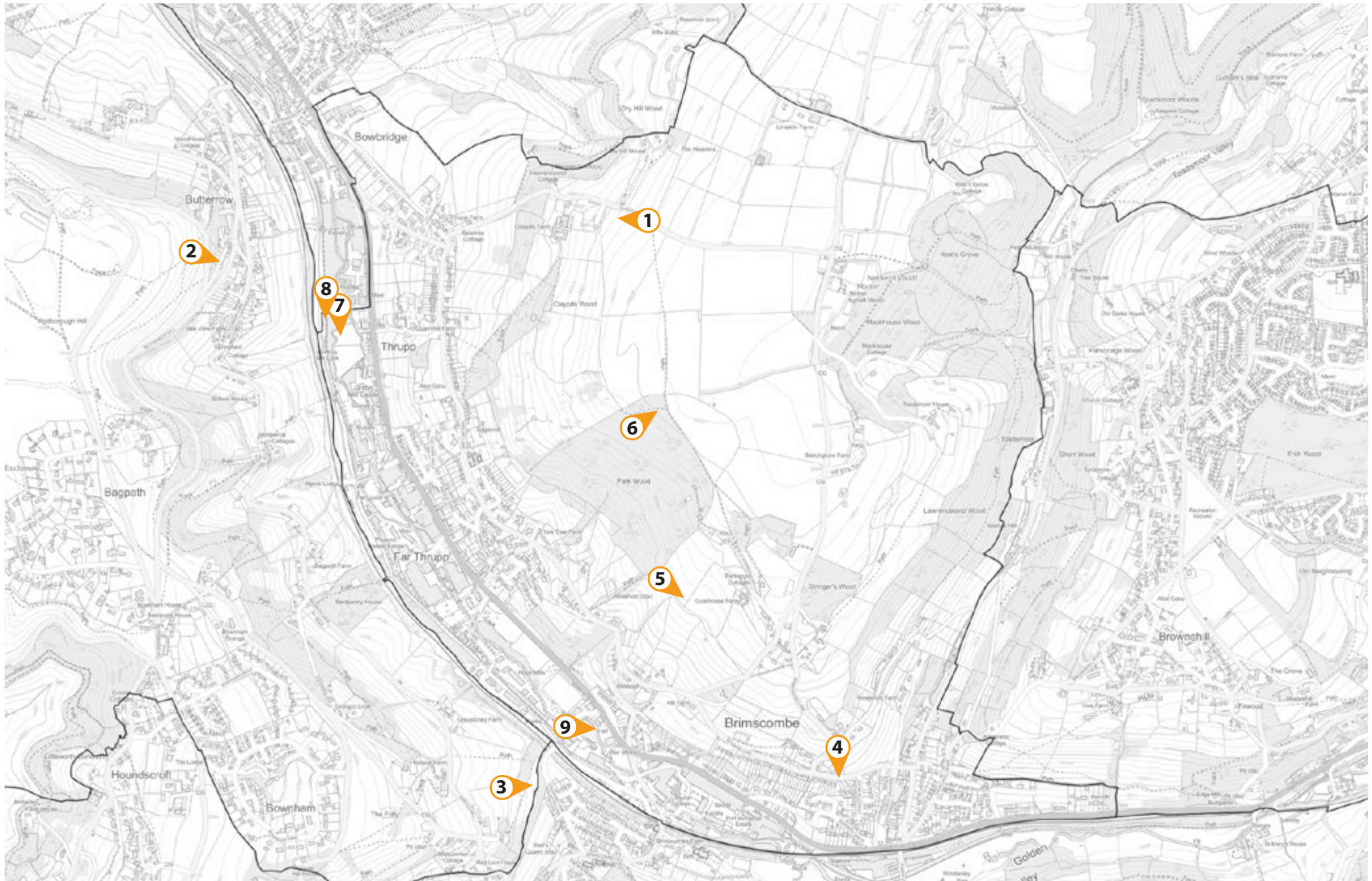


Figure 8: see pg.52 Locally Valued Views

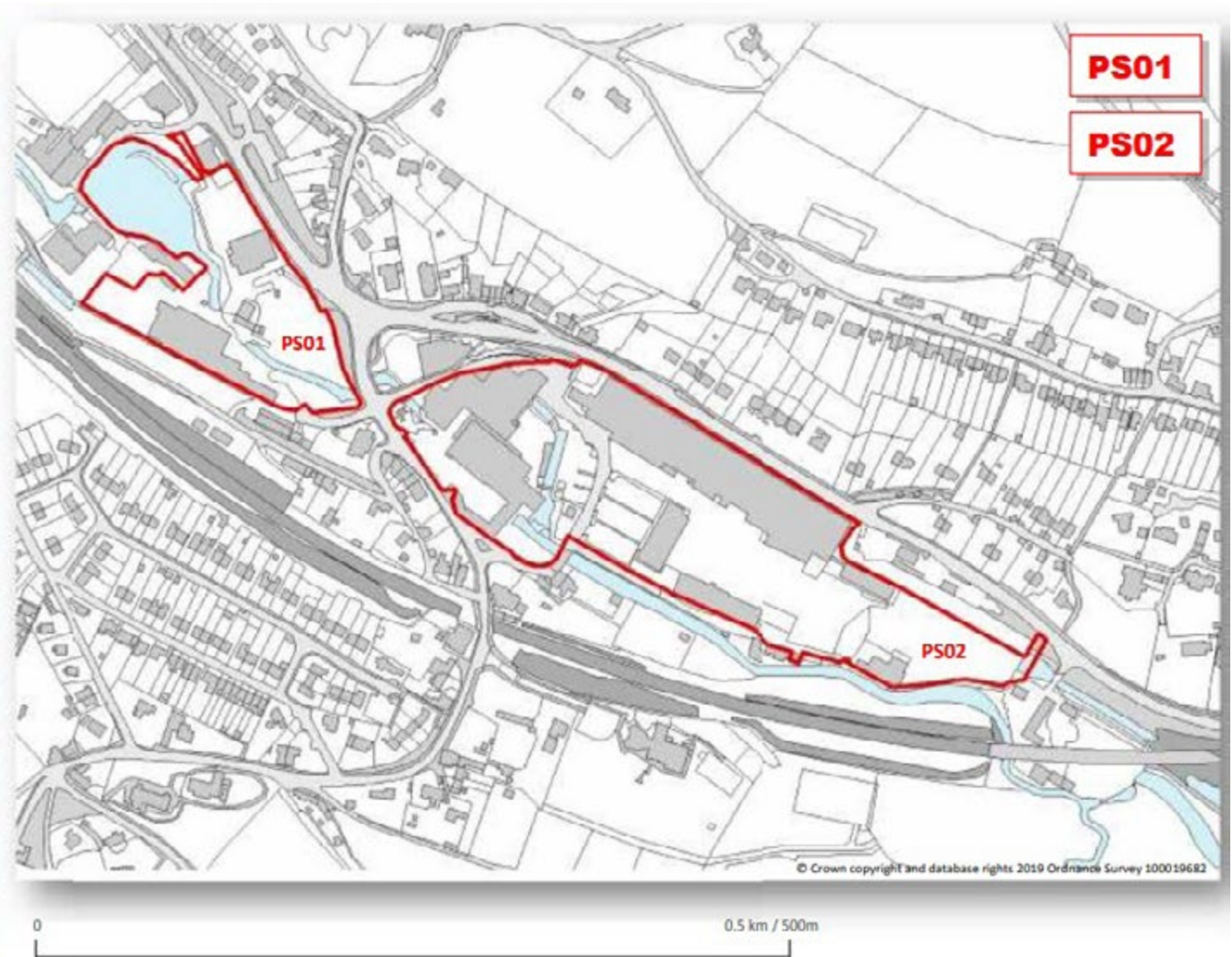
Draft site allocations

PS01 Brimscombe Mill:

Land at Brimscombe Mill, as identified on the policies map, is allocated for a development comprising 40 dwellings and employment uses and associated community and open space uses, together with enabling infrastructure. Detailed policy criteria will be developed where necessary to highlight specific mitigation measures and infrastructure requirements. A development brief incorporating an indicative masterplan, to be approved by the District Council, will detail the way in which the land uses and infrastructure will be developed in an integrated and co-ordinated manner.

PS02 Brimscombe Port:

Land at Brimscombe Port, as identified on the policies map, is allocated for a development comprising 150 dwellings, canal related tourism development and employment uses and associated community and open space uses, together with enabling infrastructure. Detailed policy criteria will be developed where necessary to highlight specific mitigation measures and infrastructure requirements. A development brief incorporating an indicative masterplan, to be approved by the District Council, will detail the way in which the land uses and infrastructure will be developed in an integrated and co-ordinated manner.



see pg.55 Development and site allocations

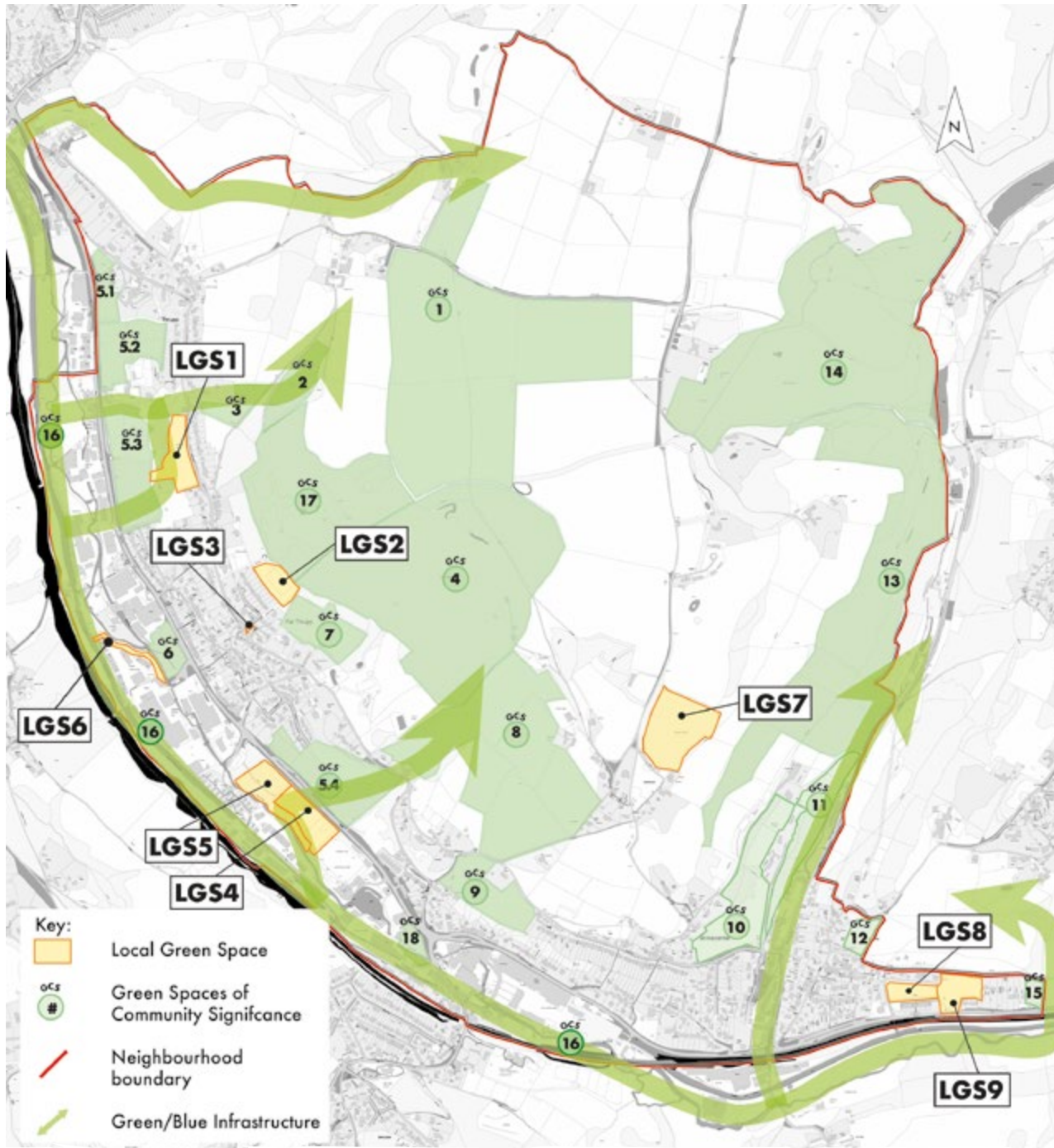


Figure 9: see pg.69
Local Green Spaces and Green Spaces of Community Significance

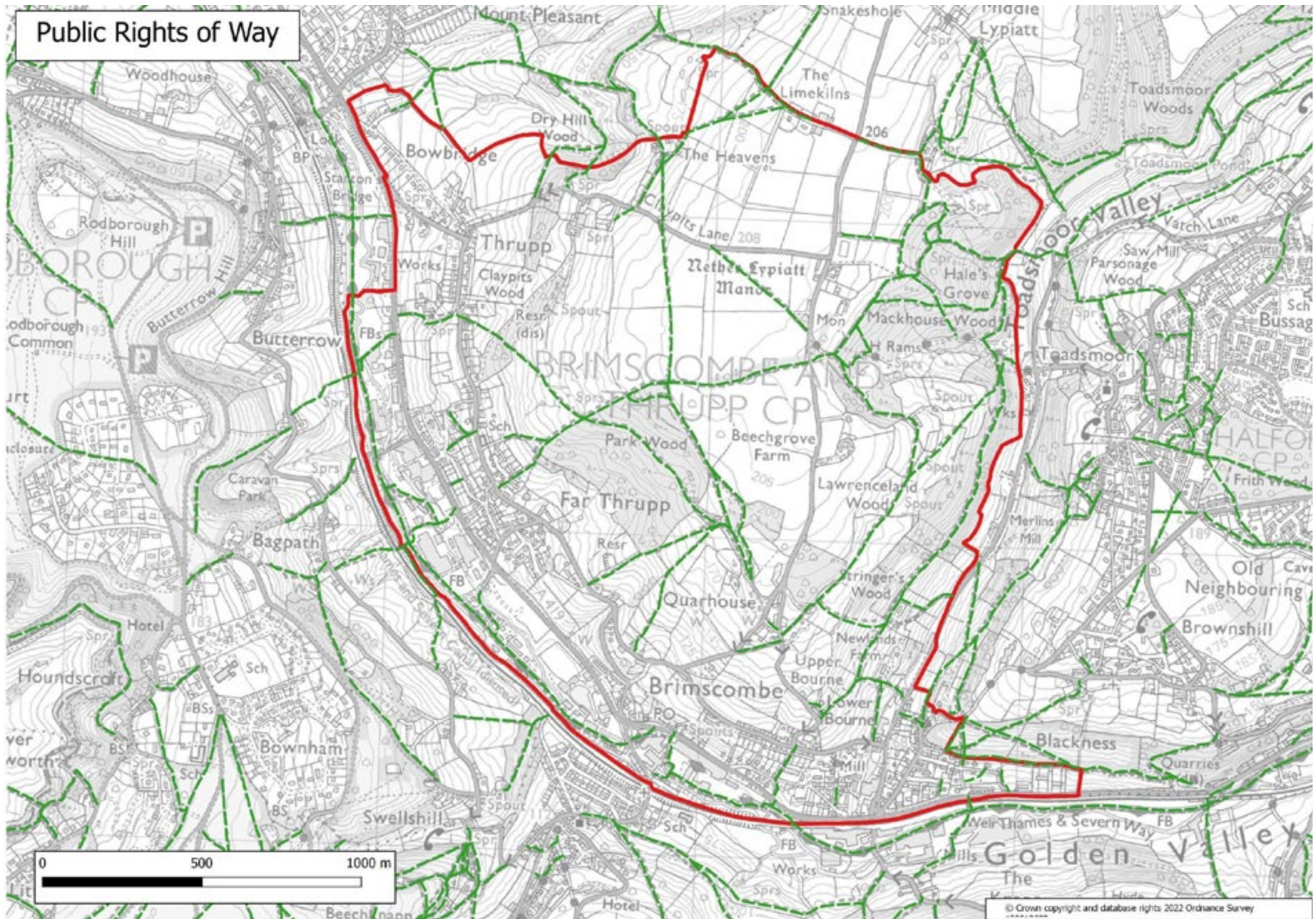


Figure10: see pg.71 Public Rights of Way