

Caton-with-Littledale Neighbourhood
Development Plan 2016-2031
Green Spaces Assessment 2017

Caton-with-Littledale Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2031

Introduction

This report forms part of the evidence base for the Caton-with-Littledale Neighbourhood Plan.

The detailed assessment of Local Green Space was carried out in April 2017, in preparation for the Regulation 14 consultation. (The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012)

The assessment explains how each of the proposed sites meets the criteria for designation as Local Green Space.

What is Local Green Space?

The following extract from the National Planning Policy Framework explains the designation of Local Green Space.

76 Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

77. The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used: ● where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves; ● where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and ● where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

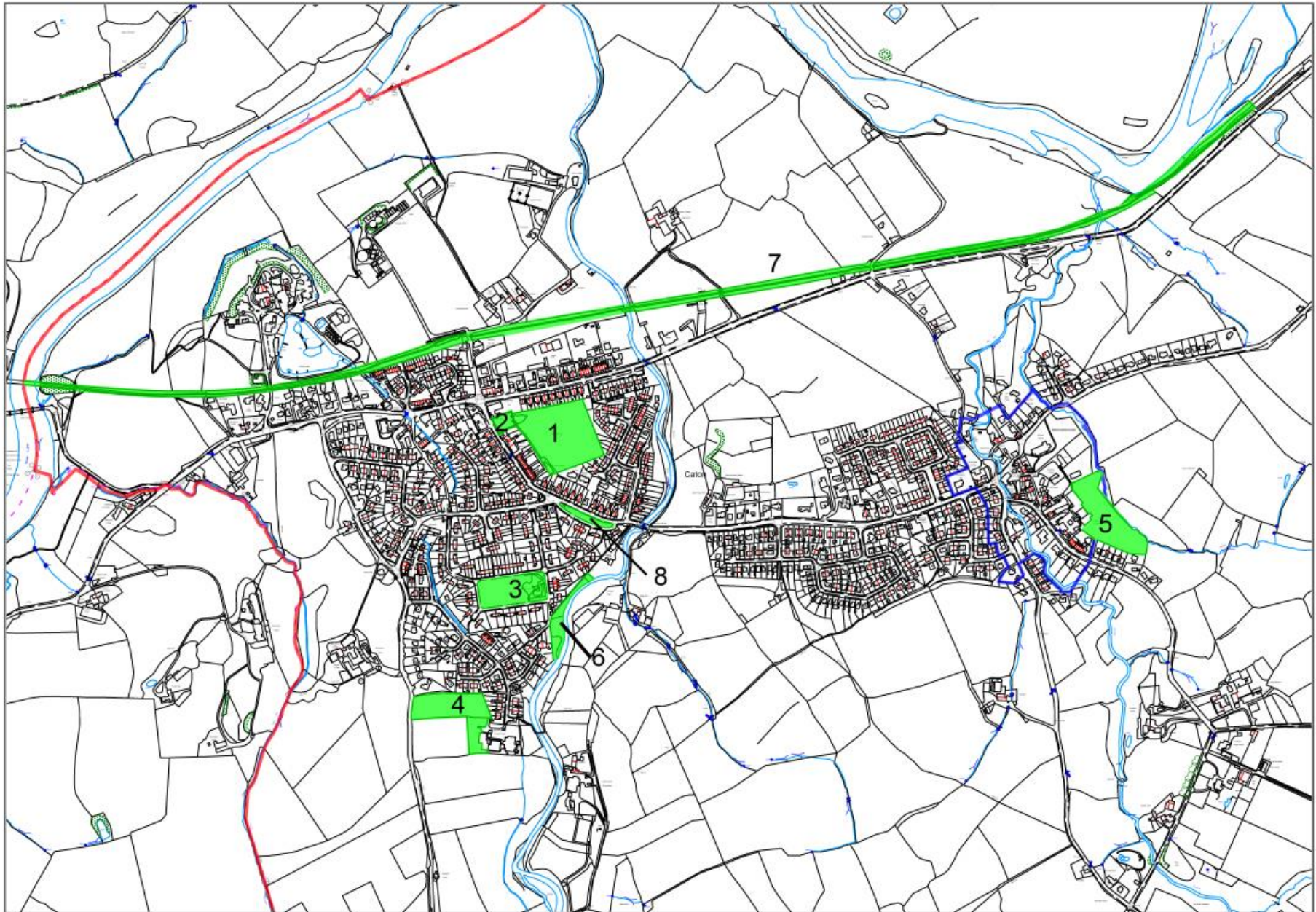
78. Local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts

It is worth noting that it is not essential to have public access for a space to receive Local Green Space Designation nor must it be owned by the Parish, City or County Council.

Local Green Space: List of sites

Ref to Maps	Site
1	Station Field
2	Station Bowling Green
3	Fell View Children's Play Area and Field
4	Caton Community School grounds and playing field
5	St Paul's School grounds
6	Parish woodland
7	Millennium Cycleway and Pathway
8	Beckside Verge and Trees

Map of Local Green Spaces



SITE APPRAISALS

Site: **Station Field**

Site Appraisal Date: **April 2017**

Site Code 1

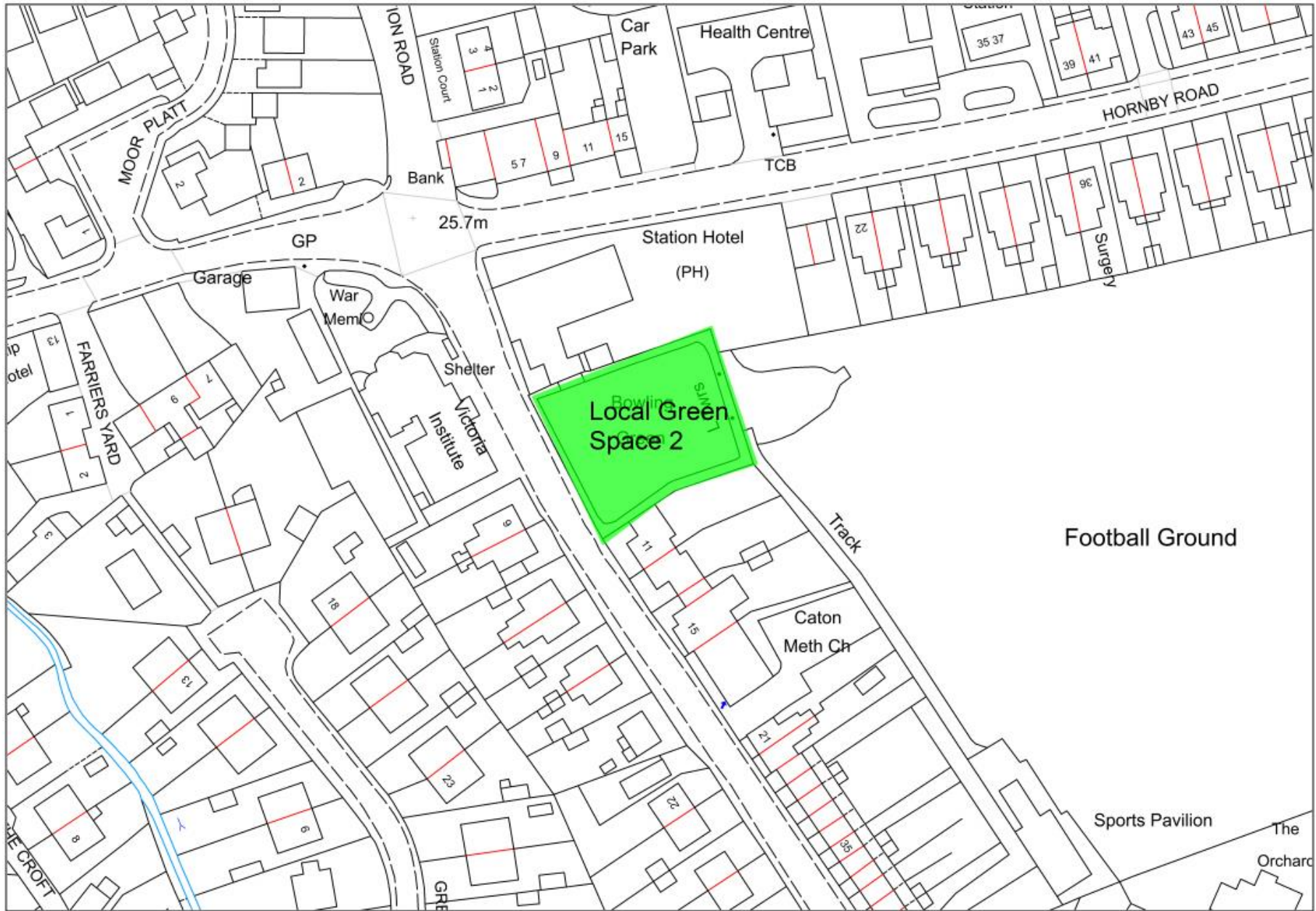
Original Source	Yes	No
Existing Local Plan Designation		N
Suggested through Consultation processes	Y	
Identified as Important Open Space in a Conservation Area Appraisal		N
Identified through Neighbourhood Plan Process.	Y	
Background Information		
Is the site within a conservation area		N
Is the site in proximity to a Listed Building		N
Does the site include a scheduled ancient monument		N
Does the site have any TPO's		N
NPPF Policy Criteria		
Which criteria does the site meet		
a) Is the green space in reasonable proximity to the community it services	Y	
Explain It is in the centre of the Caton, alongside the Station Hotel on the A683 and is largely surrounded by houses.		
b) Is the green area demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular significance e.g. For its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including playing fields, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife)	Y	
Explain This field is also referred to as the Gala Field or the Sports Field. It is used for the annual Caton Gala every June. There is a procession from Brookhouse, displays, stalls, food, sports including a fell race, competitions, a bouncy castle and a small fairground. The Gala brings together all sections of the community and attracts large numbers of residents and visitors. It also raises money for local organisations. During the rest of the year, it is used by local football clubs (junior and senior) and for cricket in the summer. There is a pavilion and the field is maintained by the Caton Sports Association. Informal recreational use by children and by adults is valued throughout the year.		
c) Is the green space local in character and not an extensive tract of land	Y	
Explain The site is close to the centre of Caton and is an appropriate size for a playing field.		
Accessibility		
Is the site publicly accessible?	Y	
Explain The site is publicly accessible from the A683, through the Station Hotel Car Park. It is owned by Mitchell's Brewery and leased to the Caton Sports Association.		
Does the site connect with other area of open space?	Y	
Explain It is alongside the Station Hotel Bowling Green.		

Site: **Station Hotel Bowling Green**

Site Appraisal Date: **April 2017**

Site Code 2

Original Source	Yes	No
Existing Local Plan Designation		N
Suggested through Consultation processes	Y	
Identified as Important Open Space in a Conservation Area Appraisal		N
Identified through Neighbourhood Plan Process.	Y	
Background Information		
Is the site within a conservation area		N
Is the site in proximity to a Listed Building		N
Does the site include a scheduled ancient monument		N
Does the site have any TPO's		N
NPPF Policy Criteria		
Which criteria does the site meet		
a) Is the green space in reasonable proximity to the community it services	Y	
Explain It is in the centre of the Caton, within the Station Hotel grounds on the A683.		
b) Is the green area demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular significance e.g. For its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including playing fields, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife)	Y	
Explain The Bowling Green is a traditional walled bowling green owned by the Station Hotel. It is the home for the long-established local bowling club. Members can learn to play, practice and take part in matches too. There is good provision for spectators. Many older residents value this well-maintained space which provides social interaction as well as outdoor physical activity.		
c) Is the green space local in character and not an extensive tract of land	Y	
Explain This is a small site close to the centre of Caton village.		
Accessibility		
Is the site publicly accessible?	Y	
Explain The Bowling Green accessed through the Station Hotel grounds. Any member of the community who wishes to play, play with the team in the league, or learn to play, can use it on most weekdays throughout the season. A small annual membership fee is levied to pay for the maintenance of the green to the required standard by the bowling club.		
Does the site connect with other area of open space?	Y	
Explain Next to the Station Field		

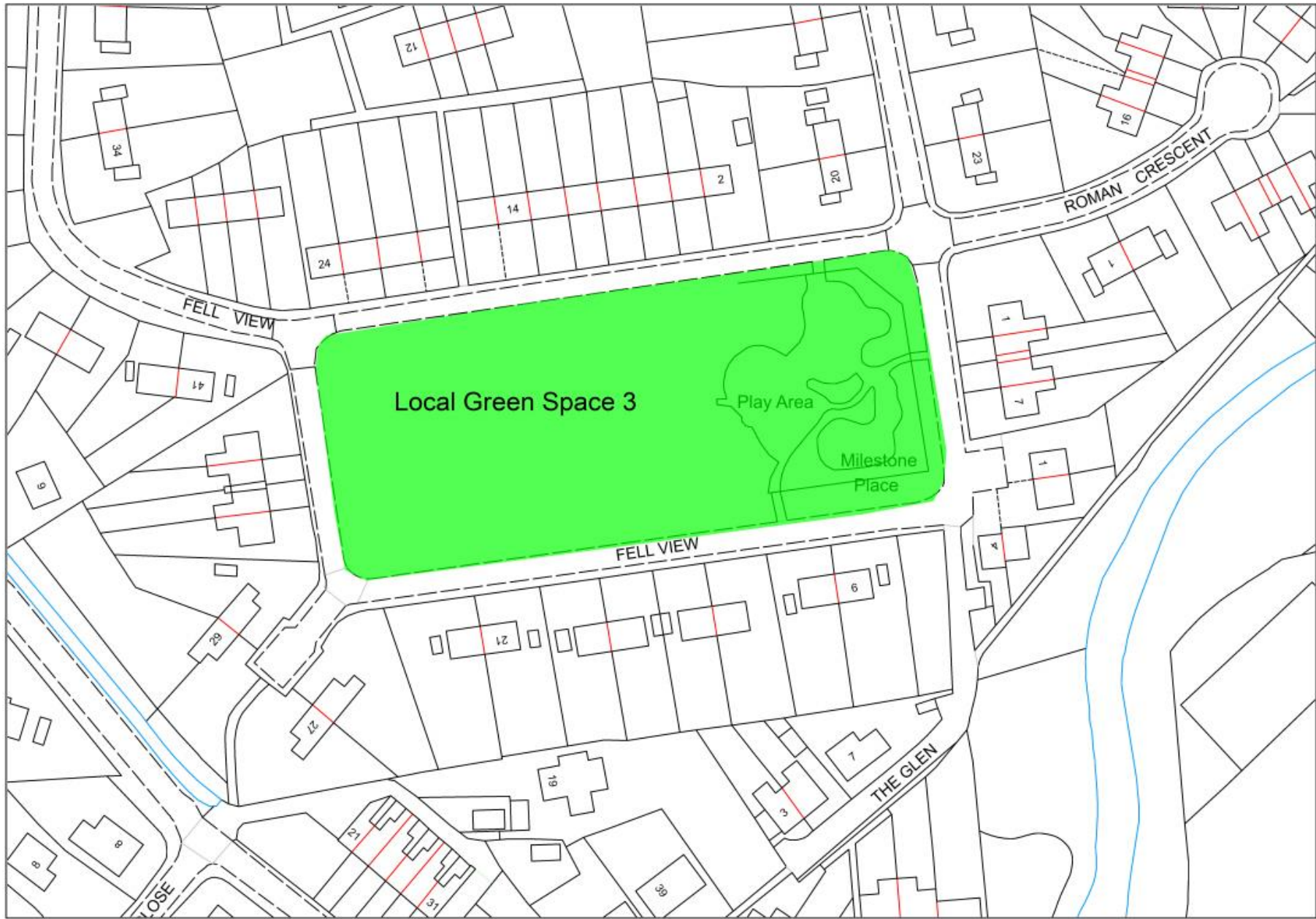


Site: **Fell View Children's Play Area and Field**

Site Appraisal Date: **April 2017**

Site Code 3

Original Source	Yes	No
Existing Local Plan Designation		N
Suggested through Consultation processes	Y	
Identified as Important Open Space in a Conservation Area Appraisal		N
Identified through Neighbourhood Plan Process.	Y	
Background Information		
Is the site within a conservation area		N
Is the site in proximity to a Listed Building		N
Does the site include a scheduled ancient monument		N
Does the site have any TPO's		N
NPPF Policy Criteria		
Which criteria does the site meet		
a) Is the green space in reasonable proximity to the community it services	Y	
Explain This area is surrounded by housing in the centre of the Fell View and Broadacre developments in Caton.		
b) Is the green area demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular significance e.g. For its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including playing fields, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife)	y	
Explain Fell View is well used by local children (often accompanied by their parents/carers) and young people. At one end is a well-equipped, fenced, safe playground for children under 14. As well as a sandpit, there are swings, a roundabout, a zip-wire, climbing net, a tree castle and other play equipment, and benches/picnic tables for parents/carers. It is inspected and maintained by the Parish Council. The rest of the area is flat open grass with some shrubs and trees. The grassed area is cut throughout the summer and used for informal games by all age groups. There is a football practice net. Parents and local residents keep the play park clean, and volunteers have undertaken grant-funded training on maintaining the fruit trees. Several times a year the green is used for organised games (often grant funded). The community group formed to refurbish the play park also runs occasional events here for all the village.		
c) Is the green space local in character and not an extensive tract of land	y	
Explain The site is close to many residents' homes and is easily accessible from public roads. The site is not an extensive tract of land.		
Accessibility		
Is the site publicly accessible?	Y	
Explain Access can be gained from estate roads on four sides of the site.		
Does the site connect with other area of open space?		N
Explain It does not connect to other areas of open space.		

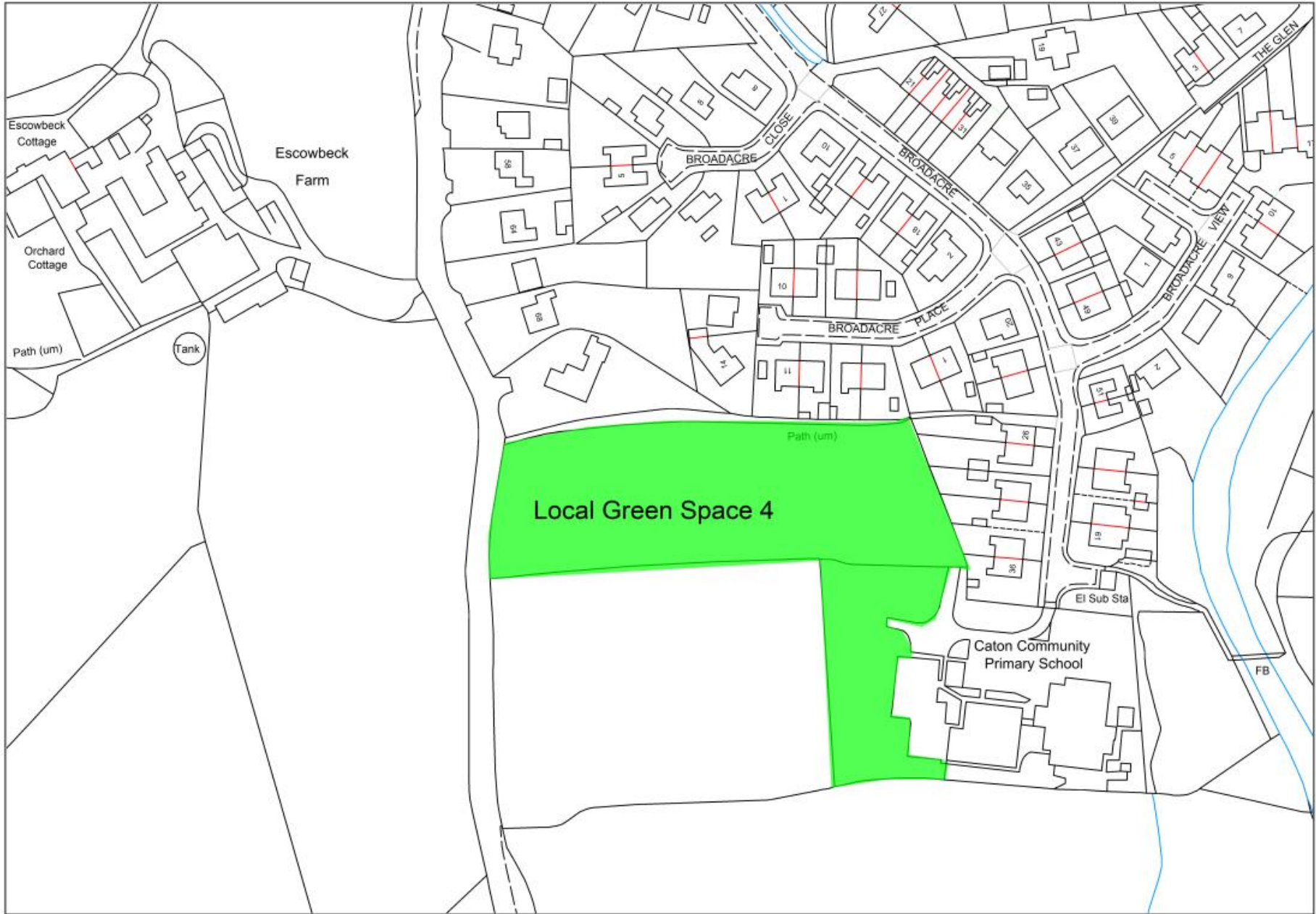


Site: **Caton Community School grounds and playing field**

Site Appraisal Date: **April 2017**

Site Code: 4

Original Source	Yes	No
Existing Local Plan Designation		N
Suggested through Consultation processes	Y	
Identified as Important Open Space in a Conservation Area Appraisal		N
Identified through Neighbourhood Plan Process.	Y	
Background Information		
Is the site within a conservation area		N
Is the site in proximity to a Listed Building		N
Does the site include a scheduled ancient monument		N
Does the site have any TPO's		N
NPPF Policy Criteria		
Which criteria does the site meet		
a) Is the green space in reasonable proximity to the community it services	Y	
Explain The site is situated alongside Caton Community Primary School, close to the houses in Broadacre.		
b) Is the green area demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular significance e.g. For its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including playing fields, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife	y	
Explain The grounds are used by the school for the normal range of outdoor activities. The Community Sports Hall at Caton Community School can be booked by the wider community for events such as jumble sales and fitness groups, and the facilities offered include the separate playing field, which is used by the junior football team, uniformed organisations and voluntary groups. The site is used for football matches and other organised events. It is crossed by a well-used public footpath and local people value it as an informal recreation space. It is a much-loved community asset.		
c) Is the green space local in character and not an extensive tract of land	y	
Explain The site is not an extensive tract of land.		
Accessibility		
Is the site publicly accessible?	Y	
Explain Access through Caton Community School or by footpath from Quernmore Road.		
Does the site connect with other area of open space?	Y	
Explain On one side, it borders fields on the southern edge of the village.		

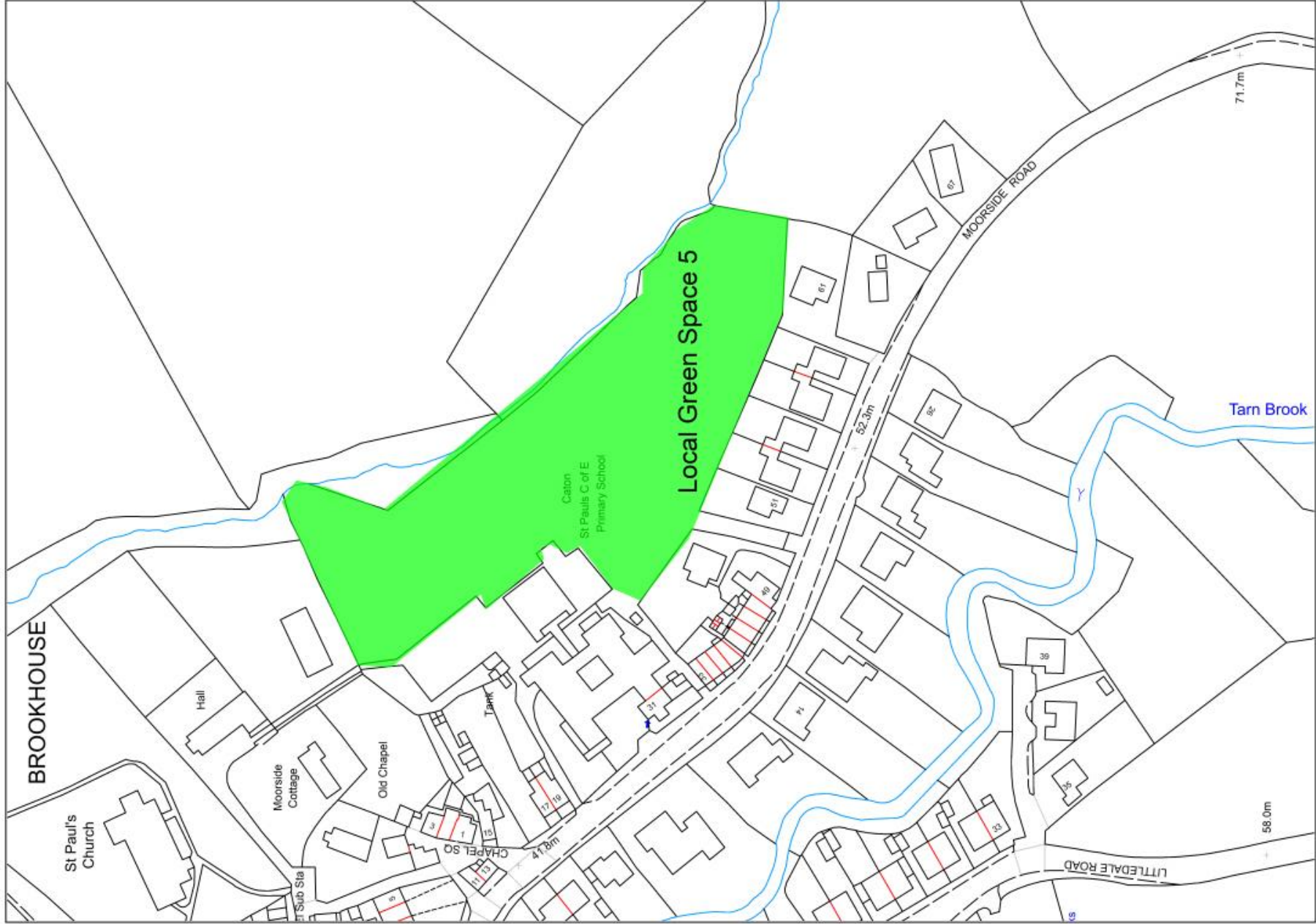


Site: **St Paul's School Grounds**

Site Appraisal Date: **April 2017**

Site Code: 5

Original Source	Yes	No
Existing Local Plan Designation		N
Suggested through Consultation processes	Y	
Identified as Important Open Space in a Conservation Area Appraisal		N
Identified through Neighbourhood Plan Process.	Y	
Background Information		
Is the site within a conservation area	Y	
Is the site in proximity to a Listed Building	Y	
Does the site include a scheduled ancient monument		N
Does the site have any TPO's		N
NPPF Policy Criteria		
Which criteria does the site meet		
a) Is the green space in reasonable proximity to the community it services	Y	
Explain The school grounds are behind the school and close to St Paul's Church, which is a grade II* listed building and in the Brookhouse Conservation Area. It is close to the centre of Brookhouse.		
b) Is the green area demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular significance e.g. For its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including playing fields, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife)	Y	
Explain The school grounds have been well used by the school since Victorian times. It includes flower and vegetable plots maintained by the children close to the asphalted playgrounds. The grass areas are used for organised sports, including football and orienteering. Informally the grounds are used by local children and young people to play games.		
c) Is the green space local in character and not an extensive tract of land	Y	
Explain The site is not an extensive tract of land.		
Accessibility		
Is the site publicly accessible?	Y	
Explain The site is accessed through the school for activities organised by the school; at other times there is a gate alongside the Scout Hut.		
Does the site connect with other area of open space?	Y	
Explain The site backs onto Bull Beck and then onto open fields.		

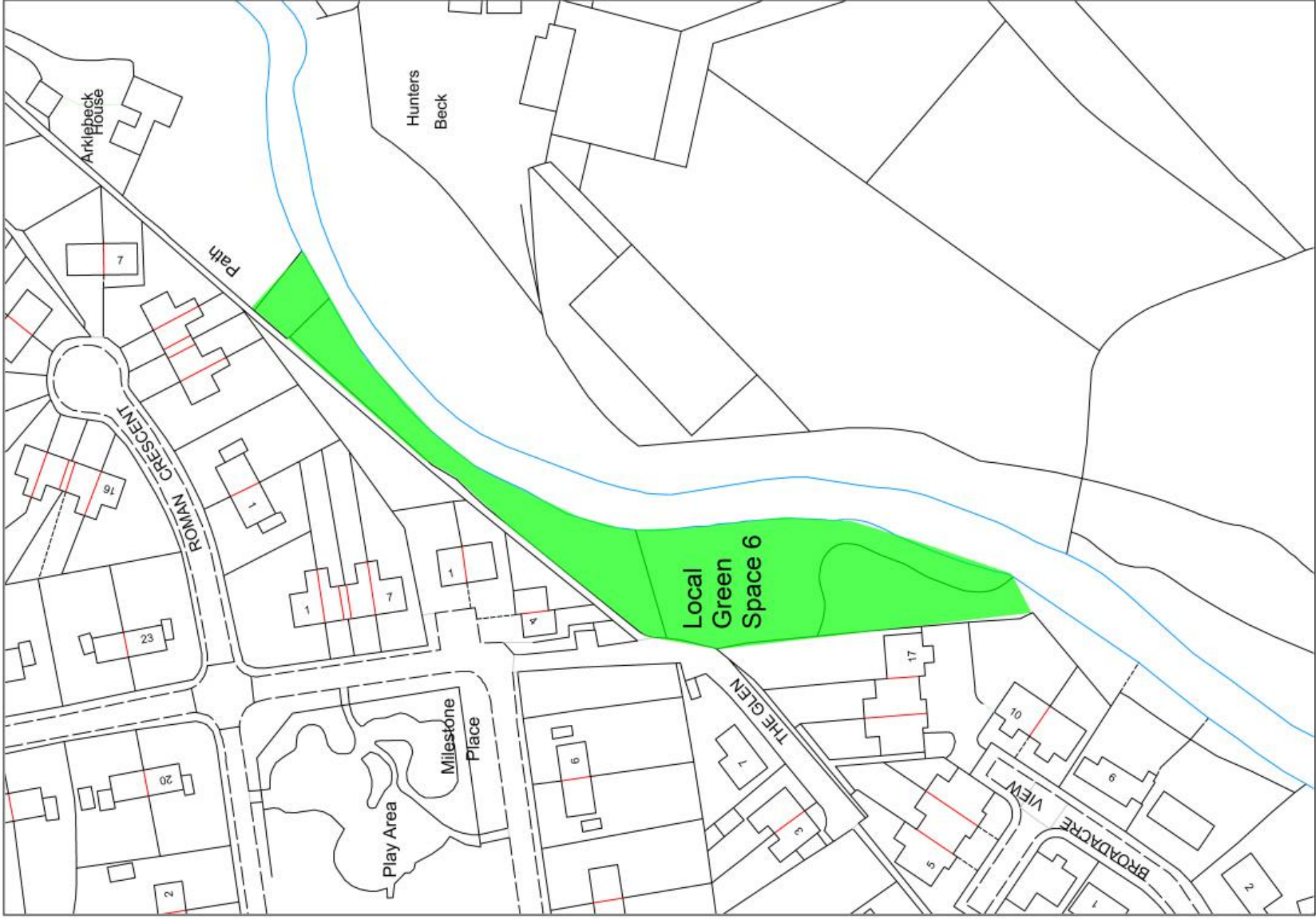


Site: **Parish woodland**

Site Appraisal Date **April 2017**

Site Code 6

Original Source	Yes	No
Existing Local Plan Designation		N
Suggested through Consultation processes		N
Identified as Important Open Space in a Conservation Area Appraisal		N
Identified through Neighbourhood Plan Process.	Y	
Background Information		
Is the site within a conservation area		N
Is the site in proximity to a Listed Building		N
Does the site include a scheduled ancient monument		N
Does the site have any TPO's	Y	
NPPF Policy Criteria		
Which criteria does the site meet		
a) Is the green space in reasonable proximity to the community it services	Y	
Explain The site is close to the housing in Broadacre and Fell View in Caton		
b) Is the green area demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular significance e.g. For its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including playing fields, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife)	y	
Explain This is a small area of land adjacent to Fell View and Broadacre. Artle Beck runs down the other side of it. It contains several mature trees and a public footpath leading to a footbridge over the beck. The footpath through the woodland is well used by residents for running, walking and dog walking as it leads to open fields, Brookhouse and the Forge Mill area of Caton.		
c) Is the green space local in character and not an extensive tract of land	y	
Explain The area is not an extensive tract of land.		
Accessibility		
Is the site publicly accessible?	y	
Explain The site is fully accessible from Broadacre and Forge Mill		
Does the site connect with other area of open space?	y	
Explain The site connects housing in Caton and Brookhouse through open fields.		

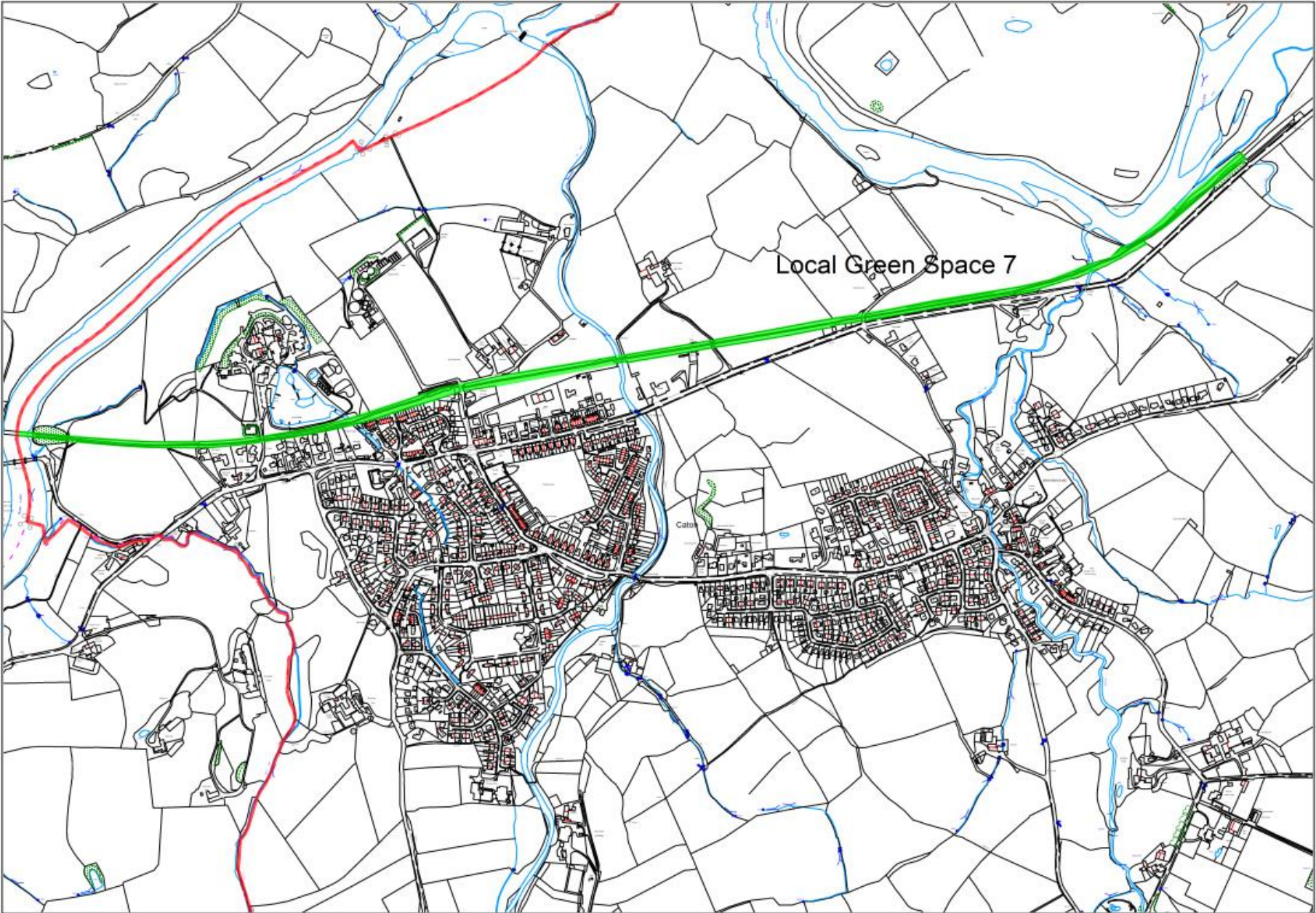


Site: **Millennium Cycleway and Pathway**

Site Appraisal Date **April 2017**

Site Code 7

Original Source	Yes	No
Existing Local Plan Designation		N
Suggested through Consultation processes	Y	
Identified as Important Open Space in a Conservation Area Appraisal		N
Identified through Neighbourhood Plan Process.	Y	
Background Information		
Is the site within a conservation area		N
Is the site in proximity to a Listed Building		N
Does the site include a scheduled ancient monument		N
Does the site have any TPO's	Y	
NPPF Policy Criteria		
Which criteria does the site meet		
a) Is the green space in reasonable proximity to the community it services	Y	
Explain The disused railway track from Glasson Dock was converted into a cycle way and footpath and runs through the north of the Parish, between the A683 and the river Lune.		
b) Is the green area demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular significance e.g. For its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including playing fields, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife)	Y	
The track is surfaced and flat which makes it ideal for all age groups to enjoy. It is lit along part of its length and so is popular with cyclists commuting into Lancaster and Morecambe even during the hours of darkness. During the day, leisure cyclists, walkers, children with bikes and scooters, and dog walkers enjoy being able to walk without the noise and danger of traffic on the busy A683. It is ideal for people in wheelchairs. Alongside the track there is a wide grass strip, with trees and mature hedges and wet ditches. Some areas have been planted for wildflowers, including bee-friendly plantings. Some sunnier areas are good for butterflies too. Many sections of the track give wonderful views of the hills and moors to the east and south, including Ingleborough, or of the River Lune and its floodplain.		
c) Is the green space local in character and not an extensive tract of land	Y	
Explain The site is not an extensive tract of land.		
Accessibility		
Is the site publicly accessible?	Y	
Explain Within our Parish there is access at Bull Beck Car park and Holme Lane in the east and at Station Road in the centre of Caton. At the west end, the Millennium Way crosses the Lune by bridge into the neighbouring parish of Halton, where there is the Crook o'Lune car park, toilets and refreshments. It connects to the North Lancashire cycleway and other footpaths.		
Does the site connect with other area of open space?	Y	
Explain This is part of a linear park alongside the river Lune, which -in our Parish – runs from the Crook o' Lune bridges through open fields to the northern edge of Caton village and on to the Bull Beck car park on the A683.		



Local Green Space 7

Site: **Beckside Verge and Trees**

Site Appraisal Date **April 2017**

Site Code 8

Original Source	Yes	No
Existing Local Plan Designation		N
Suggested through Consultation processes	Y	
Identified as Important Open Space in a Conservation Area Appraisal		N
Identified through Neighbourhood Plan Process.	Y	
Background Information		
Is the site within a conservation area		N
Is the site in proximity to a Listed Building		N
Does the site include a scheduled ancient monument		N
Does the site have any TPO's		N
NPPF Policy Criteria		
Which criteria does the site meet		
a) Is the green space in reasonable proximity to the community it services	Y	
Explain The site lies between the bungalows on Beckside and Brookhouse Road.		
b) Is the green area demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular significance e.g. For its' beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including playing fields, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife)		
Explain This is a small, crescent-shaped area of land with grass, mature trees (given by a local resident), spring bulbs and a bench. It creates a 'village green' feel to this area of Caton, and has good views of the distant moors. It is used by dog walkers, and by children to play informal games. The value of Beckside is established historically by the fact that it has always been kept as a green space even though residential properties were build around it.		
c) Is the green space local in character and not an extensive tract of land	Y	
Explain This is not an extensive tract of land.		
Accessibility		
Is the site publicly accessible?	Y	
Explain Yes, it is unfenced on all sides and easily accessed.		
Does the site connect with other area of open space?		N
Explain The site is close to the Artle Beck.		

