

Hardwicke Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan
2015–2031



Open Space Assessment
January 2017

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1. Background

- 1.1 This document summarises the process and findings of the HNDPG (Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan Group) consultation with the Hardwicke community to identify those open spaces within the Parish important to local people. The report identifies the important open spaces, assesses each against NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) criteria and recommends those for designation within the NDP (Neighbourhood Development Plan). For completeness it also identifies important spaces identified in the NDP Ecological Assessment.
- 1.2 One of four recommendations is made for each space
- The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' and is not considered important to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore NOT recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated Open Space.
 - The nominated space meets NPPF criteria; is considered 'exceptional'; is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated Local Green Space
 - The nominated space does meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' but is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as Open Space Significantly Important to the Hardwicke Community
 - The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria; is not deemed 'exceptional'; but is of importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as Open Space Important to the Hardwicke Community
- 1.3 NPPF definition of open space and local green space is
- Open space: All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.
 - Local Green Space: Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

2. Aims

- 2.1 This document is based on an assessment of the community value of all open spaces within Hardwicke. The aims of this exercise was:
- To provide the opportunity for the Hardwicke Community to identify open spaces in the Hardwicke Parish that are important to them and provide reasons why;
 - Provide a visual display of the important open spaces in Hardwicke for inclusion in the Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan.

3. Evidence Gathering

3.1 There were three formal opportunities in the timeframe of the NDP project suitable for engaging the community in this exercise.

- Hardwicke Parish Council (HPC) Assembly in April 2014
- The main community consultation event in early 2015
- Hardwicke Parish Council Assembly in April 2015

3.2 Hardwicke Parish Assembly in April 2014

3.2.1 A large-scale map mounted on polystyrene block was used at the first event held on 23rd April 2014. Visitors were invited to mark any open space in Hardwicke Parish that is important to them on the map using numbered 'flags' and say why the space was important against the number in the open spaces log.

3.3 Hardwicke NDP Drop-in Event 13/14th March 2015

3.3.1 A large-scale map mounted on polystyrene block was used at the drop-in event held on 13th and 14th March 2015. As with the HPC Assembly attendees were invited to mark any open space in Hardwicke Parish that is important to them but this time using numbered dots. This map was also used to capture important vistas. Reasons for the nominated space were entered in an open spaces log.

3.4 Hardwicke Parish Assembly in April 2015

3.4.1 The Hardwicke Parish Council Assembly on 8th April 2015 provided a final opportunity for the community to identify open spaces important to them. Being so close to the Drop-in event the map and process used at the drop-in event was replicated on the night. Below is the open spaces log from the event.

4. Consolidated Listings

4.1 Below is a consolidated log of the spaces identified. Due to the variance in event log usage the log re-aligns the numbering to enable clear locations to be marked on a map.

Entry No.	Map Location No.	Origins	Where/what is this space?	Why is it important?
1	1	Drop-in Event	Behind Tudor Cottage	Dog walking area
2	2	Drop-in Event	Playing fields	Leisure, recreation
3	3	Drop-in Event	Glevum Way	Lovely walk through fields to church
4	4	Drop-in Event	Playing field	Playing fields for children
5	5	Drop-in Event	Fields	Fields for nature walks with children
6	6	Drop-in Event	Pond	Children like to come and see the ducks and wildlife – also the Green
7	7	Drop-in Event	Public footpaths between Sticky Way and Church Lane	Lovely areas to walk exploring with children looking for nature.
8	8	Drop-in Event	The Green	Lovely view and valuable open space
9	9	Drop-in Event	Fields	Lovely views to distant hills, giving a feeling of open space and peaceful setting
10	10	Drop-in Event	Fields	Fantastic views of hills and excellent walking areas too
11	11	Drop-in Event	Open space (Dimore Close)	Great for walking dogs
12	12	Drop-in Event	Open space	Great for walking dogs
13	13	Drop-in Event	Open space (Dimore Close)	Great for walking dogs
14	14	Drop-in Event	Edge of Church Lane – open fields	Provides an important border between built-up area of Hardwicke and rural countryside that is an important part of Hardwicke's heritage and future leisure activities.
15	15	Drop-in Event	Open fields south of Green Lane and Canal side	Dog walking. Open space close to urban centre. No car movements to reach it.
16	16	Drop-in Event	Open fields south of Green Lane	Provides view – footpath across this field – dog walks
17	17	Drop-in Event	Fields from Green Lane	Dog walking. Access to church
18	18	Drop-in Event	Sticky Lane to Church	Dog walking. Walking to church
19	19	Drop-in Event	Land from Sticky Lane/ Green Lane to Church	As above in 16, 17 and 18. The rural aspect of Hardwicke is why we moved here/lived here for 30 years.
20 Blank	20 Unused	Drop-in Event		

Entry No.	Map Location No.	Origins	Where/what is this space?	Why is it important?
21	21	Drop-in Event	Footpath and fields S.E. of Church Lane	Important amenity and open field space
22	22	Drop-in Event	Fields and open space for leisure	The rural aspect of Hardwicke is why we have bought a house here, we will support our community
23	23	Drop-in Event	Footpath across open fields to church	Important amenity and open field space
24	24	Drop-in Event	Canal towpath towards Frampton	Towpath and green space edging on to it
25	25	Drop-in Event	Canal towpath towards Gloucester	As above
26	26	Drop-in Event	Fields	Nature walks
27	27	Drop-in Event	Fields	Preserve land alongside Sellars Bridge development – otherwise we will be swallowed up!
28	28	Drop-in Event	Blank	
29	29	Drop-in Event	East of 4008 behind Old Police Station	Area of wild life. Buzzards, woodpeckers – green are common, slow worms, red-wings, field-fares, all small birds. Also lovely trees
30	30	Drop-in Event	The current sports field	This is an area important to the youth of our community and is in regular use. It should not be used for housing
31	31	Drop-in Event	This area is to the South of the current football field	This should be an extension of recreational facilities – there is no park in Hardwicke – it should not be about money in developers' pockets
32	32	Drop-in Event	This is a proposed extension to Mayo's field	There is difficulty of access past the back of my property which is very dangerous and lacks visibility
33	33	Drop-in Event	Canal-side walk between Pilot and Hardwicke bridge	Important for walking and cycling but needs improvement
34	34	Drop-in Event	Field behind village hall on Green Lane	Lovely walks and open countryside would disappear meaning end of village and start of built-up town. No more building needed in Hardwicke
35	35	Drop-in Event	Green area in Oak Tree Close	This is such a valuable area for children to play – not organised sports such as the playing fields. Surely also helps biodiversity etc. Maybe plant another tree?!
36	36	Drop-in Event	Field between old people's homes	Kids play area and dog walking
37	37	Drop-in Event	Hardwicke pond, Green and verges near hall	Important for all to enjoy green spaces and play areas
38	38	Drop-in Event	Public footpath from Green Lane to church	Important walking area for all

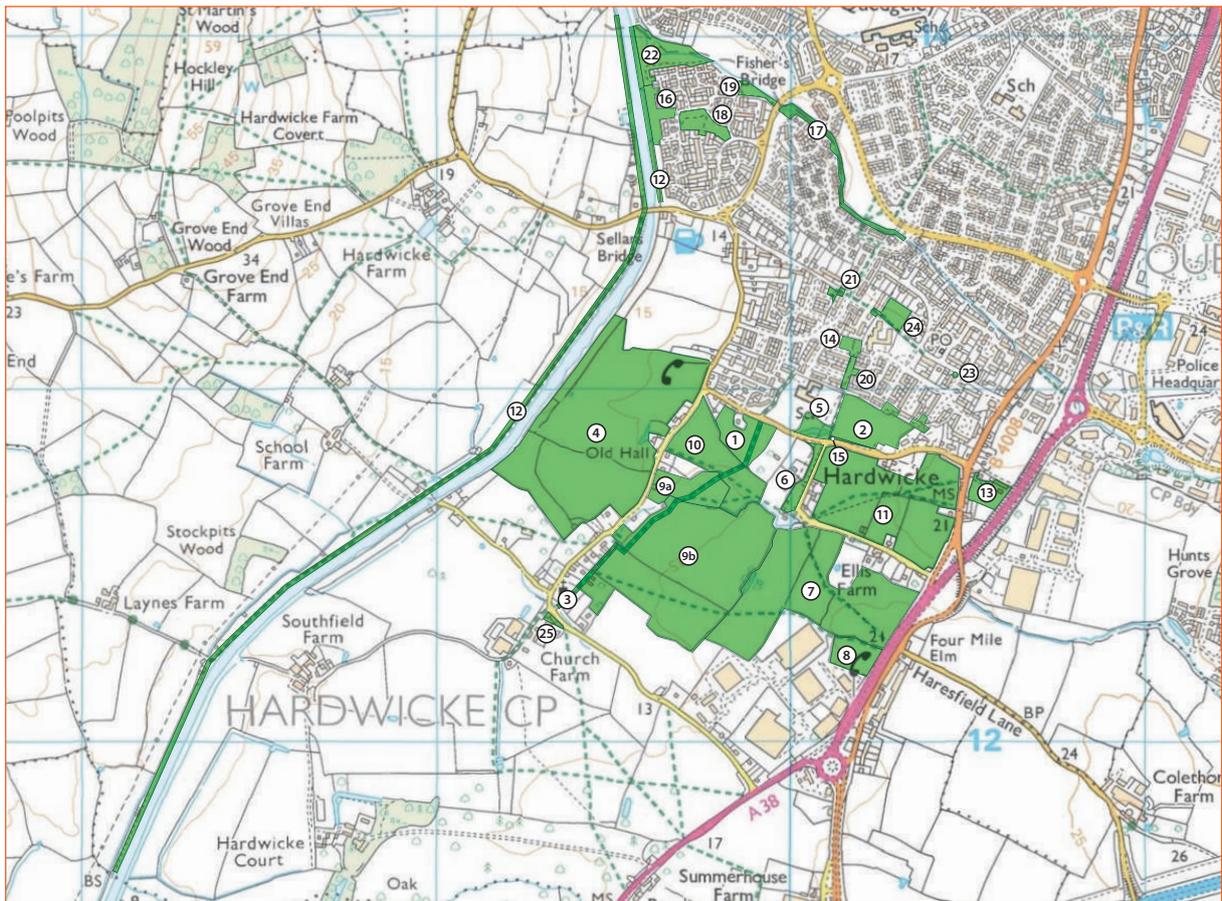
Entry No.	Map Location No.	Origins	Where/what is this space?	Why is it important?
39	39	Drop-in Event	Playing fields	
40	40	Drop-in Event	Green Lane/Sticky Lane	Lovely views and very quiet once off Green Lane
41	41	Drop-in Event	Green Lane/Sticky Lane and fields off Green Lane	Rural views are vital to a village. It helps maintain the village individuality. Wildlife needs our protection!
42	42	Drop-in Event	Dales Wharf promenade and green space	The paved promenade and green space at the end with the footpath along the brook that forms the divide between Hardwicke and Quedgeley
43	43	Drop-in Event	Four Mile Elm 'allotments'	Good for the environment, good for people's well-being and enjoyment of their produce. Encourages community spirit and communication
44	44	Drop-in Event	Play area and open space Dales Wharf	Children to play, dog walking. Open feel to estate
45	45	Drop-in Event	Open space Dimore brook	Wild life, open field and dog walking
46	46	Drop-in Event	Open space Dimore brook and canal	As above
47	47	Drop-in Event	Farmland mid-Hardwicke, back of Church Lane	Open fields – views – amenity for walking – leisure – privacy
48 - 54 Blank	Not used			
55	48	Drop-in Event	Land between Green Lane/Sticky Lane footpath/right of way	Dog walking and other leisure activities
56	49	Drop-in Event	Fields West of B4009	Large conurbations need gaps between as breathing space. Land is bordered by canal meaning the few roads in and out take the brunt of the new traffic and are overloaded as it is. Fields are used for dog walking by lots of locals
49	50	HPC Assy 2015	Open fields South of Sticky Lane	For wildlife (including otters and owls), chestnut tree, wild flowers
50	51	HPC Assy 2015	Open walkway between the end of Oak Tree Close and the playing fields	Oak trees need to be preserved, and important green space between the houses
451	52	HPC Assy 2015	Village Green	Vital area in centre of village- for wildlife and preserve green beside Millennium stone
452	53	HPC Assy 2015	Open fields North of Quedgeley West business park	Fields – vital for wildlife – badgers, owls and deer have been seen

Entry No.	Map Location No.	Origins	Where/what is this space?	Why is it important?
453	54	HPC Assy 2015	Open fields North of Quedgeley West business park	Fields – vital for wildlife – badgers, owls and deer have been seen
454	55	HPC Assy 2015	Open fields North of Pound Lane East of Quedgeley West business park	Fields – vital for wildlife – badgers, owls and deer have been seen
455	56	HPC Assy 2015	Oak tree at junction of Elmgrove Road East and Cornfield Drive	Oak tree must be preserved
1	57	HPC Assy 2014	Wharf area alongside canal	See canal; watch swans and other bird life - tranquillity
2	58	HPC Assy 2014	Old Hardwicke School, Pound Lane	Old Hardwicke school – historic significance. Would be wonderful to have it used for communal use/small business
3	59	HPC Assy 2014	Open land SE side of Church Lane	Open fields and green space for cattle and farming
4	60	HPC Assy 2014	Playing fields	Existing playing field recreational
5	61	HPC Assy 2014	Four Mile Elm 'allotments'	Hardwicke allotments, important facility currently owned and operated by Hardwicke estates, long waiting list for plots, need more space
6-14 Blank	Not used			Blank
15	62	HPC Assy 2014		Important to maintain a village green. So we have a pleasant *****? And a village cafe
16	63	HPC Assy 2014	Open fields North of Quedgeley West business park	Keep open fields here to retain rural feel to Hardwicke Village. Tranquillity/wildlife
17-28 Blank	Not used			Blank
29	64	HPC Assy 2014	Playing fields	Girls sports area. We need as much green space as possible
30	65	HPC Assy 2014	Fields South of Green Lane	Fields opposite the village hall
31-43 Blank	Not used			Blank
43	66	HPC Assy 2014	Playing fields	Centre of village; hall; fields meeting place
44	67	HPC Assy 2014	The Green and Sticky Lane	The Green, Sticky Lane – a beautiful and historic area, xx? For future generations
45	68	HPC Assy 2014	Church and Church Lane	The Church and Church Lane are of significant historical and rural importance of the Old Hardwicke Village
46	69	HPC Assy 2014	Church Lane	Historic local buildings in Church Lane as a whole but some have specific outlook

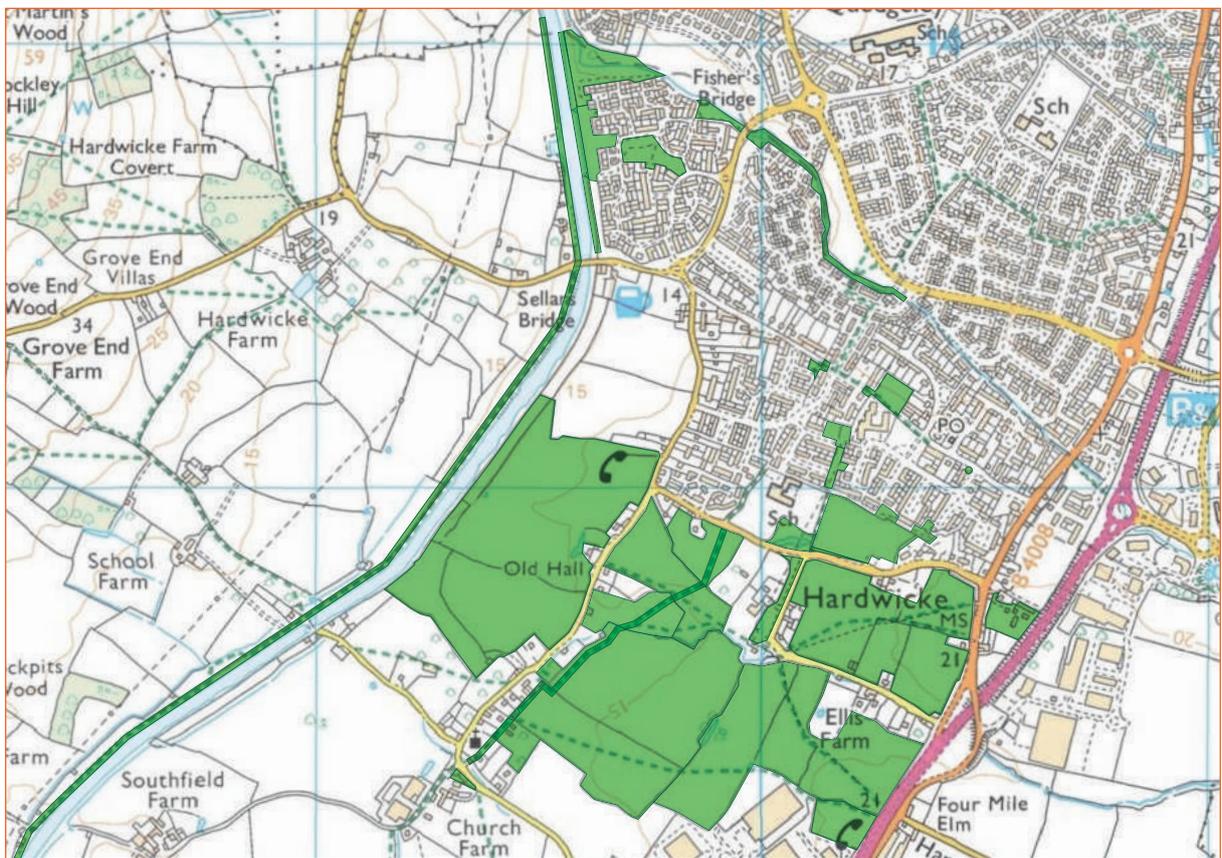
5. Nominated Open Spaces Important to the Hardwicke Community

5.1 The following is a consolidated list of open spaces identified by the Hardwicke Community as important open spaces.

1. Fields behind Tudor Cottage
2. Recreational and playing fields North of Green Lane
3. Footpaths between Green Lane and the Church, part of the Glevum Way
4. Open fields along North West side of Church Lane
5. Area surrounding the village pond
6. The Village Green around the Millennium Stone
7. The open fields bordered between Sticky Lane and the North boundary of the Quedgeley West Business Park.
8. Four Mile Elm allotments
9. Open fields behind dwellings on South East side of Church Lane
10. Open fields North of Shorn Brook on east side of Church Lane, North of Red House opposite Elmlea House
11. Open fields South of Green Lane
12. Canal towpaths
13. East of B4008 behind Old Police Station
14. Open green area between Oak Tree Close and St Nicholas Court
15. Green verges between the Village Pond and Village Hall
16. Dales Wharf promenade and surrounding green space
17. The green belt defining the boundary between Quedgeley and Hardwicke
18. Play area and surrounding open space at Dales Wharf
19. Open space alongside Dimore Brook between in wharf area and Fisher Bridge
20. Open walkway between Oak tree Close and playing fields
21. Open space in Dimore Close
22. Open space between Dales Wharf promenade and the Dimore Brook crossing
23. Oak tree at junction of Elmgrove Road East and Cornfield Drive
24. Open field between Ashgrove Close and Elmgrove Road East
25. Old Hardwicke School



Map 1: Open space locations



Map 2: Open space locations un-numbered

6. Assessment of Nominated Spaces

6.1 Assessment Methodology

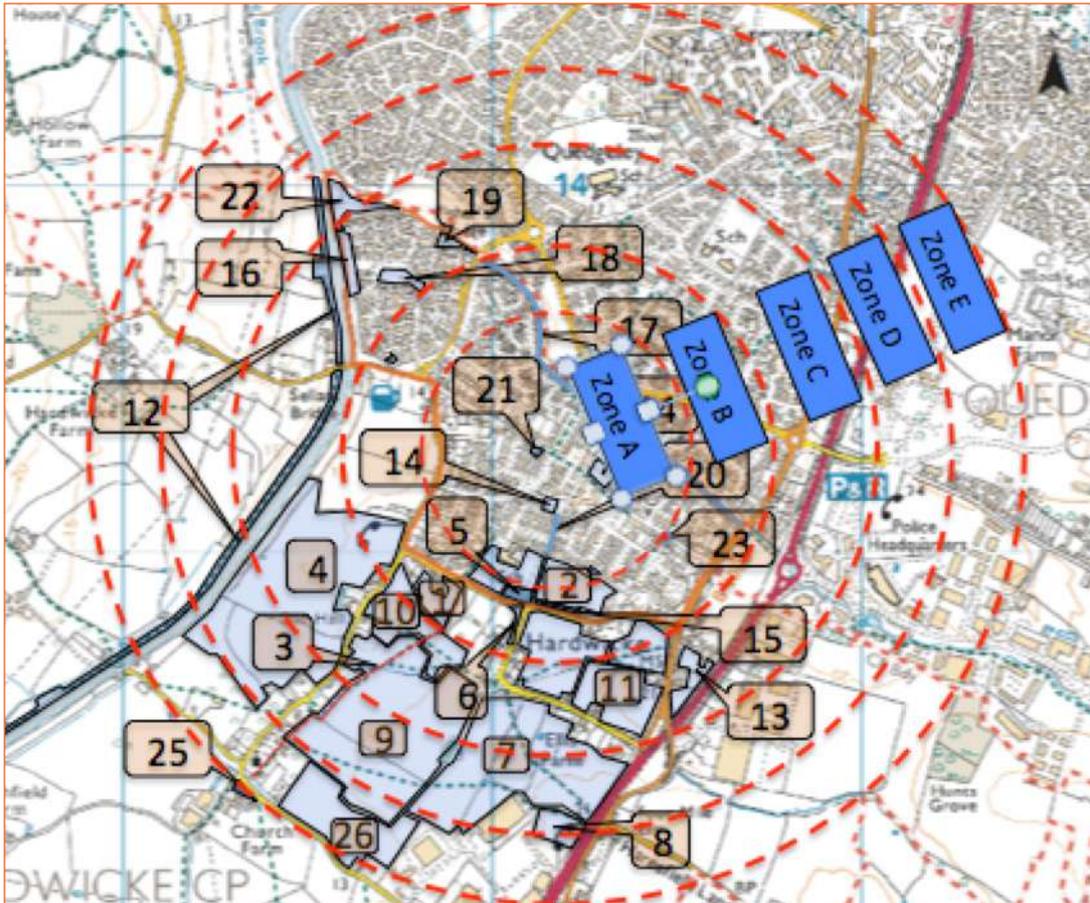
- 6.1.1 Each nominated open space area identified in section 5 was subjected to a review of available evidence to support the nomination. Local Green Space criteria set out in the NPPF was used as a baseline for the assessment however other evidence was included if relevant.
- 6.1.2 Each area was 'sentenced' to one of the four outcomes set out in paragraph 1.2.
- 6.1.3 The NPPF identifies that:
'...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...'
- 6.1.4 The examples used in the definition was taken as baseline criteria for the assessment of each area. To provide a standardised approach to the assessment each criteria was evaluated by allocating marks between 1 and 5, 1 being the most positive, 5 the least. This enabled a matrix to be used as a comparison tool for the suitability for each nominated space against Local Green Space criteria.
- 6.1.5 To achieve Local Green Space status in the NDP the area must be seen as being 'exceptional'. The final evaluation was to evaluate each Local Green Space that was recommended for inclusion against the exceptional criteria. Only those meeting the criteria was deemed acceptable for inclusion in the NDP as Local Green Space.

6.2 Matrix scoring system

6.2.1 The scoring system provides a comparative evaluation of each area. Some criteria will carry more weight than others and the decision on whether the area should be included in the NDP or not was taken on all the evidence available in paragraph 6.8.

6.2.2 Each characteristic was allocated a value between 1 and 5 based on the following.

6.2.3 **Proximity to Community** – For the purposes of this exercise the centre of the community was deemed to be at the junction of Elm Grove Road East and Westbourne Drive. The zones marked on the map below were used to allocate values for the assessment.



- 1 = zone A locations
- 2 = zone B Locations
- 3 = zone C locations
- 4 = zone D locations
- 5 = zone E locations

6.2.4 **Beauty** - defined as being '...a combination of qualities, such as shape, colour, or form, that pleases the aesthetic senses, especially the sight...'

Even with this definition evaluation can only be subjective. A 'table of pairs' was used to rank the areas in order of beauty and allocate scores accordingly.

- 1 = Majority of features and outlook is aesthetically very attractive
- 2 = Main features and outlook is attractive and aesthetically pleasing
- 3 = Some features and outlook are attractive and aesthetically pleasing
- 4 = Few features and outlook are attractive and aesthetically pleasing
- 5 = Features and outlook is plain and Unattractive

6.2.5 **Historical Significance** – historical significance is evaluated on national and local significance. An area that has a recorded historical context will attract the highest scores, those with local significance will score more lightly with those without, no historical significance scoring least.

- 1 = Highest historical significance (e.g. has a recorded national or local historical context)
- 2 = High historical significance (e.g. has an unrecorded national or local historical context)
- 3 = Average historical significance (e.g. has a local historical context by association e.g. old post office building, old oak tree)
- 4 = Low historical significance (e.g. has little historical context)
- 5 = No historical significance (has no local historical context)

6.2.6 **Recreation value** – defined as '...Activity done for enjoyment when one is not working...'

- 1 = Highest recreational value (e.g. dedicated recreational facilities used regularly by organisations)
- 2 = High recreational value (eg. limited facilities, used by individuals for recreation)
- 3 = Average recreational value (e.g. few facilities, used occasionally for recreation)
- 4 = Low recreational value (e.g. potential for use in recreation)
- 5 = Lowest recreational value (e.g. has no current or potential recreational value)

6.2.7 **Tranquillity** – The quality or state of being tranquil; calm:

- 1 = Highest level (e.g. area free from any background noise, no views of regular movement such as busy roads, pleasing views),
- 2 = High level of tranquillity (e.g. very low background noise, views of movement in far distance but not distracting)
- 3 = Average level of tranquillity (e.g. low background noise, distracting irregular movement in eyesight)
- 4 = Low level of tranquillity (e.g. background noise, distracting regular movement in eyesight)
- 5 = Lowest level (high level background noise such as motorway or industrial facility, views directly onto busy road or busy airport flight-path, poor quality views)

6.2.8 **Wildlife** – A full assessment of this characteristic can be found in the Hardwicke Parish Ecological Assessment.

6.2.9 **Local in Character** – defined as ‘...the distinctive nature of something...’. In this case how typical is the area of Hardwicke characteristics.

1 = a relatively high number of formally recorded local characteristics in or adjacent to the area (e.g. listed buildings, thatched cottages, large openfields, etc.)

2 = a few formally recorded local characteristics in or adjacent to the area (e.g. listed buildings, thatched cottages, large open fields,etc.)

3 = a number of local characteristics in or adjacent to the area e.g. historical buildings or features, large open fields,etc.)

4 = some minor local characteristics in or adjacent to the area e.g. well known feature

5 = no local characteristics

6.2.10 **Not an extensive tract of land** – there is no set criteria for the term ‘extensive’ but for the purpose of this assessment land area upwards of 30 acres is deemed extensive.

6.2.11 **Exceptional** – this is the final assessment element to finally categorise those nominated areas suitable for inclusion in the NDP as Local Green Space. This criteria is not included in the evaluation matrix as it forms a separate element of the evaluation.

In this instance exceptional is defined as being ‘...unusual; not typical...’. Synonyms include ‘...unusual, uncommon, abnormal, atypical, extraordinary, out of the ordinary, out of the way, rare, singular, unprecedented, unexpected, surprising...’

This criteria was applied by evaluating each area that passed the initial evaluation to identify its exceptional quality within the Hardwicke Parish.

6.2.12 Criteria Matrix

6.2.12.1 The results of the evaluation are in the matrix below.

Space Number	Nominated Space	Area in Acres	Zone	Proximity to Community	Beauty	Historical Significance	Recreation value	Tranquillity	Not an extensive tract of land	Local in Character
1	Fields behind Tudor Cottage	3.8	B	2	4	4	2	2	3	2
2	Recreational and playing fields North of Green Lane	9.6	A,B	1.5	2	2	1	3	3	3
3	Footpaths between Green Lane and the Church, part of the Glevum Way	Na	C,D,E	4	1	1	2	1	1	2
4	Open fields along North West side of Church Lane	41.4	C,D	3.5	3	3	4	2	5	1
5	Area surrounding the village pond	0.1	B	2	1	2	5	3	1	3
6	The Village Green around the Millennium Stone	1	B	2	2	1	4	3	2	2
7	The open fields bordered between Sticky Lane and the North boundary of the Quedgeley West Business Park.	26.4	C,D	3.5	3	4	4	3	4	2
8	Four Mile Elm allotments	3	D,E	4.5	2	2	2	3	3	2
9a	Open fields behind dwellings on South East side of Church Lane	5.1	C,D	3.5	2	3	2	1	3	1
9b	Open fields behind dwellings on South East side of Church Lane	31.6	C,D	3.5	2	2	2	1	5	1
10	Open fields North of Shorn Brook on east side of Church Lane, North of Red House opposite Elmlea House	7.8	B,C	2.5	3	5	4	2	3	3
11a	Open fields South of Green Lane	18.5	B,C	2.5	3	4	4	2	4	2
11b	Open space leased by Hardwicke Rangers Football Club	4.1	B,C	2.5	3	3	1	3	3	4
12	Canal towpaths		C,D,E	4	1	1	2	1	1	1
13	East of B4008 behind Old Police Station	2.3	C	3	3	5	4	5	3	4

14	Open green area between Oak Tree Close and St Nicholas Court	0.5	A	1	4	3	4	3	2	3
15	Green verges between the Village Pond and Village Hall		B	2	4	4	5	4	1	5
16	Dales Wharf promenade and surrounding green space	0.8	C	3	1	1	2	1	2	2
17	Dimore Brook corridor		A,B	1.5	3	3	4	3	1	3
18	Play area and surrounding open space at Dales Wharf	1.5	C	3	3	3	2	2	2	4
19	Open space alongside Dimore Brook between in wharf area and Fishers	1.2	C	3	3	5		2	2	4
20	Open walkway between Oak tree Close and playing fields	0.4	A	1	3	4		2	1	3
21	Open space in Dimore Close	0.1	A	1	4	3	3	3	1	3
22	Open space between Dales Wharf promenade and the Dimore Brook crossing	3	C,D	3.5	2	2	3	1	3	2
23	Oak tree at junction of Elmgrove Road East and Cornfield Drive		A	1	5	4	5	3	1	3
24	Open field between Ashgrove Close and Elmgrove Road East	1.3	A	1	3	3	3	2	2	3
25	Old Hardwicke School	0.2	E	5	5	2	5	3	1	2

6.3 Space Assessments

6.3.1 Below are full assessments of each nominated space with a recommendation for the Hardwicke NDP.

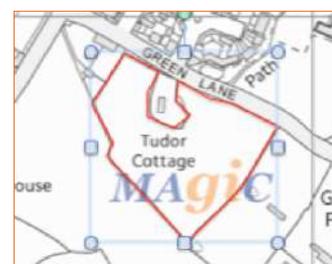
6.3.2 Area 1: Fields behind Tudor Cottage (3.8 acres)

The space is predominantly open grassland enclosed by hedgerows with the Glevum Way public footpath passing through. It is relatively close to the community (0.3mils) and is popular as an area for dog walking children's recreation. The area is aesthetically pleasing with limited beauty and little historical significance. It has recreational potential and is often used by children as an informal play area. The hedgerows enclosing the area provide a good level of tranquillity with attributes and features that encourage wildlife. The ecological assessment shows the space as being important in the distribution of songbirds and bats. An adjacent grade II listed

thatched cottage enhances its local character and the space provides a suitable context and backdrop for the cottage. The space is not an extensive tract of land.

The space cannot be deemed as exceptional but it is of significantly important amenity space to the Hardwicke Community.

Map Source: MAGIC



The nominated space does meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' but is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore

recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Significantly Important to the Hardwicke Community**.

6.3.3 Area 2: Recreational and playing fields North of Green Lane (9.6 acres)

Map Source: MAGIC

This area is the only formally recognised Parish Council maintained recreation facilities in Hardwicke. The area is maintained grassland with recreational markings, facilities and equipment. At 0.2mils from the centre of the community it is relatively close and used by several local clubs including a well-supported and renowned annual 6-a side tournament hosted by Hardwicke Rangers. Facilities include an external gym; barrier enclosed full size football pitch; two small (junior) football pitches; basketball area; two youth shelters and a dedicated car park. The area is adjacent to Hardwicke Village Hall and the Royal British Legion Club.

is invaluable to the community as a recreational centre. The area is of average tranquillity and has attributes that would



substantially support wildlife being listed in the ecological assessment as an important biodiversity space. The adjacent Village Hall and RBL buildings give it an average level of local character. The space is not an extensive tract of land.

The space is used extensively by the community for numerous organised and casual recreations and is seen as the most important recreational space in Hardwicke. The area is aesthetically very pleasing with outlooks S-E over the fields to the Cotswold escarpment. Its importance to the community gives it a very high local historical significance. It

The nominated space meets NPPF criteria; is considered 'exceptional'; is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated **Local Green Space** to provide additional protection to that provided by its local recreational space designation.

6.3.4 Area 3: Footpaths between Green Lane and the Church, part of the Glevum Way

Map Source: MAGIC

The Glevum Way is a 24mile route around the outskirts of the City of Gloucester. It was devised by the Gloucester Ramblers Group as part of the Ramblers Association Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The Hardwicke section enters the Parish from the North alongside the Gloucester-Sharpness canal, turning East halfway through the Parish before heading exiting North alongside the A38.



Through this area the Glevum Way starts at Green Lane heading south until turning east at the crossroads with the E-W public footpath, exiting into area 7. At the junction the nominated footpath continues south to Hardwicke Church. The footpath provides a popular alternative route between the urban area of Hardwicke and the Church with its northernmost point approximately 0.3mils from the

centre of the community. The path passes through open grassland and farmland with panoramic views to the Cotswold Escarpment AONB. The path facilitates views of the Church whilst passing close to the rear of several grade II listed thatched cottages that form part of the original Hardwicke. The path finishes at the grade I listed Parish Church of St Nicholas. The path is not an excessive tract of land.

Being some distance from main roads and surrounded by open space gives the area a very tranquil aura. The path passes through a mix of hedgerows, trees, open grassland and farmland providing access to an ideal environment for wildlife. The ecological assessment shows the space around the path as being important in the distribution of songbirds and bats with three important sightings of a rare and protected species recorded in 2014. It also records rare butterflies and bats at Beardsmead, a key and important site for bio-diversity.

The path is used for many recreational pursuits including walking, hiking, dog-walking, etc. The open aspect and views from the path is considered one of the most beautiful areas in the Parish, building a local historical significance as an amenity area.

The nominated space meets NPPF criteria; is considered 'exceptional' by way of its high amenity and ecological value plus being part of the Glevum Way; is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended that the footpath plus one metre either side of its centreline is included in the NDP as designated **Local Green Space** for the benefit of the Hardwicke community.

6.3.5 Area 4: Open fields along North West side of Church Lane, 41.4 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

Approximately 0.3mls from the centre of the community this area is farmland with limited public access. The area itself is aesthetically pleasing with average beauty that can only be appreciated from inside the boundary; unfortunately hedgerows block views from Church Lane. The area provides views over the canal and is directly adjacent to it. The area is next to an historic orchard and provides a contextual backdrop to several Grade II listed buildings including the oldest building in Hardwicke, The Old Hall. This gives the area an average historical significance and little recreational value. The hedgerows separating the area from Church Lane affords the area a high level of tranquillity whilst promoting wildlife in the area. The ecological assessment designates it as an area of significant ecological value that contributes to rare and protected species, particularly bats and songbirds.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' but due to its significant ecological value and location adjacent to the canal it is of considerable importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space of significant importance to the Hardwicke community.**

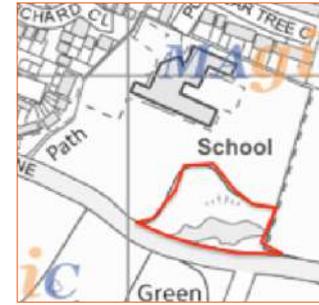


6.3.6 Area 5: Area surrounding the village pond, 0.1 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This small area around the village pond is one of the best-known features in Hardwicke. The nominated area is approximately 0.25mls from the centre of the community and includes the wildlife area used by Hardwicke school for wildlife education. The pond area is aesthetically pleasing giving it a high level of beauty. Seen as an integral part of part of the village centre around the recreation fields the area has significant local historical significance though limited recreational value. The area is fairly tranquil and rich in wildlife; the pond and the school wildlife area each being identified in the ecological assessment as important biodiversity space. The area is relatively small and reflects the rural local character of Hardwicke.

The nominated space meets NPPF criteria; is considered 'exceptional' as the only pond with public access in the area; is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated **Local Green Space** for the benefit of the Hardwicke community.



6.3.7 Area 6: The Village Green around the Millennium Stone, 1 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

Approximately 0.27mls from the centre of the community this maintained open grass area alongside Sticky Lane is known as Hardwicke Green. The dedicated bench and large stone monument laid to celebrate the millennium indicates its importance to the community. Its use for public events is restricted by the adjacent large recreation area therefore it is unlikely to pass the requirements as a registered Village Green.

The nominated space meets NPPF criteria; being historically designated as the Village Green and hosting several Community artefacts this open space is considered 'exceptional'; is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated **Local Green Space** for the benefit of the Hardwicke community.



The area has a level of beauty with views of the Cotswold escarpment with a high historical significance locally. British History Online states '...In 1699 there were c. 5 houses grouped around three sides of a rectangular green, with a minor road, Green Lane, forming the fourth and northern side c. 1840 a few farmers had been turning out sheep on it...'

Though the space has limited recreational value it is relatively tranquil and provides a rich environment for wildlife to thrive. The area is far from extensive and typifies the character of Hardwicke being adjacent to the grade II listed cottages mentioned earlier, Green Farm and views over the escarpment.

6.3.8 Area 7: The open fields bordered between Sticky Lane and the North boundary of the Quedgeley West Business Park., 26.4 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

The area is open farmland with a footpath connecting Sticky Lane with the A38 adjacent to the allotments and another running along its border with the allotments heading towards Church Lane just north of the church. The space is typical of a rolling agricultural plain, relatively flat, large regular shaped fields with views across the fields of the Parish Church tower. The northern most part of the area is approximately 0.4mls from the centre of the community. It has pleasing aesthetics with a modicum of beauty including views over the Cotswold escarpment. The space has little historical significance or recreational value, its vicinity to the busy A38 spoiling its tranquillity. Potentially rich in wildlife the space is in an area identified in the ecological assessment as containing the rare and protected water vole.

The area does reflect the rural local character of Hardwicke but is an extensive tract of land.



The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' but due to its designation as an area of significant ecological value in the ecological appraisal and its proximity to the community it is considered important to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated **Open Space Important to the Hardwicke Community**.

6.3.9 Area 8: Four Mile Elm allotments, 3 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

Owned and managed by Hardwicke Court estate the Hardwicke allotment is on land named Four Mile Elm approximately 0.6mls from the centre of the community.

The Hardwicke Elm stood by the roadside until felled in the early 19th century. Historically it was the location of the smithy. The land was not allocated on an early 1886 map but was on a 1903 map. This gives the area a local historical significance. The space has a natural beauty supplemented by views over the Cotswold escarpment and an outlook beyond the trees into the open fields in area 8 above.

The allotment is of the highest recreational value and importance to the Hardwicke community and whilst its level of tranquillity is limited by being adjacent to the A38 the areas furthest away can be very tranquil. Teeming with wildlife the allotments is recorded as being an important bio-diversity site with sightings of rare and protected species. Due to its location and being a productive rural space the area projects the character of Hardwicke. The area is a relatively small space.

The nominated space meets NPPF criteria; is considered 'exceptional' for being the only allotment area in the Parish; is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated **Local Green Space**.



6.3.10 **Area 9: Open fields behind dwellings on South East side of Church Lane, 36.7 acres** Map Source: MAGIC

Area 9 has two distinctive areas that is likely to result in differing evaluations if assessed independently. For this reason area 9 has been broken into two parts as shown on the map. The revised boundaries reflect land use rather than set boundaries and also results in a change to adjacent area 10.



Area 9a is the North part of the original area 9 and subsumes a small part of area 10 to provide continuity of land use. Area 9b is the remaining area of original area 9.

Area 9a – This tract of land surrounds the footpath nomination in area 3 that is part of the Glevum Way. The N-S footpath is part of a local route between the urban area of Hardwicke and the Church as an alternative to Church Lane. The area is open amenity grassland with views of the Cotswold AONB and forms part of the rolling agricultural plain with large regular shaped fields and views across the fields of the Parish Church tower. This area is well known by the community for strolling or walking.

The northern end of the area is approx. 0.4mls from the centre of the community and has a natural beauty with views over the Cotswold escarpment. By association the Glevum Way gives this area some local historical significance and its recreational potential to the community is high. The area is away from roads and surrounded by open areas providing it an exceptionally tranquil feeling. The mix of open grassland alongside a running brook results in an abundance of wildlife in the area. The ecological assessment identifies the area as having numerous rare and protected species including bats, songbirds and butterflies.

The relatively small area is open landscape and views that epitomise the local character of Hardwicke.

The nominated space meets NPPF criteria; is considered 'exceptional'; is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated **Local Green Space**.

Area 9b – The N-S footpath from area 9a continues through this area down to St Nicholas Church completing the alternative local route between the urban area of Hardwicke and the Church. The space is typical of a rolling agricultural plain, relatively flat, large regular shaped fields with views across the fields of the Parish Church tower. The area is virtually all arable farmland with views of the Cotswold AONB. The footpath is popular for strolling or walking.

The northern end of the area is approx. 0.5mls from the centre of the community and provides a scenic landscape that reflects the rural character of Hardwicke. The area has limited recreational potential but provides an exceptionally tranquil feeling. The ecological assessment identifies the area as having numerous rare and protected species including bats, songbirds and butterflies.

The open landscape and views epitomises the local character of Hardwicke.

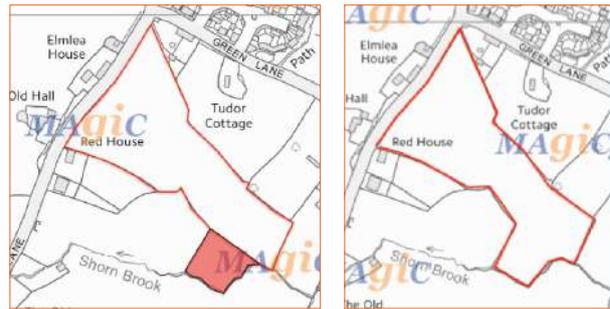
The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria for designation as Local Green Space as it is too large; but is of importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Significantly Important to the Hardwicke Community**

6.3.11 Area 10: Open fields North of Shorn Brook on east side of Church Lane, North of Red House opposite Elmlea House, 7.8 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

Area 10 has two distinctive areas that are opposites in function and therefore are likely to result in differing evaluations if assessed independently. For this reason area 10 has been broken into two parts; the shaded area in the bottom right of the map, is now evaluated as part of area 9a.

This space is farmland with the Glevum Way footpath running N-S across it. Whilst the N-W half of the area is slightly nondescript the S-E half hosts the footpath and provides access to the important area to its south along with views of the Cotswold escarpment. The area is approximately 0.3mls from the centre of the community and is of average aesthetic beauty with little historical significance. Recreational value is limited but it does have the nationally recognised Glevum Way running through it. The area offers long views south to Hardwicke Church across the open fields to its setting against the countryside. It is a tranquil space with considerable wildlife, the ecological assessment identifying it as potentially having rare and protected species such as bats and songbirds.



The area reflects the character of Hardwicke and is not an extensive tract of land.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' but its ecological importance, views across open countryside nationally recognised footpath makes it an area important to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Important to the Hardwicke Community**.

6.3.12 Area 11: Open fields South of Green Lane, 22.6 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

Area 11 has two distinctive areas that are opposites in function and therefore could result in differing evaluations if assessed independently. For this reason area 11 has been broken into two parts; the shaded area in the top right of the map, now designated 11a, and the remaining open fields are designated area 11a.

Area 11a – Used as farmland this area is approximately 0.27mls from the centre of the community. The space reflects the rolling agricultural plain character of the area with relatively flat, large regular shaped fields with an outlook towards the Parish Church tower. It has a public footpath running diagonally from bottom left to top right. The area has limited use as public amenity however it does enable views of the Cotswold escarpment from the Hardwicke recreational area across Green Lane important to the community.

The area is of average beauty with little historical significance locally and has limited recreational value.

The area is obscured externally on most sides by substantial hedges, buildings and trees that enhance its tranquillity. The area



is good for wildlife with the ecological assessment recording two rare and protected species sightings in 2014. The area does reflect the rural local character of Hardwicke but at 17.6 acres is too large a tract of land to be designated as Local Green Space in accordance with the NPPF.

Nevertheless its role in enabling important open views of the Cotswold escarpment makes it of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Significantly Important to the Hardwicke Community**.

Area 11b – This part of area 11 is leased by Hardwicke Rangers Football Club from the Hardwicke Court estate. The 4 acres is used as their home ground and includes changing facilities and a car park. The space is used by numerous levels of the football club and is extensively used in the football season. The public footpath running diagonally across area 11a continues across this area exiting on the Bristol Road. The area is approximately 0.32mls from the centre of the community. Obscured on all sides by trees the area has limited natural beauty with historical significance locally due to its recreational use. Due to its role as a local football pitch the area has substantial recreational value. It is fairly tranquil with

attributes that support wildlife with the ecological assessment recording two rare and protected species sightings in 2014. The area is relatively small in size.

Its use Hardwicke Rangers Football Club as its home makes this space of significant importance to the Community as well as adding to the character of Hardwicke.

The nominated space does meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed ‘exceptional’ but is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Significantly Important to the Hardwicke Community**.

6.3.13 Area 12: Canal towpaths

The Gloucester-Sharpness call has been a major feature of Hardwicke since its opening in 1827. (extract from Canal and River Trust website – ‘... The Gloucester & Sharpness Canal was once the broadest and deepest in the world. Even today, it stands out from other navigations because of its sheer scale and impressive engineering...’)

Approximately 0.4mls from the centre of the community the paths alongside the canal are maintained and protected by the Canal and River Trust. The paths are extensively used for recreation, dog walking, cycling, running, strolling, relaxation and viewing canal traffic extensively. The paths have some beautiful scenes with historical significance at National and local level (extract from Canal and River Trust website – ‘... The Gloucester & Sharpness Canal was once the broadest and deepest in the world. Even today, it stands out from other navigations because of its sheer scale and impressive engineering...’). As mentioned earlier the area provides invaluable recreational facilities with its aesthetics and general demeanour ensuring a tranquillity that can be enjoyed by all. Recognised by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust as a key wildlife site due to invertebrate interest the floodplain grassland/priority habitat area

alongside canal is identified in the ecological evidence as areas likely to contain bats. The canal habitat corridor is identified in the Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory v1 2013. The area



encompasses the local characteristics of Hardwicke with the additional element of linking its past to the present.

The nominated space does meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed ‘exceptional’ but is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Significantly Important to the Hardwicke Community**.

6.3.14 Area 13: East of B4008 behind Old Police Station, 2.3 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This is an area of open sparse woodland set back from the B4008 with limited access to the public approximately 0.4mls from the centre of the community. The area is of average beauty with no known historical significance locally. It has limited recreational value, its tranquillity is somewhat spoiled by it being adjacent to the A38 road. It is a generally good environment for wildlife with the Hardwicke NDP ecological assessment reports three sightings of rare and protected species including water vole. Apart from its rural aspect the space has few local characteristics.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' and is not considered important to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore **NOT** recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated Open Space.

However it is designated as an area of significant ecological value within the ecological appraisal.



6.3.15 Area 14: Open green area between Oak Tree Close and St Nicholas Court, 0.5 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This is an area of amenity grassland providing open green space in a built up area. It is used for dog walking and as an informal children play area (evidenced by the rope swing in the horse chestnut tree).

The area is just 0.1mls from the centre of the community and whilst it is a relatively plain area it has some informal local historical significance. Recreational value is limited due to its location but it has attributes supportive of wildlife. The area is tranquil and is conducive to encouraging wildlife. The space is one of many such areas and is typical of

Hardwicke urban area character.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria;

is not deemed

'exceptional'; but is of importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Important to the Hardwicke Community**.



6.3.16 Area 15: Green verges between the Village Pond and Village Hall

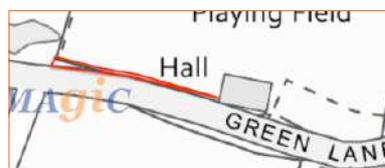
Map Source: MAGIC

Along the North side of Green Lane approximately 0.25mls from the centre of the community are small grass verges running from the pond area (area 5) to the entrance of the Village Hall car park. Dogs use the verges as they pass but they have no recreational value themselves.

The area is relatively plain, has little historical significance and no recreational value. Its tranquillity is spoiled by Green Lane that now has a traffic flow beyond its remit due to it being identified as a "quickest route" by satellite navigation systems. It is an area that supports wildlife but its wildlife population is restricted by the closeness of the busy road and the activity on the recreational area it is adjacent to. Due

to its restricted amenity value to the Hardwicke community it is recommended that this nominated area is not included in the Hardwicke NDP.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' and is not considered important to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore **NOT** recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated Open Space.



6.3.17 Area 16: Dales Wharf promenade and surrounding green space, 0.8 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

Approximately 0.4mls from the centre of the community this area is the original wharf that served an oil depot opened in 1960 by Shell Mex & BP. Located to the north of Sellars Bridge with storage tanks for a wide range of petroleum products deliveries were initially by tanker barges and later by coastal tankers. The depot closed in 1985, and only the wharf used by the tankers remains. The storage tanks have been replaced by Dales Wharf housing estate. Some of the roads on the estate are named after some of the barges that called here. Two of these, Wastdale and Arkendale, were involved in a collision that destroyed the old Severn railway bridge in thick fog in 1960.

The promenade area has a number of public benches along its length with a large grass verge between the promenade and the gardens. The area is extremely well known in the community and is popular for relaxing, walking, dog walking, feeding duck/swans, watching boats on canal, etc.

The North end of the area leads into area 22 that has an un-adopted connecting pathway between Quedgeley canal path and the Hardwicke canal path using the weir to cross Dimore Brook.

The area is fairly close to the centre of the community and has a beautiful outlook over the canal particularly at sunset. The area has significant historical relevance and has with a high recreational value. It can be a very peaceful and tranquil area providing an important wildlife corridor

between the hedged canal bank path on its South side and the wooded area on its North side. Whilst not typical of the character of Hardwicke (rural, open space, farmed land, etc) the unique feature of the Parish has become part of the local character of Hardwicke. The area is relatively small in size.

The nominated space meets NPPF criteria; is considered 'exceptional' due to its significant historical relevance and its unique quay feature; is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated **Local Green Space**.



6.3.18 Area 17: The green area defining the boundary between Quedgeley and Hardwicke

Map Source: MAGIC

Dimore Brook forms the north boundary of the Hardwicke Parish. Either side of the brook is a small area of grassland that forms a Dimore Brook corridor. 0.5mls from the centre of the community the area is used for dog walking and play by children where access is available. The space is of average beauty, little historical significance (except as the Parish boundary) with limited recreational value. The tranquillity of the space is broken by the adjacent Field Court Drive however the area is good for wildlife, the Dimore Brook corridor being identified in the ecological assessment as being an important biodiversity open space. The area is not extensive.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria; is not deemed 'exceptional'; but is of importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character

of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Important to the Hardwicke Community**.



6.3.19 Area 18: Play area and surrounding open space at Dales Wharf, 1.5 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This space is open amenity maintained grassland containing two enclosed children's playgrounds. The area provides important open green space in the centre of Dales Wharf built up area. Approximately 0.4mls from the community centre (but centrally located within the Dales Wharf estate) the space is aesthetically pleasing with tenuous local historical significance as it is on the previous oil refinery site mentioned in area 16. The space has a high recreational and tranquillity value to the community with average wildlife support. The space is one of many such areas and is typical of Hardwicke urban area character. The space is relatively small in size.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria; is not deemed 'exceptional'; but is of importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Important to the Hardwicke Community.**



6.3.20 Area 19: Open space alongside Dimore Brook between in wharf area and Fishers, 1.2 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This area of open grassland alongside Dimore Brook encloses a public footpath and is used regularly for walking and dog walking. Approximately 0.4mls from the centre of the community the space is adjacent to the major population area of Dales Wharf. Of It is of average beauty and of no historical significance the area has limited recreational value. The space has attributes that encourages wildlife and the Dimore Brook corridor has been identified in the ecological assessment as an important biodiversity space. This space is an extension of the corridor in this area. This is a relatively small tract of open grassland next to one of three brooks in Hardwicke that contributes to the definition of the character of Hardwicke. It also

provides continuity of the boundary demarcation identified in the adjacent space in area 17.



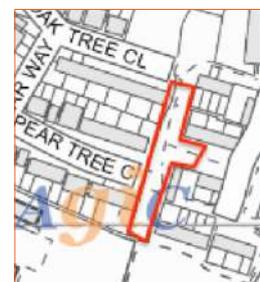
The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria; is not deemed 'exceptional'; but is of importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Important to the Hardwicke Community.**

6.3.21 Area 20: Open walkway between Oak tree Close and playing fields, 0.4 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This open space forms a tree-lined pedestrian avenue connecting area 20 with area 2. The area is within 0.1ml of the community centre with aesthetically pleasing views onto the recreation area. The space has little historical significance or recreational value but is fairly tranquil despite being adjacent to a housing estate. Foot traffic reduces the level of wildlife support to just average however the space does provide a wildlife corridor between the two other open spaces. The row of mature trees is a well-known feature of Hardwicke. The area is typical of Hardwicke urban thoroughfares and is not an extensive tract of land.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' and is not considered important to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore **NOT** recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated Open Space.



6.3.22 Area 21: Open space in Dimore Close, 0.1 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This space is open maintained grassland with a hedgerow along one side and enclosed by gardens and buildings on the other edges with a public footpath running through it. The space is at the centre of the community providing important open green space in the middle of the main urban area of Hardwicke. Whilst of limited beauty it does have some historical significance as it was part of the '... habitual fox-run from Quedgeley Gorse to Hardwicke Gorse...' mentioned in the Hardwicke entry of the British History Online website. The space has an important local recreational function as the smaller verges and grass areas locally are 'No Ball Playing' areas designated by the Hardwicke Parish Council leaving this as the only public recreation space in the area. The space is relatively tranquil despite its being enclosed in an estate. The mix of grassland and hedgerow provides an average wildlife support environment however the ecological assessment records the sighting of a rare or protected species in October 2014. The space is one of many such areas

and is typical of Hardwicke urban area character. The space is relatively small in size.

The space does not meet NPPF criteria nor is it deemed 'exceptional' however it does fulfil an important role in the Hardwicke Community and reflects the character of 'urban' Hardwicke.

It is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as Open Space of Important to the Hardwicke Community.

The nominated space does meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional'; but due to its recreational role it is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Significantly Important to the Hardwicke Community**.



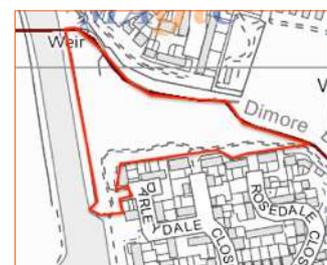
6.3.23 Area 22: Open space between Dales Wharf promenade and the Dimore Brook crossing, 3 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This triangular piece of land formed by the Gloucester-Sharpness canal, Dimore Brook and the housing edge in Dales Wharf is approximately 0.5mls from the centre of the community. The public footpath running along the south side has extended verges on its north side consisting of maintained grassland whilst the remaining area is mainly of thick bushes/trees /hedgerow with a small patch of open grassland around the weir. An unofficial path passes through the thicket area joining the adopted footpath along the south side of the area to the weir on the north extremity of the area. This has developed as a shortcut to the adopted metalled canal footpath on the Quedgeley side of Dimore Brook. The space has a high aesthetic value giving it a high level of beauty. Its setting alongside the canal and adjacent to the wharf gives it some historical significance and the footpaths give it some recreational value. It is a tranquil space with its variety

of landscape in a small area providing excellent support for wildlife. Its northernmost boundary forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting Quedgeley canal side with the Dimore Brook corridor that is identified in the ecological assessment as being an important biodiversity site. Whilst it is not the smallest piece of land it is not seen as extensive and reflects the rural characteristics of Hardwicke.

The nominated space meets NPPF criteria and is deemed 'exceptional' and is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Local Green Space**.

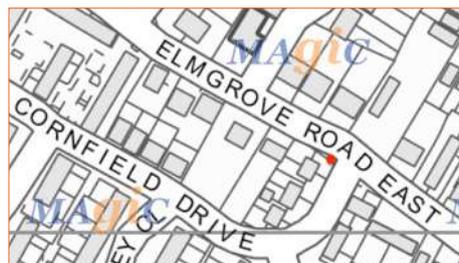


6.3.24 Area 23: Oak tree at junction of Elmgrove Road East and Cornfield Drive, acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This area is in fact an oak tree therefore cannot be realistically considered as an Open Space.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' and is not considered important to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore **NOT** recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated Open Space.



6.8.24 Area 24: Open field between Ashgrove Close and Elmgrove Road East, 1.3 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

This space is open maintained grassland with three bushes and a small embankment on three of its sides. Enclosed by local housing the area provides important open green space in the main urban area of Hardwicke. Approximately 100yds from the centre of the community. It is a favourite area for youngsters to meet and socialise due to the privacy provided by being surrounded by rear gardens rather than the houses themselves. The area is designated as a no dog fouling area however the signage is worn and barely legible, consequently it is used by many for dog walking. Whilst of limited beauty, like area 21, it does have some historical significance as it was part of the '...habitual fox-run from Quedgeley Gorse to Hardwicke Gorse...' mentioned in the Hardwicke entry of the British History Online website. The space is used for strolling, dog walking, play area for children and social area for youngsters therefore has

an important local recreational function. The space is tranquil with attributes to support an average wildlife population. The space is relatively small.



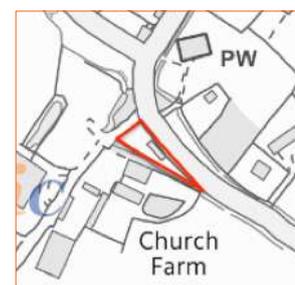
The nominated space does meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional'; but due to its extensive use as a local community amenity it is of significant importance to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. The space is therefore recommended for inclusion in the NDP as **Open Space Significantly Important to the Hardwicke Community.**

6.3.25 Area 25: Old Hardwicke School, 0.2 acres

Map Source: MAGIC

Records show that the school was founded in a new single story brick building, c. 1840. In 1847 when there were 63 children in boys' and girls' departments each with a teacher, T. B. Ll. Baker met the whole expense. The family still owned the building when the new Hardwicke Parochial School opened in 1967. The area is pre-dominantly the brick building itself.

The nominated space does not meet NPPF criteria, is not deemed 'exceptional' and is not considered important to the Hardwicke Community and/or the character of Hardwicke Parish. It is therefore **NOT** recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated Open Space.



6.4 Assessment results summary

6.4.1 The following areas are recommended for inclusion in the NDP as Local Green Space

- Area 2 - Recreational and playing fields North of Green Lane
- Area 3 - Footpaths between Green Lane and the Church, part of the Glevum Way
- Area 5 - Area surrounding Hardwicke Village Pond
- Area 6 - The Village Green around the Millennium Stone
- Area 8 - Four Mile Elm allotments
- Area 9a – North end of open fields behind dwellings on South East side of Church Lane
- Area 16 - Dales Wharf promenade and surrounding green space
- Area 22 - Open space between Dales Wharf promenade and the Dimore Brook crossing

6.4.2 The following area is recommended for inclusion in the NDP as Open Space of Significant Importance to the Hardwicke Community

- Area 1 - Fields behind Tudor Cottage
- Area 4 - Open fields along North West side of Church Lane
- Area 9b – South end of open fields behind dwellings on South East side of Church Lane
- Area 11a - Open fields South of Green Lane
- Area 11b - Open fields South of Green Lane (area leased to Hardwicke Rangers FC)
- Area 12 - Canal towpaths
- Area 21 - Open space in Dimore Close
- Area 24 - Open field between Ashgrove Close and Elmgrove Road East

6.4.3 The following area is recommended for inclusion in the NDP as Open Space of Importance to the Hardwicke Community

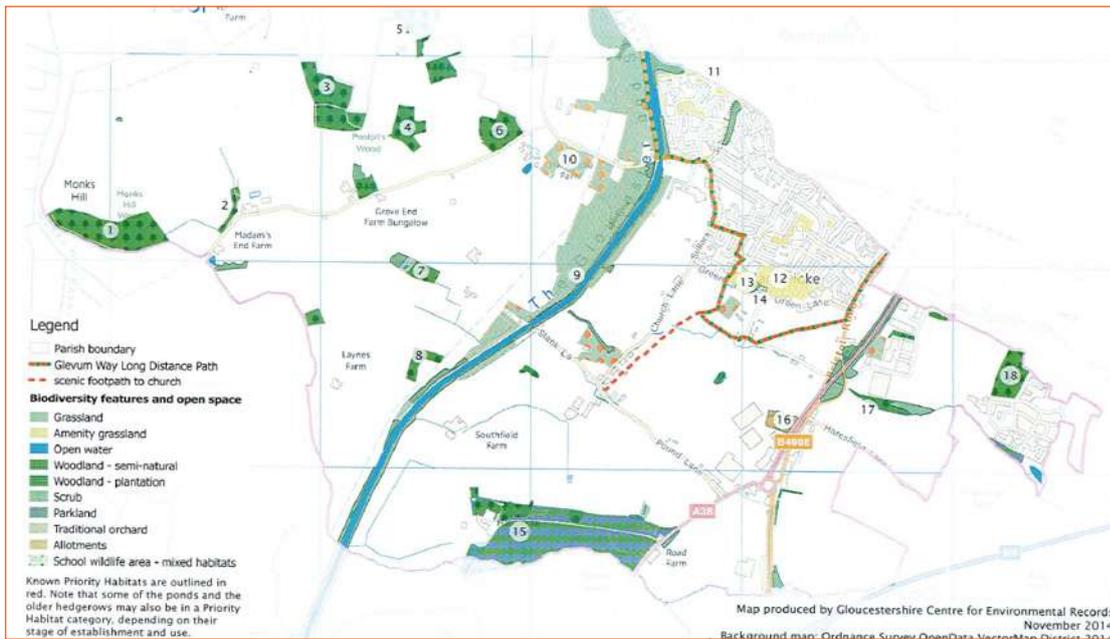
- Area 14 - Open green area between Oak Tree Close and St Nicholas Court
- Area 17 - The green belt defining the boundary between Quedgeley and Hardwicke
- Area 18 - Play area and surrounding open space at Dales Wharf
- Area 19 - Open space alongside Dimore Brook between wharf area and Fishers

7. Ecologically Important Spaces

7.1 Whilst this assessment concentrates on spaces identified as being important to the Hardwicke Community there are professional organisations who identify and protect areas of ecological importance. These are assessed in the Hardwicke Parish Ecological Assessment but included here for completeness.

7.2 Natural England was the subject matter expert for the assessment and the Ecological Assessment identified eighteen areas of important bio-diversity and open space features. The areas are listed in the table below and shown on the map taken from the Ecological Assessment.

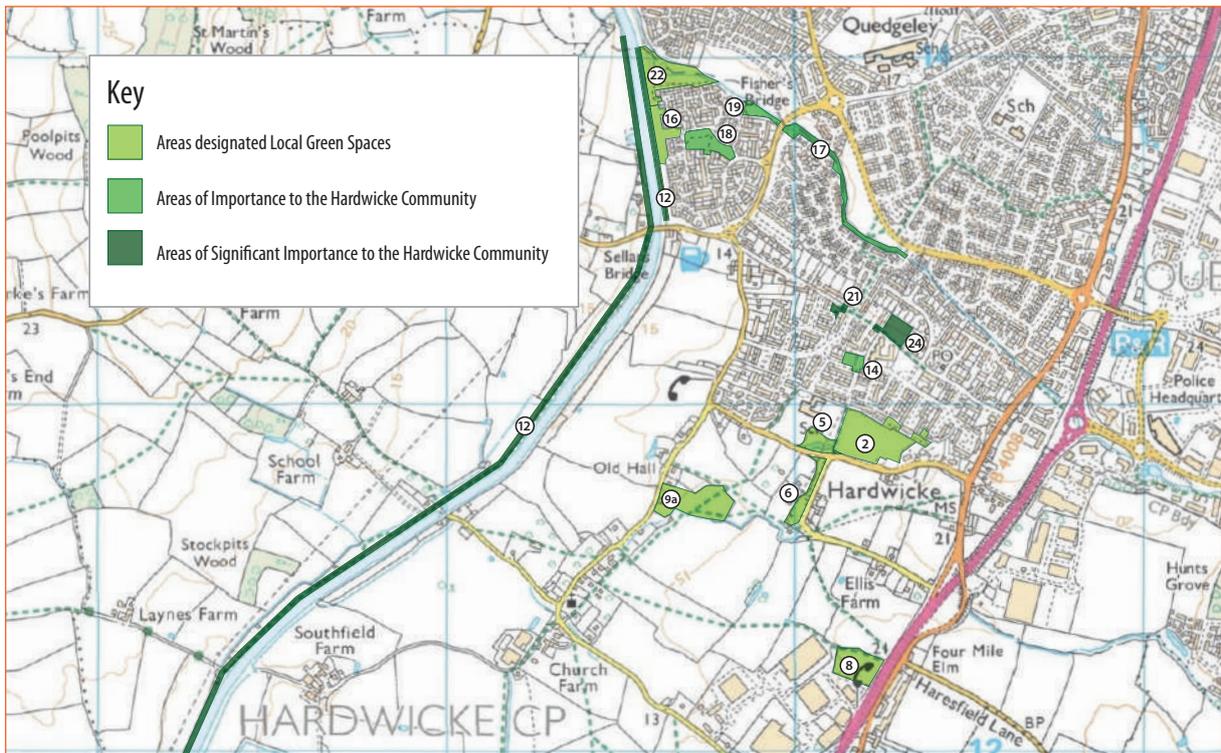
Area	Location	Originators	Reason
1	Monks Hill Wood	Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Priority Habitat
2	Strip wood adjacent to Clarks Farm	Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Priority Habitat
3	Poolpits Wood	Natural England AWI and Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Ancient woodland, Priority Habitat, KWS
4	Ash Bed	Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Priority Habitat
5	Hockley Wood and The Quobs	Natural England AWI and Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Ancient woodland, Priority Habitat, KWS
6	Hardwicke Farm Covert	Natural England AWI and Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Ancient woodland, Priority Habitat, KWS
7	Fishers Wood	Natural England AWI and Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Ancient woodland, Priority Habitat, KWS
8	Stockpits Wood	Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Priority Habitat
9	Canal Habitat Corridor	Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Priority Habitat
10	Hardwicke Farm Orchards	Peoples Trust for Endangered Species 2014 GIS Data	Priority Habitat
11	Dimore Brook Corridor	Bing Online Aerial Photography 2012-2014	
12	Hardwicke Primary School Playing Field	Ordnance Survey Opendata 'VectorMap Local'	
13	Hardwicke Primary School Wildlife Area	Ordnance Survey Opendata 'VectorMap Local'	
14	Hardwicke Village Pond	Ordnance Survey Opendata 'VectorMap Local'	
15	Hardwicke Court	Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Priority Habitat
16	Four Mile Elm Allotments	Bing Online Aerial Photography 2012-2014	
17	Shorn Brook Corridor	Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Priority Habitat
18	Hunts Grove	Natural England Priority Habitat Inventory 2013	Priority Habitat



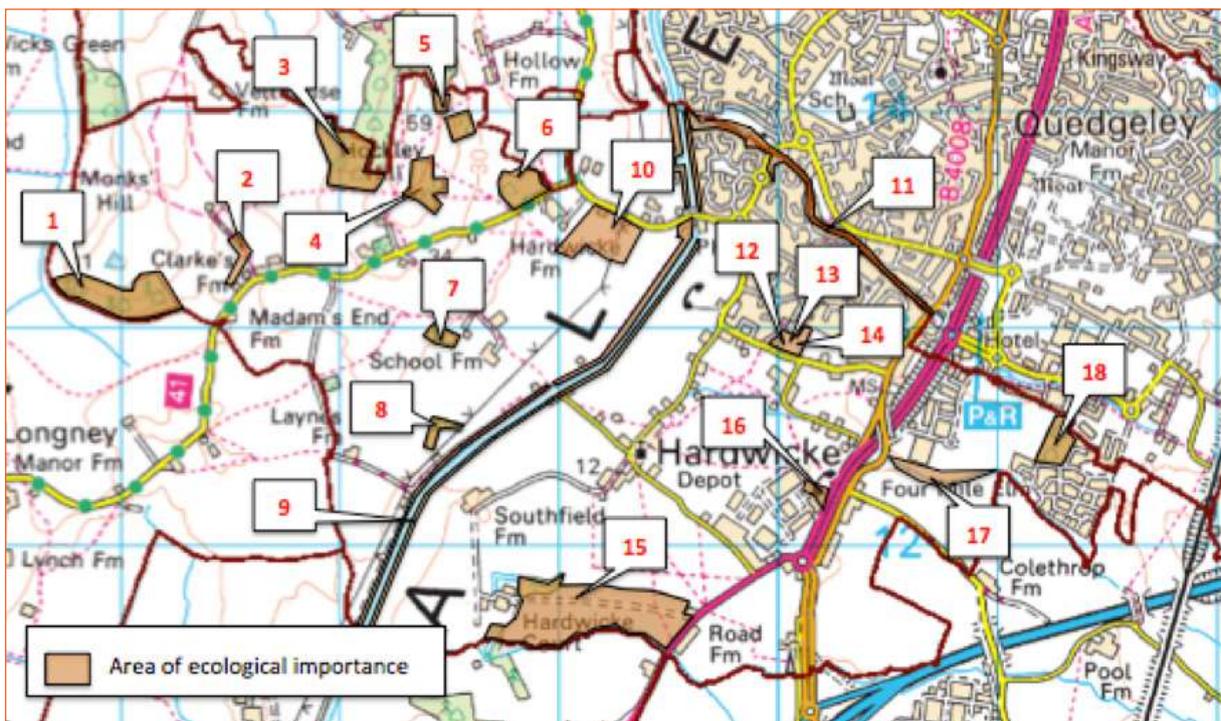
Map 5: Map of Ecological Important Spaces in Hardwicke – Taken from Ecological Assessment

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The Hardwicke Community identified the open spaces in the Hardwicke Parish that were important to them at several events between March 2014 and April 2015. These were identified on maps in various forms to suit the various needs of readers. A consolidated list of 25 open space nominations were assessed against NPPF criteria as being either eligible for Local Green Space or Open Space Important to the Hardwicke Community.
- 8.2 18 additional spaces were identified by the Ecological Assessment. These are identified to provide a consolidated view of important spaces in Hardwicke, see map 7 below.
- 8.3 The following areas are recommended for inclusion in the NDP as designated Local Green Spaces
- Area 2 - Recreational and playing fields North of Green Lane
 - Area 5 - Area surrounding Hardwicke Village Pond
 - Area 6 - The Village Green around the Millennium Stone
 - Area 8 - Four Mile Elm allotments
 - Area 9a - North end of open fields behind dwellings on South East side of Church Lane
 - Area 16 - Dales Wharf promenade and surrounding green space
 - Area 22 - Open space between Dales Wharf promenade and the Dimore Brook crossing
- 8.4 The following areas are recommended for protection in the NDP as Open Space of Significant Importance to the Hardwicke Community
- Area 12 - Canal towpaths
 - Area 21 - Open space in Dimore Close
 - Area 24 - Open field between Ashgrove Close and Elmgrove Road East
- 8.5 The following areas are recommended for protection in the NDP as Open Space of Importance to the Hardwicke Community
- Area 14 - Open green area between Oak Tree Close and St Nicholas Court
 - Area 17 - The green belt defining the boundary between Quedgeley and Hardwicke
 - Area 18 - Play area and surrounding open space at Dales Wharf
 - Area 19 - Open space alongside Dimore Brook between wharf area and Fishers



Map 6: Open space locations recommended for inclusion in the NDP



Map 7: Ecologically Important Spaces