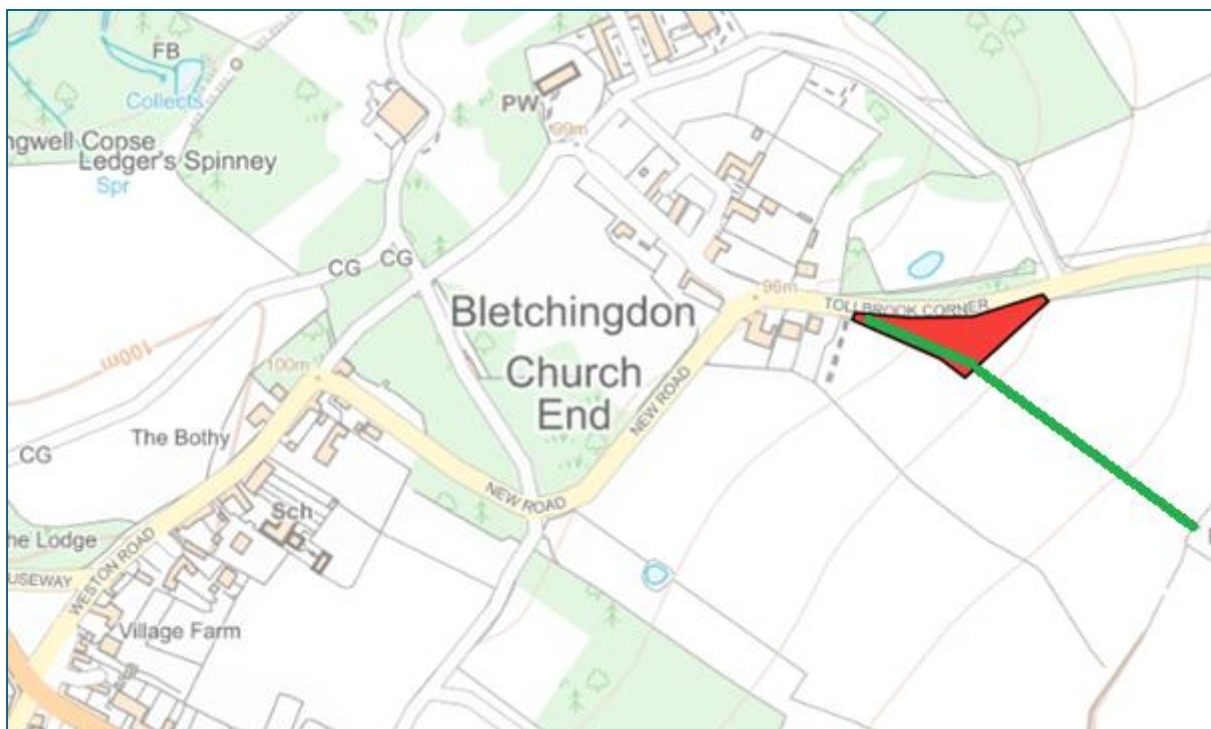


Appendix 7 – Local Green Spaces Assessment

Bletchington and Hampton Gay and Poyle Neighbourhood Plan

Local Green Space 1: Hodgeman's Spinney - Tollbrook Corner, Bletchington



Scale: ----- 50m

Overview and location

Hodgeman's Spinney is generally regarded as a roughly triangular piece of land lying to the south of Tollbrook Corner on the road between Bletchington and Weston on the Green. To the south and east it borders onto a large field. This boundary is marked by a fence. A public footpath, shown in green, passes through the area. It is named after Miss Hodgeman, one time chair of the Parish Council, who planted the land with trees and shrubs some 50 years ago. Actual ownership of the land is unknown, and it does not appear to be registered

with the land registry. The Spinney is at the western end of a belt of trees extending along the side of the road to a depth of approximately 25m before it meets the field boundary. The ownership of this land is also unknown.

The footpath is widely used by local and other walkers and is regularly maintained by volunteers and the Parish Council.



From Google Maps

Photos



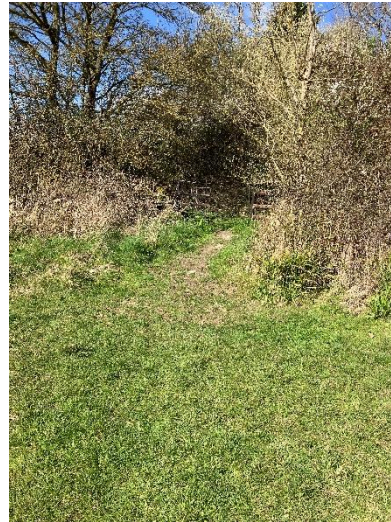
Entrance to
Hodgemans
Spinney from
Tollbrook
corner



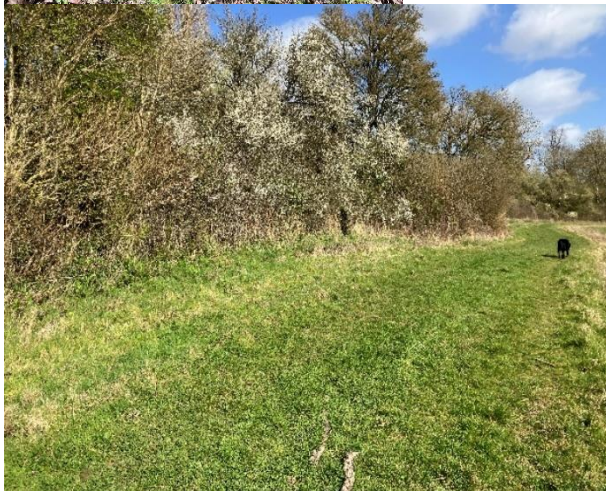
The path
through the
spinney



The spinney including wild daffodils



Spinney entrance from the south east



The spinney from the east



View from the south east. Towards the Chilterns

CHECKLIST AND CRITERIA FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION

1	General Information	Tick if relevant evidence provided
1.1	Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i>	
	Hodgeman's Spinney	
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site. Please indicate the scale.</i>	
	See above	
1.3	Organisation or individual proposing site for designation <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i>	
	Parish Council	
1.4	Ownership of site if known <i>Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry. Some land parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.</i>	
	Unknown	
1.5	Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation? Do they support the designation? (Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners)	
	N/A	
1.6	Photographs of site	
	See above	
1.7	Community served by the potential Local Green Space <i>i.e. does the site serve the whole village/town or a particular geographic area or group of people?</i>	
	The whole village, plus walkers/ visitors from other areas.	

2	Planning History	
2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If permitted/allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	
	No	
2.2	Is the site allocated for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?	
	No	
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space	
3.1	Area of proposed site <i>It is unlikely that a site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered suitable for designation.</i>	
	Approx 1200m²	
3.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? <i>(Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space) e.g. how large is it in comparison to other fields; groups of fields; areas of land in the vicinity etc.? Does the site “feel” extensive or more local in scale?</i>	
	No	
3.3	Is the proposed site “local in character”? <i>e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is your evidence?</i>	
	Site is local in character, harbouring typical local vegetation.	
4	Need for Local Green Space	
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location? <i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible greenspace in the area? Is there a village needs survey or parish plan that provides evidence of that need. Further information – Natural England (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard)</i>	
	Across the communities, there are very few green spaces. Besides the public footpaths there only three areas that could be defined as open spaces. The Village Green, the Allotments, the Sport and Social club field which includes a children’s play area. There is a desire to provide and/ or new green spaces, where possible.	

5	Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves” <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
5.1	How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community? <i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i>	
	Site is within the boundary of the built area of the village <1km from the centre	
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? <i>e.g. railway line; main road</i> <i>Possible evidence – a map to show any potential barriers and how those can be overcome.</i>	
	No	
6	Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community” <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i>	
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>	
6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders <i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i>	
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups	
7	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>beauty</u>,” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	No	

7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.	
7.3	Site visibility <i>e.g. is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there long-distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</i>	
	The site is fully visible from the road. Where vegetation cover allows, there are long vistas to the east.	
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? <i>e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Conservation Area; Special Landscape Area</i>	
	No	
7.5	Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents?	
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?	
	No	
7.7	Is the site highlighted in literature or art? <i>e.g. is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?</i>	
	No	
8	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its <u>historic significance</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
8.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	No	
8.2	Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site? <i>e.g. listed buildings; scheduled ancient monuments ; registered parks and gardens; war memorials; other historic remains or structures.</i>	
8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site? <i>e.g. old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds or historic garden features</i>	

8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? <i>e.g. the old site of the town railway station; the old garden for the manor house etc.</i>	
	No	
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?	
	No	
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>	
	No	
9	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>recreational value</u> (including as a playing field)”, (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
9.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	Yes	
9.2	Is the site used for playing sport? <i>If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports provision? Is this sports provision free or is a club membership required?</i>	
	No	
9.3	Are the public able to physically access the site? <i>e.g. are there any public rights of way across the site? Or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole site or only part? Is there good disabled access to the site? (A site can still be designated even if there is no public access.)</i>	
	Yes. The site is bisected by a public footpath	
9.4	Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? <i>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc.</i>	
	It has been used as a footpath for decades	
10	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its <u>tranquillity</u>” (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	Yes	

10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>	
	Yes. It is bounded on one side by a minor road, on the other sides by open fields	
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</i>	
	No	
11	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for example because of the <u>richness of its wildlife</u>"; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	Yes	
11.2	Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? <i>e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc</i>	
	No	
11.3	Are any important habitats or species found on the site?	
	Black, brown and white letter hairstreak and white admiral butterflies have been observed on or near this site.	
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site?	
	There is a variety of native flora and fauna including wild daffodils.	
11.5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? <i>e.g. long-term monitoring of breeding birds.</i>	
	Not known	
12	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for <u>any other reason</u>"; (if applicable) <i>Please indicate what evidence you have provided against each point.</i>	
12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?	
	Yes	
12.2	Are there any other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?	
	The site was originally planted 40/50 years ago by the Parish Council whose chair was a Ms Hodgeman, hence the name. The site is	

	considered as a memorial to her and her contribution to the village.	
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