



South
Derbyshire
District Council
Community and
Planning Services

South Derbyshire Local Green Space Topic Paper



June 2016

South Derbyshire Changing for the better

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Local Green Space Topic Paper

Purpose of topic Paper

The purpose of this topic paper is to set out what Local Green Spaces are and how the potential for their designation within the Local Plan Part 2 has been explored, including the methodology used for selecting the sites that are being proposed.

Introduction

Local Green Spaces were introduced with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. Whilst Local Green Spaces are not strictly defined as such in the NPPF, paragraph 77 sets out that the designation will not be appropriate for most green areas of open space, rather that “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.”

The NPPF also stipulates that local policy for managing development within Local Green Spaces should be consistent with policy for Green Belts, and that the presumption in favour of sustainable development would not apply in these areas. In areas already designated as Green Belt, proposals for Local Green Space may still be of merit, for instance in helping to steer development away from areas of particular importance to the local community should an exception to the Green Belt policy be required.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states a Local Green Space designation “is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities”. Such areas can include sports pavilions, structures such as war memorials, allotments or urban spaces. Consultation with the local community, which will be undertaken through Part 2 of the Local Plan, will be necessary to gain their input on what they consider of particular importance.

Local Green Spaces can be designated through local plans or neighbourhood plans. The NPPG encourages anyone who wishes to see an area of land designated as Local Green Space to either contact their Local Authority regarding the Local Plan or to get involved in neighbourhood planning. However Local Green Spaces are not a tool to prevent development and the NPPG makes clear that local plans must identify sufficient land in

suitable locations for development. Local Green Spaces are not exclusively for rural areas; areas of green space in towns and cities that are demonstrably special to the surrounding community are equally viable as those in more rural areas.

Proposed areas of Local Green Space may already have unrestricted public access however public access is not a prerequisite for an area to be considered suitable for designation. Areas of land that are particularly valued by the community because of their wildlife or historic significance for example, may need restricted access in order to protect the very thing that makes it valuable. The NPPG makes clear that the designation of land as a Local Green Space “does not in itself confer any rights of public access over what exists at present. Any additional access would be a matter for separate negotiation with land owners, whose legal rights must be respected”. Public rights of way are unaffected by Local Green Space designations. Management of land designated as Local Green Space will remain the responsibility of the landowner.

The NPPG states that Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Should the planning permission be no longer capable of being implemented then the designation of a Local Green Space may be considered, or where the development proposed would be compatible with the designation.

Methodology

Initial approach

In response to the policy and guidance in the NPPF and NPPG respectively, work has been undertaken as part of the drafting of the Local Plan Part 2 seeking out areas of land that meet the criteria for Local Green Spaces. Therefore, each of the sites being proposed for designation for Local Green Space should:

- be demonstrably special to a local community
- hold a particular local significance because of either its:
 - beauty
 - historic significance
 - recreational value
 - tranquillity
 - richness of its wildlife, or
 - other special characteristic identified by the local community.
- not be an extensive tract of land

An important aspect of the process of designating Local Green Spaces is the input from local communities; consultation is the primary mechanism for establishing why an area is demonstrably special to the local community. Secondary evidence, such as that from

Officers within the Council who see how parks and public spaces are used, also helps establish which potential areas of Local Green Space should be taken forward.

The Withdrawn Local Plan, the revised deposit draft of which was published in 2003, set out a policy (ENV8) for 'Land that Contributes towards Character and Environmental Quality'. The premise of this policy was similar to that of Local Green Spaces, in that it sought the protection of areas that were visually or historically important or simply valuable informal open space. The policy did not seek to include sites that were protected by other policies, for example playing fields.

In order to begin the process of Local Green Space designation and determine which spaces should be included in the initial consultation on the Local Plan Part 2, internal consultation was undertaken with two of the Council's officers – the Open Space and Facility Development Manager and the Community Partnership Officer. These Officers have a thorough knowledge of the District at community level and were able to assist in ruling out sites previously proposed under ENV8 and also in suggesting additional sites for consideration on the basis of their recreational use by local communities.

Following this internal consultation, the sites that were put forward for designation under ENV8 in the Withdrawn Plan were revisited in order to help determine their potential suitability for designation as Local Green Space. For the majority of sites physical site visits were undertaken – where this was not possible the sites were appraised with desktop aerial photography and street view. All sites put forward for inclusion as a Local Green Space following the initial consultation will have had a site visit undertaken prior to a final recommendation of designation being put forward. The majority of sites considered suitable under ENV8 in 2003 remained appropriate for potential designation as Local Green Space and were therefore included in the initial Part 2 consultation. Larger open spaces such as playing fields that are protected by other policies were not proposed as Local Green Spaces. Allotments were included as proposed areas of Local Green Space; approximately two thirds of the allotments in the District are not controlled by the Local Authority.

Draft Local Plan Part 2 Stage

During the initial Local Plan Part 2 consultation over sixty areas were suggested by parish councils, community groups and individual respondees for designation as Local Green Space. The principle of the policy itself was widely supported and for varying reasons, for instance for children to play safely, for the protection of environment, wildlife and public enjoyment, for the wellbeing and health of the population, or for preservation of the street scene.

The NPPF however does state that the designation of Local Green Space will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. Whilst adhering to the criteria that follow this statement would provide no fixed upper limit on the number of Local Green Spaces in

any given plan, it is taken to imply that designation would not be typical for an area of open space. The criteria used by the Council to determine which proposed Local Green Spaces to take forward, in addition to those criteria set out in the NPPF, therefore also included whether the area is protected from development by any other means, whether that be another policy in the Local Plan, a covenant retaining the area as public open space or by Fields in Trust, who protect land from development in perpetuity by a Deed of Dedication. This approach reflects the guidance in the NPPG, albeit not always another designation, that “if land is already protected by designation, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space”. Sites that are known to be in either Local Authority or Parish Council ownership are also not being proposed for Local Green Space designation in the Draft Local Plan Part 2; such areas are afforded protection from development by virtue of their ownership and furthermore Sport England would resist the loss of such areas.

Allotments have not been taken forward as proposed Local Green Spaces in the Draft Local Plan Part 2. Allotments are protected by Policy INF9: Open Space, Sport and Recreation, in the Local Plan Part 1.

Land where war memorials are located is cited as being potentially suitable for Local Green Space designation in the NPPG; however, the NPPG in defining what a Local Green Space is states that it “is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.” A modest area around a war memorial, whilst naturally special to a local community, is not considered to need special protection against development. Should a local community feel that their local war memorial’s designation as a Local Green Space is essential, including such a proposal in the Neighbourhood Plan would be the way forward.

The term ‘protection from development’ does not solely mean housing development. Proposed designations ‘Land at junction of Brook Street/Repton Road’ and ‘Land at junction of Manchester Lane and Heath Lane’ (references 124 and 125 respectively) are in the middle of the highway, however the community have cited their importance and would not like to see them lost to general highway works for example.

The sites proposed for designation as Local Green Spaces in the Local Plan Part 2 are either sites that have been suggested by individuals, community groups or parish councils because they are special to the local community, or sites that were supported for designation during the internal consultation by Council Officers specialising in open space and communities, which were subsequently supported by the community through the initial consultation. One site, South of Penn Lane, Melbourne (reference 64) had the support for its inclusion from the Parish Council and the request for its removal from Melbourne Civic Society. The site has been included in the Draft Local Plan Part 2 however it is acknowledged that in order for this site to be taken forward in the Plan process, further consultation will be required with all relevant parties for and against its inclusion.

The NPPG states that landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in a draft plan. The landowners of the 53 Local Green Spaces proposed in the Draft Local Plan Part 2 will be contacted during the consultation period. If ownership of the land cannot be established then a notice will be placed at the site to ask the owner to contact the Local Authority.

The table below lists the sites that are being proposed for designation as Local Green Space at this stage. Maps of each Local Green Space follow the table.

Ref	Settlement	Location	Size (ha)	Comments
28	Aston on Trent	Long Walk Wood	6.23	Woodland. Recreation.
29	Aston on Trent	Middle Wood	1.19	Woodland. Recreation.
30	Aston on Trent	Ponds to the rear of Aston Hall	1.2	Local support: A rich wildlife environment.
36	Aston on Trent	The Bowling Green	1	Recreation.
39	Etwall	South of Sutton Lane	1.9	Cricket pitch. Parish Council support.
40	Etwall	West of Main Street	0.09	Maintained green space contributing to the street scene and character of Main Street. Parish Council support.
44	Etwall	Chestnut Grove, Play Area		Parish Council support.
45	Hatton	Field Avenue	0.05	Maintained open space and mature trees.
46	Hatton	Hassall Road	0.21	Green space within residential development. Maintained grass. Young trees.
50	Hilton	South of Egginton Road	0.06	Maintained grass with shrubs and planting. Footpath through the site. Bench by the bus stop. Integral to character of the street scene.
51	Hilton	Humber Street/Welland Road	1	Level open space; dog walking, physical recreation/games.
52	Hilton	Off Mill Lane	1.78	Valuable open space.
53	Hilton	South of Main Street	0.39	L.E.A.P. and maintained open space.
55	Hilton	Wellavon Playground, Welland Road/Avon Way	0.31	Good size maintained open space with L.E.A.P. in the middle. Dog bin.
58	Melbourne	West of Packhorse Road	0.17	Parish Council Support: Recreation area/border to modern housing estate.
59	Melbourne	North of Station Road	0.2	Parish Council Support: Recreation Area; trees planted by Melbourne Civic Society.
60	Melbourne	Station Road	0.05	Known as Washpit. Parish Council Support: Historical location of well and washpit for market gardeners. Sense of place. Well is Grade 2 listed.
62	Melbourne	Lothian Gardens, south of High Street	0.16	Parish Council Support: Recreation area for children
64	Melbourne	South of Penn Lane	1.57	Known as Poolside. Parish Council Support: Gardens and water-meadow. Tranquility, beauty, historic setting.

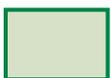
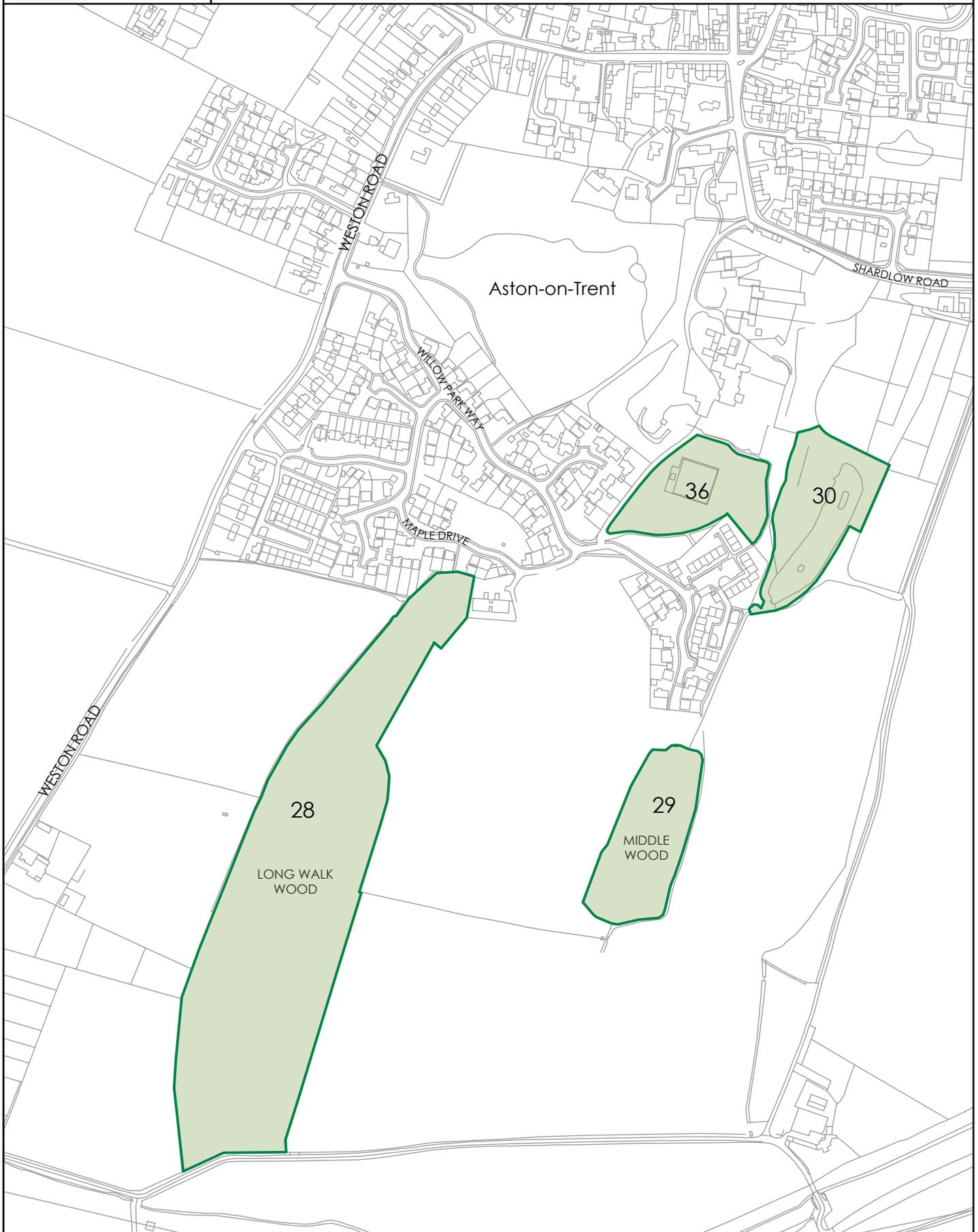
70	Melbourne	Holy Well, Wards Lane	0.02	Parish Council Support: Medieval holy well and stream in small ravine. ACV. Beauty spot. Located alongside ancient packhorse trail/byway. Views in and out. Wildlife. In Conservation Area.
75	Melbourne	Manor Oak	0.33	Parish Council Support: Small area of green space close to centre of Kings Newton. Historic importance. Very good views from here. Tranquil spot.
77	Melbourne	Church Close	0.02	Parish Council Support: Green space at the heart of Medieval Melbourne. Very impressive and important setting close to Grade 1 historic assets. Visitor attraction.
79	Melbourne	Intake	2.69	Parish Council Support: Area of great beauty and tranquility close to western edge of town. Visitor attraction.
85	Melbourne	Queensway	0.07	Parish Council Support: Green space in tightly packed housing development. Recreation.
89	Melbourne	Lothian Gardens, old tennis courts	0.06	Parish Council Support: Recreational area.
92	Overseal	Daisy Lane	0.62	Meadow grass planted with young trees including some fruit trees.
93	Repton	East of High Street and south of Askew Grove	1.15	Valued public space.
95	Repton	Land at The Crescent	0.31	Maintained green space with numerous established trees. Integral to the character of the area.
98	Repton	Land off Pinfold Lane	0.14	Parish Council support: this is valued public space.
99	Shardlow	South of London Road	0.25	Valuable open space.
101	Shardlow	The Wharf	0.13	Valuable open space.
104	Shardlow	Millfield	0.15	Valuable open space
105	Willington	South of the Trent and Mersey Canal	0.4	Recreation.
107	Willington	North of Twyford Road	1.63	Used for dog walking and recreation. Application for village green status.
109	Willington	North of the River Trent.	3.06	Historic setting as entering the village.
112	Willington	South of Twyford Road	0.14	Open space for recreation.

115	Findern	The Green	0.1	An integral focal point of the village.
117	Findern	East of Porters Lane	0.13	Recreation.
118	Hartshorne	West of Repton Road/Main Street	0.9	Hartshorne Cricket Ground. Recreation.
121	Hartshorne	Land north of Kendricks Close	1.84	Support from Hartshorne Village Residents Association: The site has been a meadow for generations and has an abundance of wild flowers in spring and summer. Meadow is in private ownership crossed by two footpaths, nos 37 and 38, which are used daily.
124	Hartshorne	Land at junction of Brook Street/Repton Road	0.76	Parish Council support.
125	Hartshorne	Land at junction of Manchester Lane and Heath Lane		Parish Council support.
126	Netherseal	Main Street/Church Street	0.33	Mature trees.
127	Rosliston	North of Yew Tree Road	0.06	Primarily a play area with play equipment.
130	Ticknall	North of Rose Lane	0.53	Adjoining the village hall. Semi-garden and tranquil in feel. Owned by Ticknall Trustees.
131	Ticknall	North of Main Street	0.16	Unofficial allotments or similar – appears maintained. Part of the historic fabric of Ticknall.
132	Ticknall	North of A514, opposite Calke Abbey entrance	0.15	Part of the setting opposite Calke Abbey entrance.
133	Ticknall	Area opposite The Vineyard, Main Street (A514)	0.53	Parish Council support: This area is part of the character of the village and often has sheep grazing on it.
135	Ticknall	Ingleby Lane – east	0.1	Parish Council support: there is a village seat on the site, which is a village amenity. East and west together make Ticknall's village green.
136	Ticknall	Ingleby Lane – west	0.03	Parish Council support: the village Christmas tree is put there and the villagers sing Christmas carols around the tree on Christmas Eve. The two areas on Ingleby Lane, east and west, are the equivalent of Ticknall's village green.

137	Ticknall	The Green, off Ashby Road (B5006)	0.15	Parish Council support: Entrance and verges, and garden to the south. There is a village seat there, which is a village amenity.
139	Ticknall	The Vineyard, Main Street	0.12	Part of the historic fabric of Ticknall.
155	Milton	Orchard to Common Farm	0.16	Valued open space by local residents.



Aston on Trent : Local Green Spaces



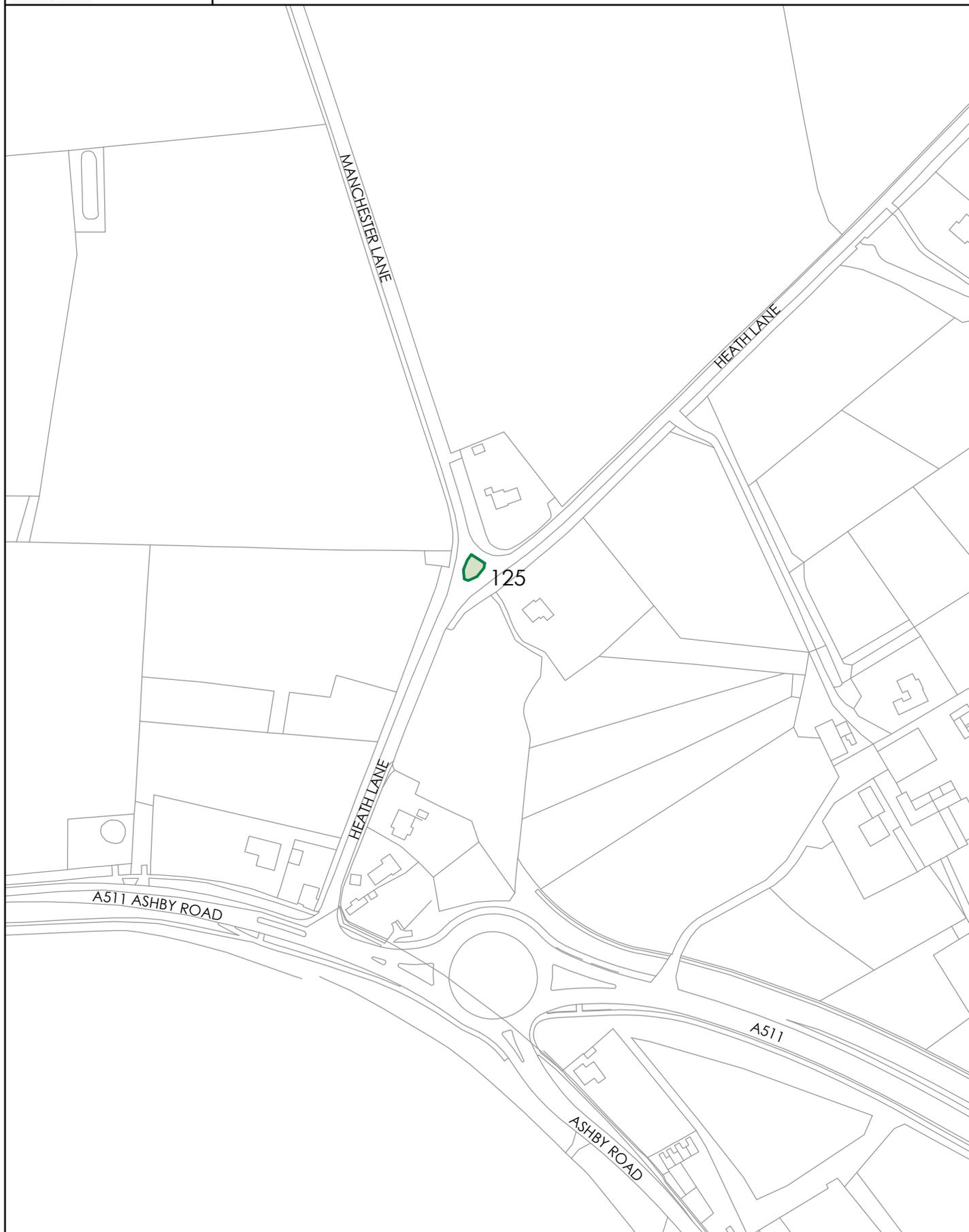
Local Green Space



NORTH



Boundary : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space

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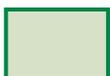
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Etwall : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space





Findern : Local Green Spaces



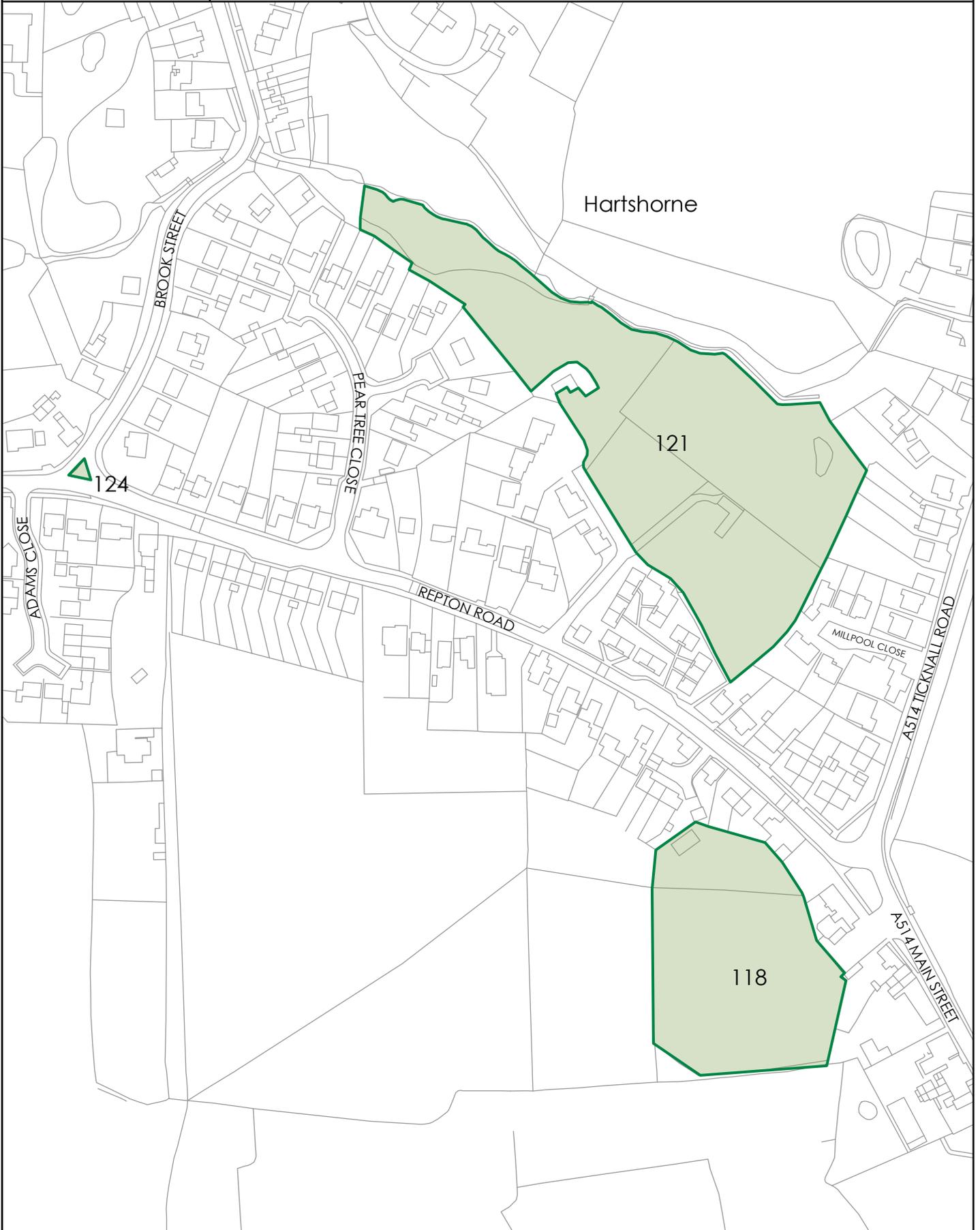
Local Green Space



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Hartshorne : Local Green Spaces

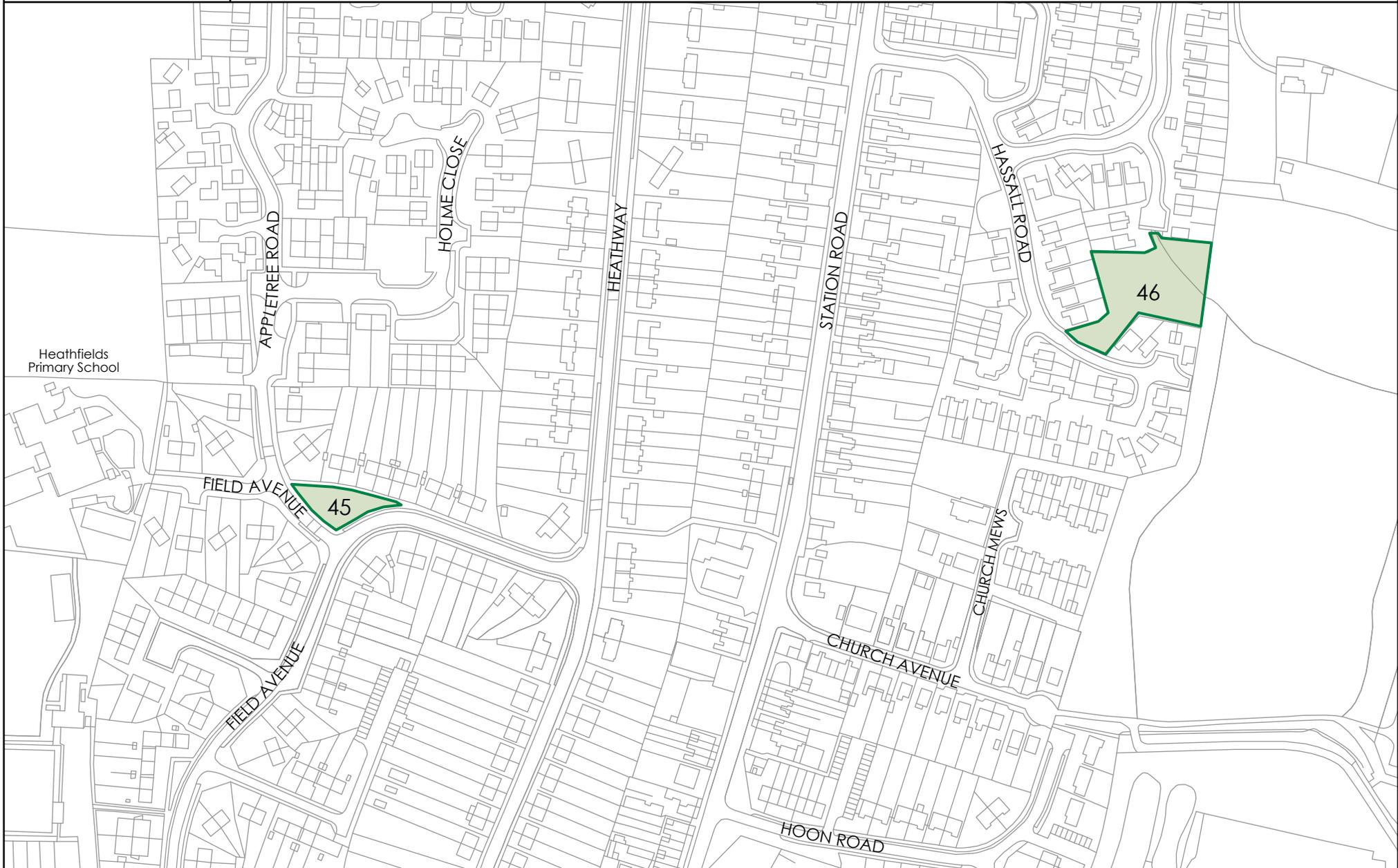


Local Green Space





Hatton : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space

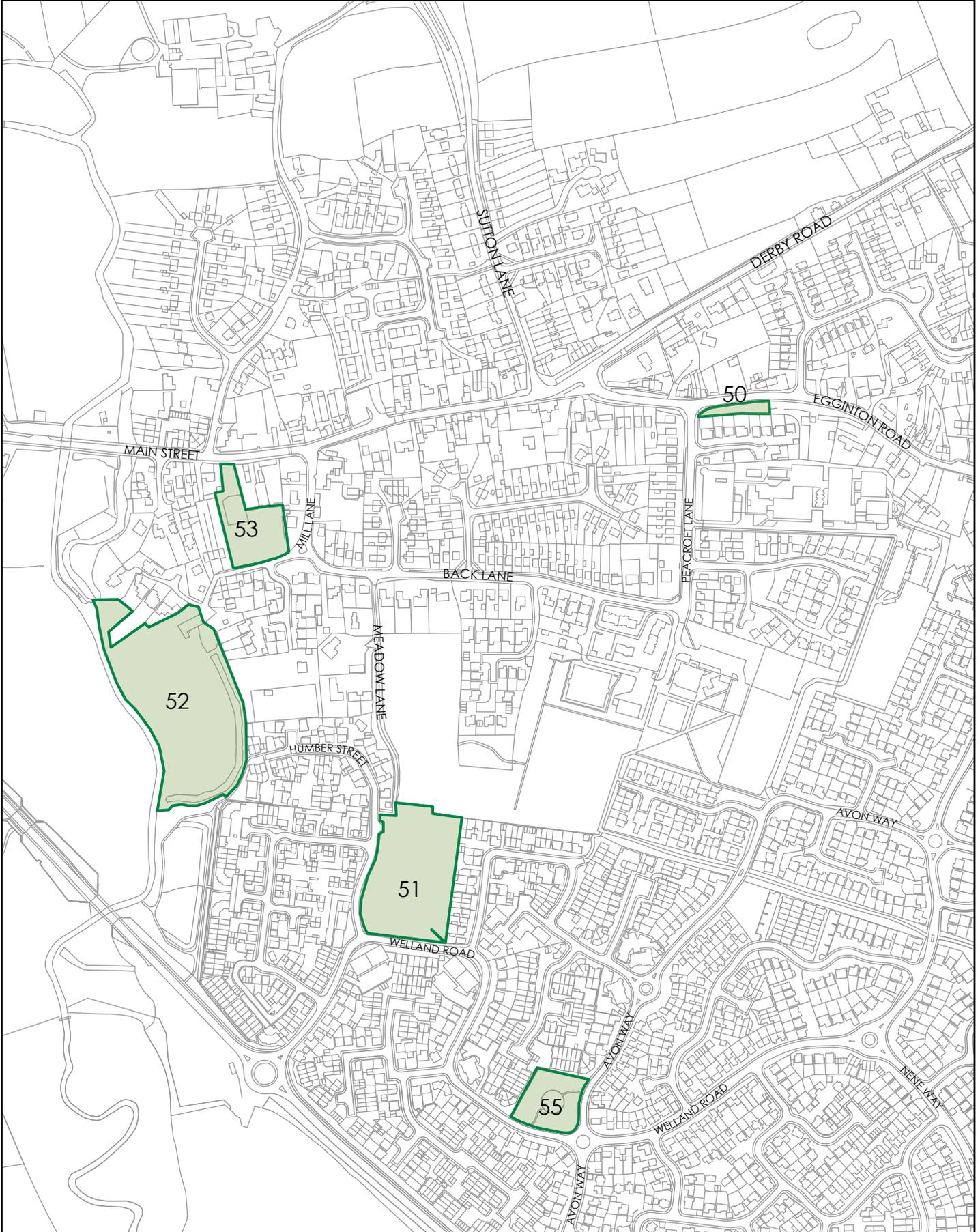
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Hilton : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space

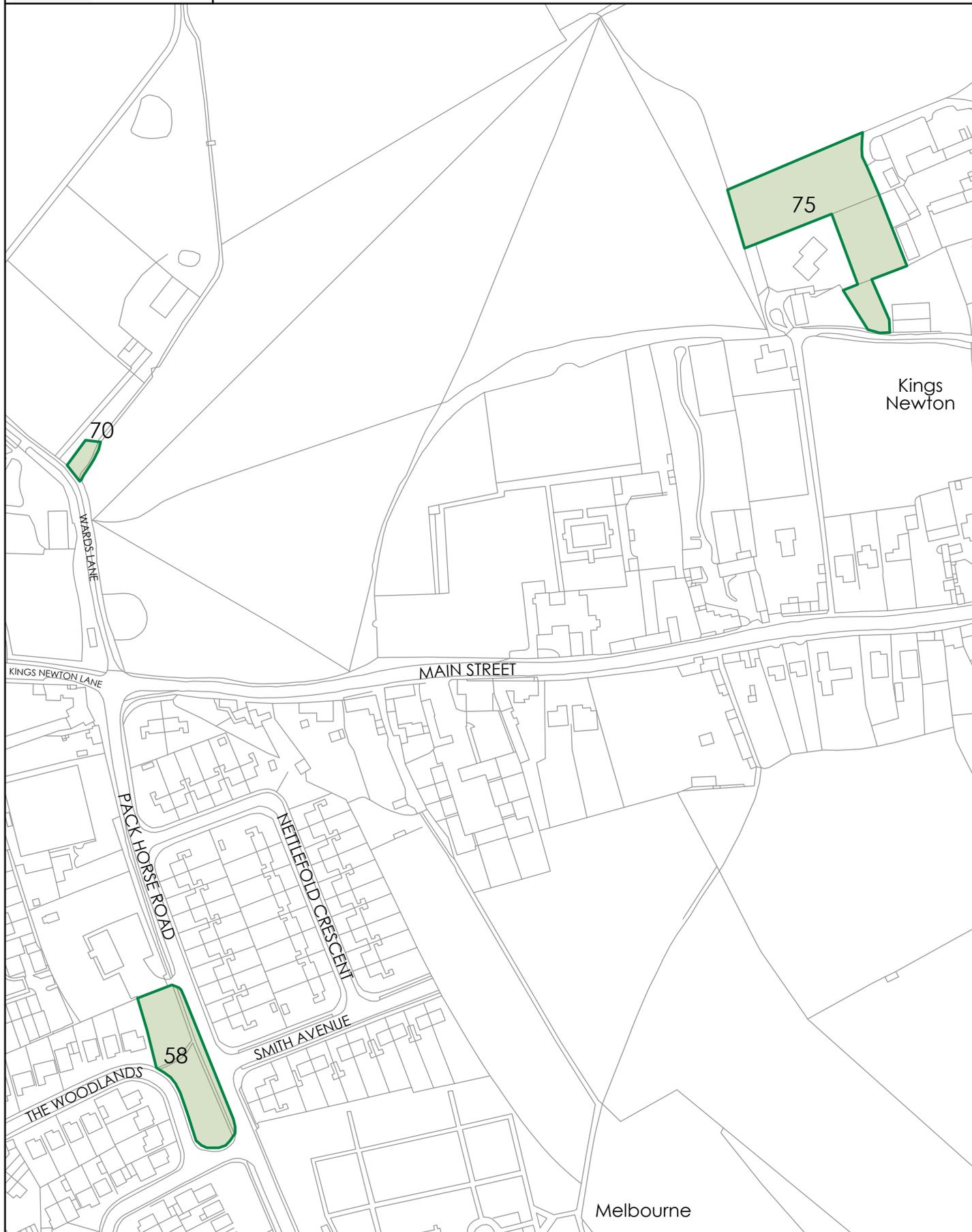
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Melbourne (1) : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space





Melbourne (2) : Local Green Spaces

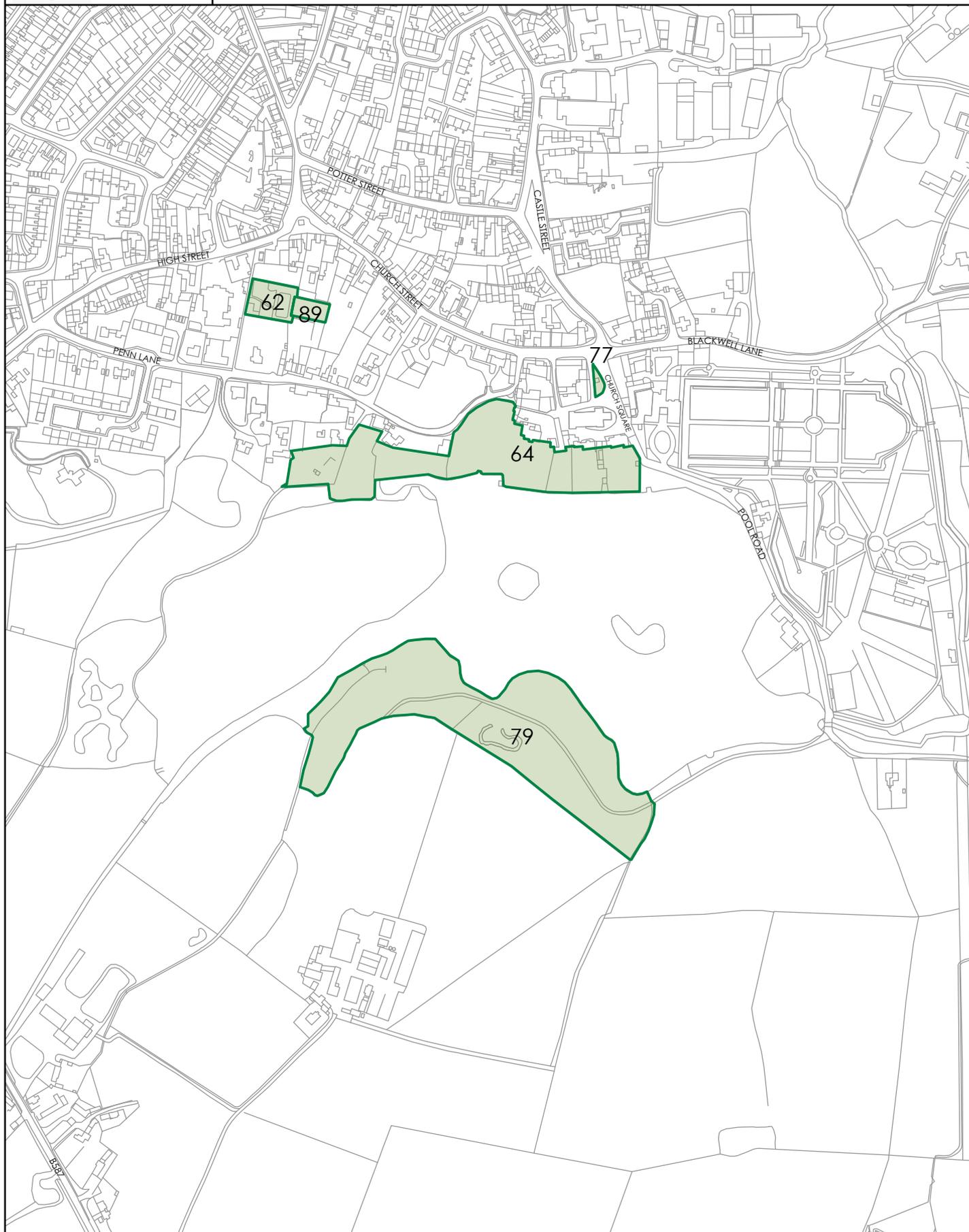


Local Green Space





Melbourne (3) : Local Green Spaces

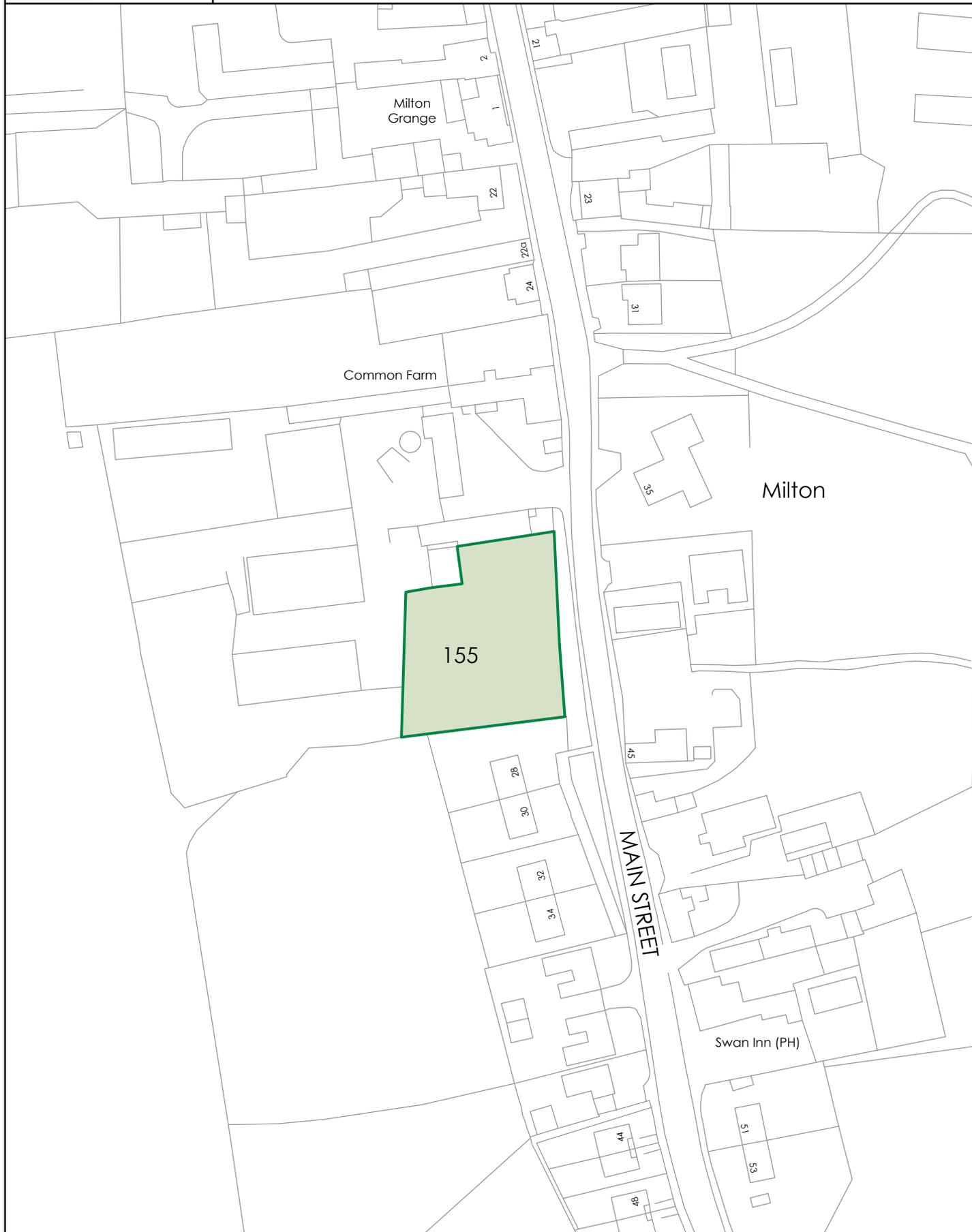


Local Green Space





Milton : Local Green Spaces



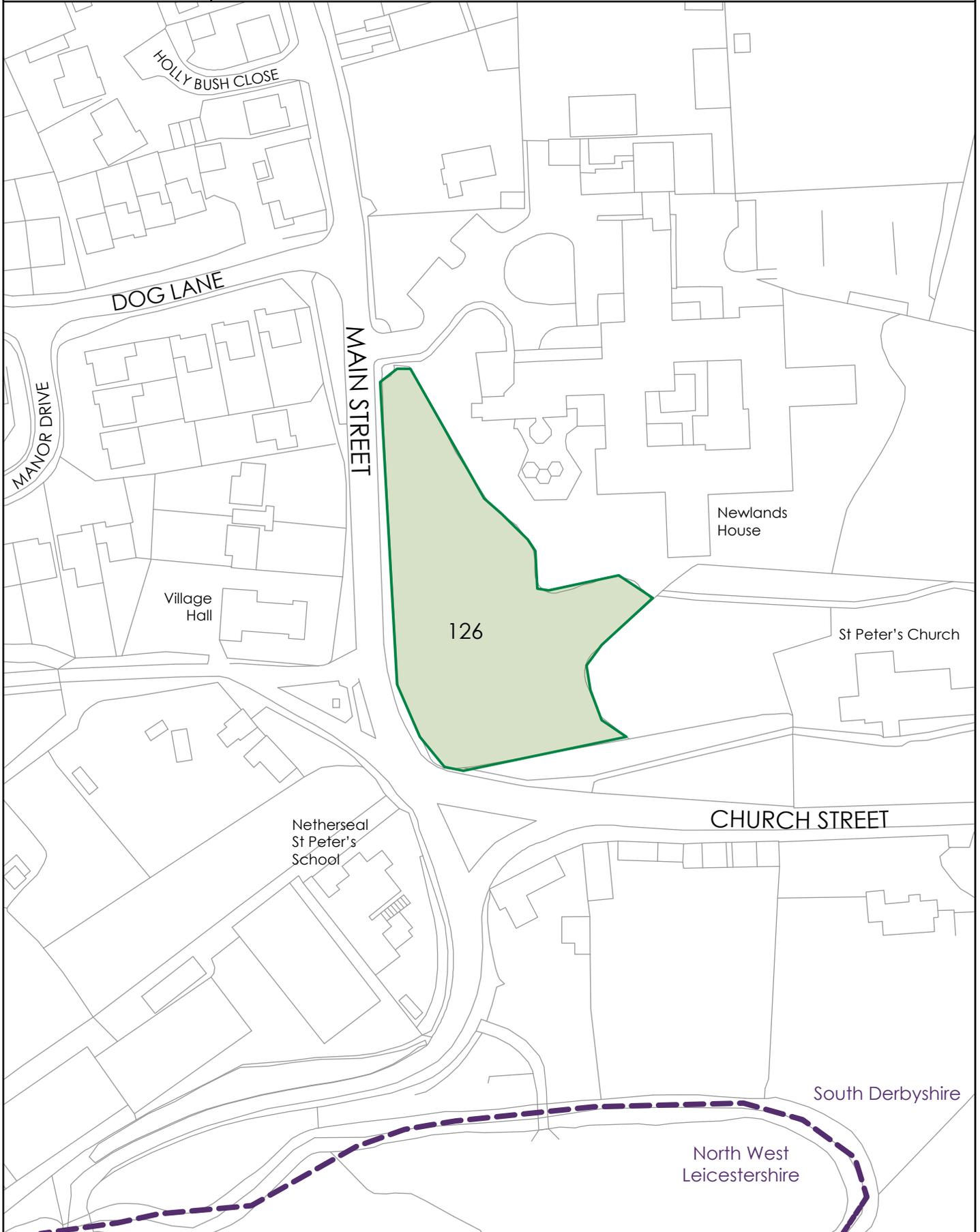
Local Green Space



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Netherseal : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space



District Boundary





Overseal : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space

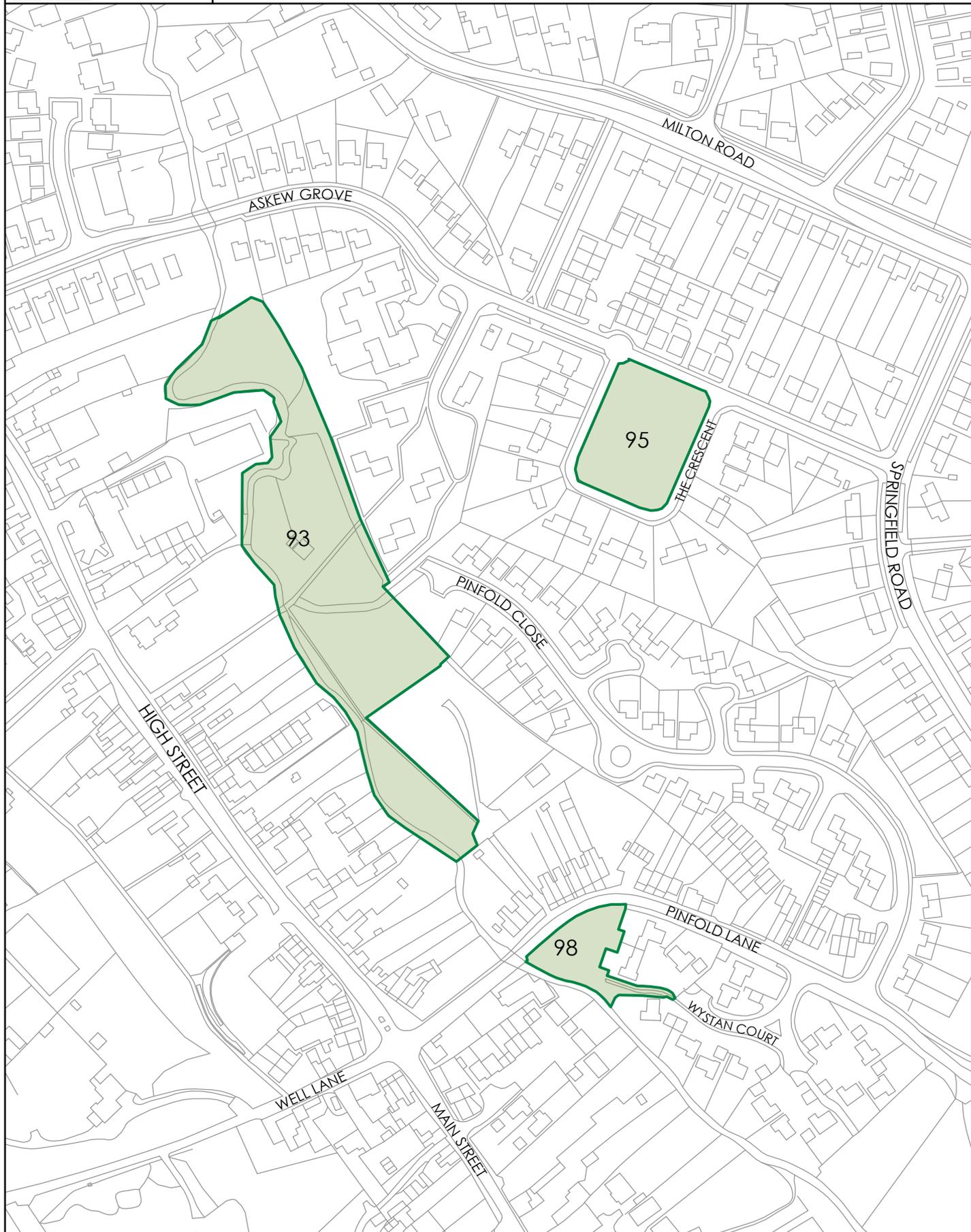
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Repton : Local Green Spaces



 Local Green Space

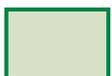
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Rosliston : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space



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Shardlow (east) : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space



District Boundary

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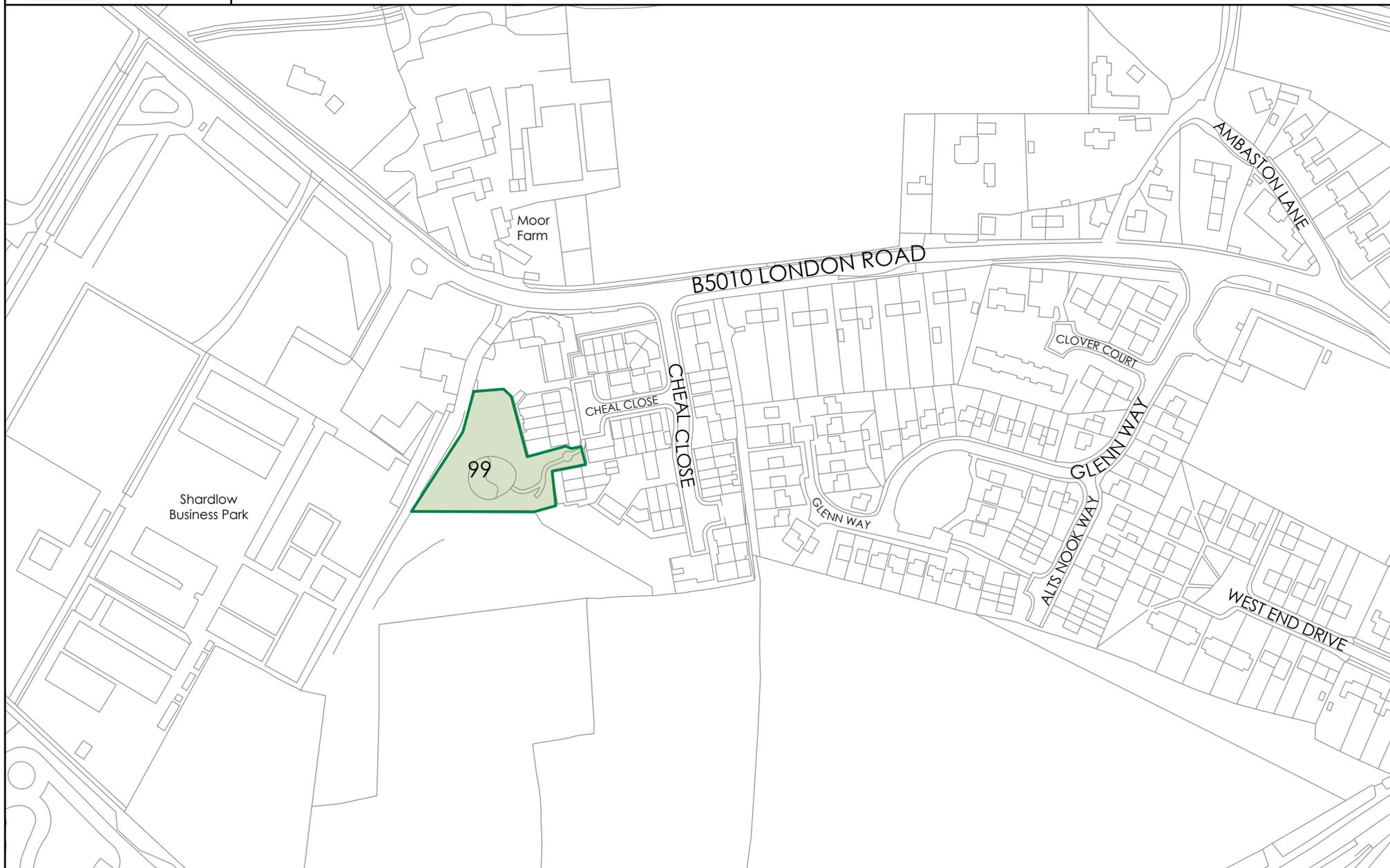
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Shardlow (west) : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space





Ticknall (North) : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space

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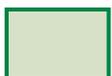
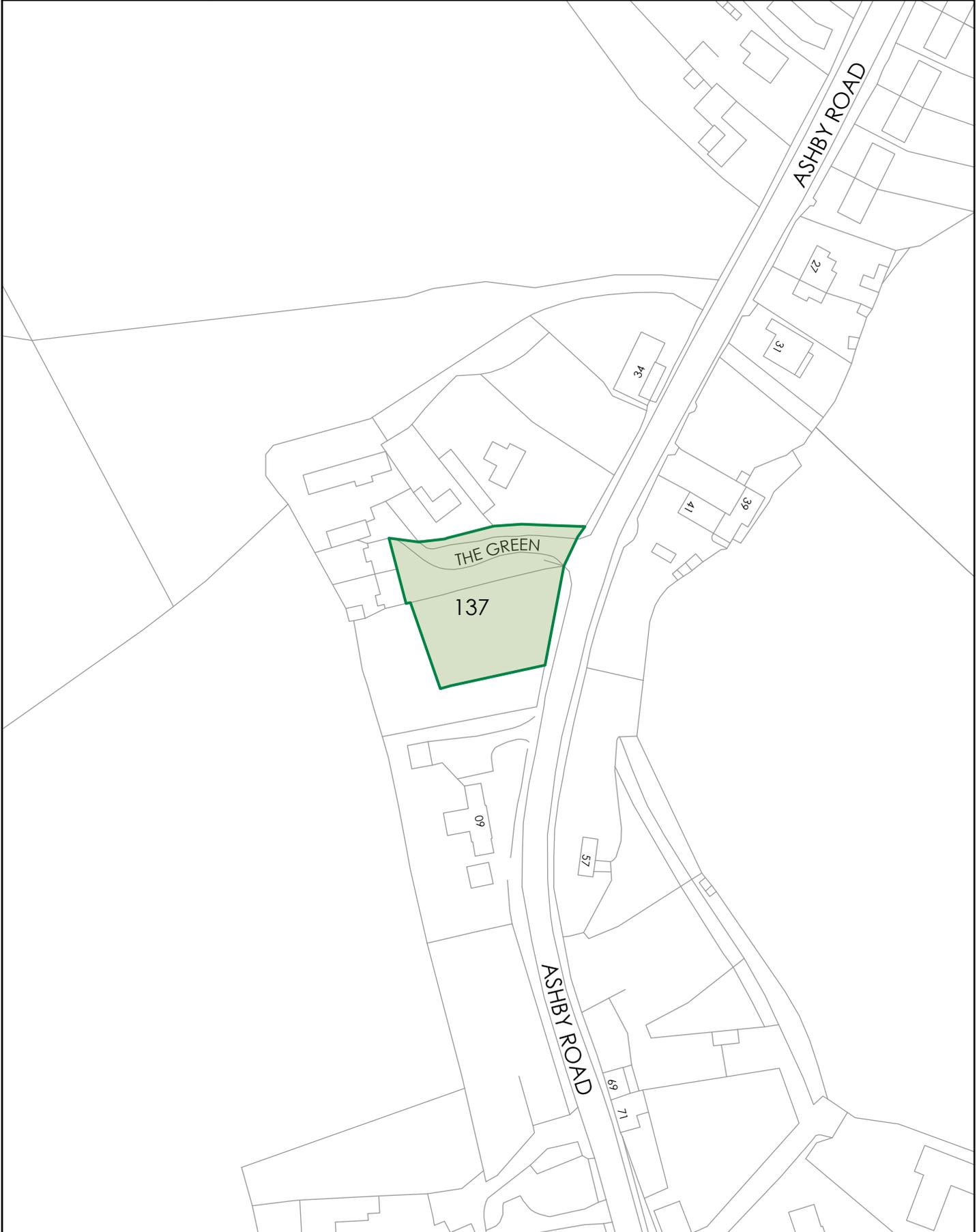
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Ticknall (South) : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space

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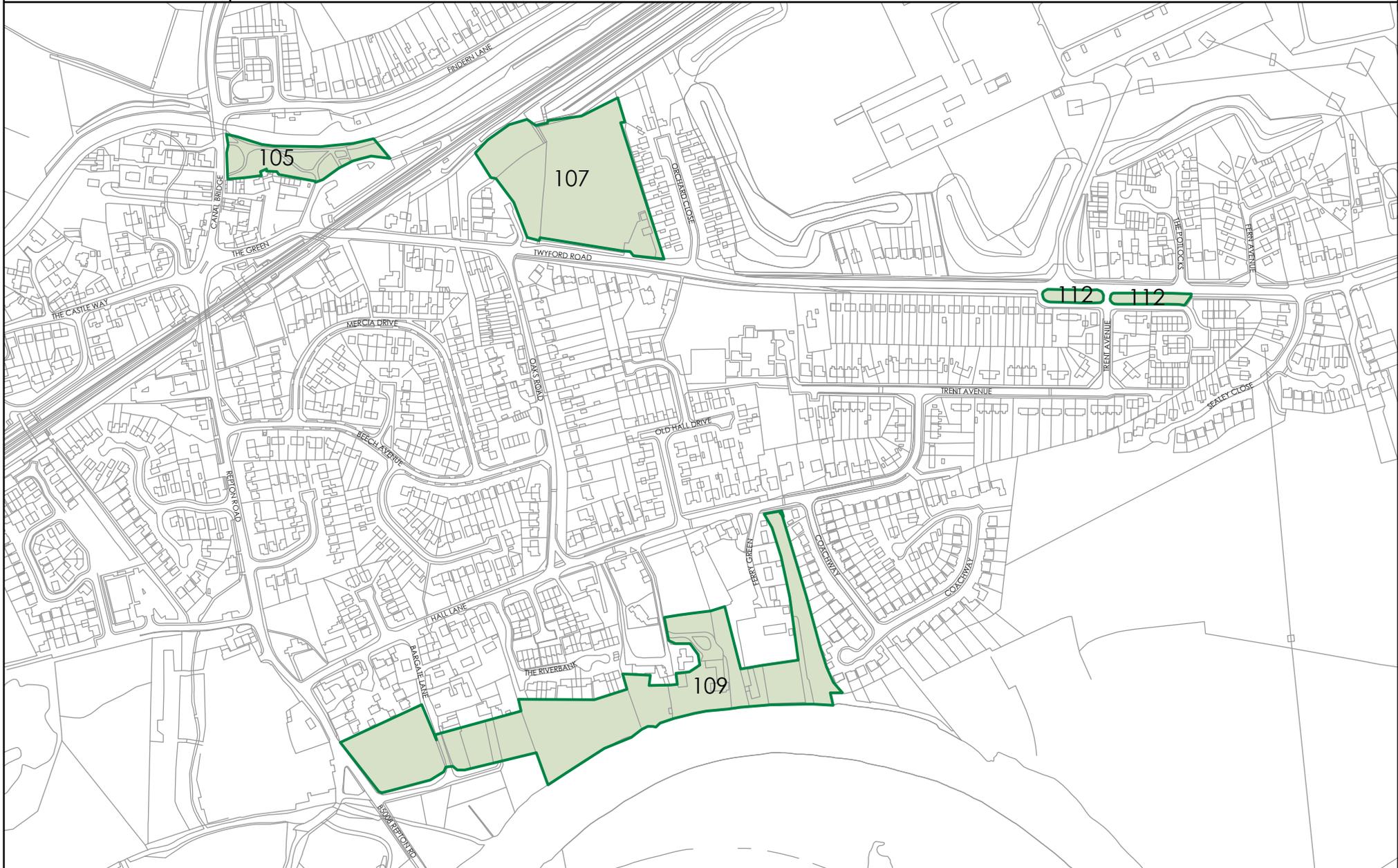
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Willington : Local Green Spaces



Local Green Space



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