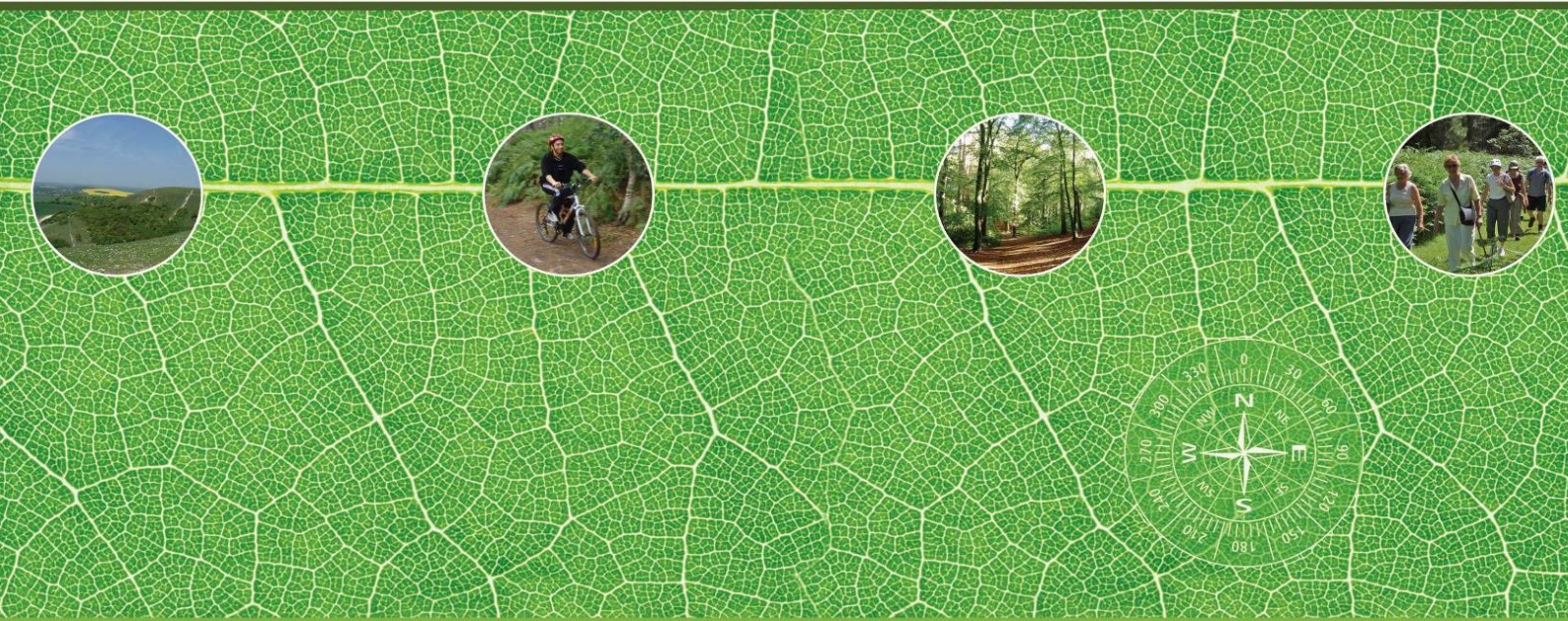




Living Networks

Bromham Parish

Green Infrastructure Plan 2025



BROMHAM PARISH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2025

Contents

Introduction	2
Context	3
Endorsements	4
Definition of Green Infrastructure	5
GI Themed Maps and Map Information	6
Main green spaces in Bromham	15
Aims of this Plan	16
Links to other GI related plans	17
Methodology & Community Involvement	18
Bromham Parish GI Aspirations Map	19
Bromham Parish GI Plan Aspirations Table	20
Prioritisation Activities	21
Important Green Spaces	23
Local Green Space assessment summary	24
Neighbourhood Plan policy recommendations	27
Bromham Parish GI Plan Action Plan	28

BROMHAM PARISH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2025

Introduction

The Bromham Parish Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan is one of more than 40 parish and town GI plans to have been produced across Bedfordshire.

The production of the Bromham Parish GI Plan has been funded by a grant to the Bromham Neighbourhood Plan Group from Locality and facilitated by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC).

The production of the GI Plan was requested by Bromham Parish Council both to be a valuable tool in its own right as a planning document, and to inform policies and objectives in the revised Bromham Neighbourhood Plan.

BRCC was appointed to facilitate the production of this Plan, as it is a charity that works with local communities and landowners to conserve and enhance the landscape, wildlife and history in this area. At the heart of BRCC's work is the belief that the best results are achieved by empowering local communities, giving them a say in issues that affect them. BRCC has over 60 years' experience of community development support and facilitating community consultation; and has nearly 20 years' experience of planning and delivering green infrastructure projects in Bedfordshire.

The need for GI Planning has been identified at all levels, from central government, through regional bodies (the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy and the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy), to County and District levels. The Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic GI Plan was produced in 2007 by the Bedfordshire & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium. Parish and Town GI Plans are a valuable tool for planners, committees, developers and communities themselves. They can help inform important decisions and help local people identify what is important to them, and what they would like to happen in the future. Parish and Town GI Plans have been used to support funding bids, helping people make important improvements to their local environment, and they also provide a snapshot of the local environment.

It should be acknowledged that not all of the aspirations identified will be delivered, because there are many other influencing factors, such as the views of landowners, existing planning permissions and allocations, potential future land use allocations and the cost of implementation. The value of this GI Plan lies in the fact that it has been produced by local residents for their own community. It can help inform planning decisions and be used as a mechanism to identify where financial benefits from development should be directed. It cannot be used as a tool to prevent development but may influence considerations in the planning process. All aspirations which gained community support have been included; however, it remains a community owned document that, while acknowledged by Bedford Borough Council, has not been formally adopted. The Plan as a whole is based on a robust approach to mapping and implementing a high quality GI network for the existing, and future, residents of the parish of Bromham.

Context

Bromham civil parish comprises 820 hectares and is located approximately four miles northwest of Bedford. Bromham village is the only settlement within the civil parish, which is bounded by the A428 Bedford-Northampton road on its southern and western borders. The parish also provides the starting point for the A422 which joins the A428 in the west of the village to link Bedford and Milton Keynes. The village itself contains three main thoroughfares: Village Road, which provided the spine for the village's early dwellings and now carries substantial traffic into and through the village, as well as two former A-roads which now form Stagsden Road and Northampton Road.

The village population at the 2021 census was 4,932 (a marginal reduction on the 2011 census figure). The village grew substantially in the 20th century with developments such as those around Quenby Way, Meadowfields and Chestnut Avenue. The population in 1901 was 321; by 1951 it was 1220, growing to 3746 in 1971, and 3825 in 1991. The 2,069 Bromham dwellings recorded in the Neighbourhood Plan (2021) have increased since then, mainly via the 80 new dwellings already built in the Hayfield Park development as part of the 500 new homes that Bromham is required to accommodate in accordance with its neighbourhood plan.

The privately-owned Bromham Park is the village's main green open space and is accessible to the public through a series of footpaths. The park area provides an historic and cultural focal point from which much of the village has developed over time. It contains St Owen's Church, which is one of the many heritage assets in the village. Other heritage sites include Bromham Mill, Bromham Bridge, and the original school building in Village Road, as well as many privately-owned, listed buildings. There are also more modern buildings such as the Village Hall, the Baptist Church, and the Library which contribute to Bromham's distinctive character, as do the Swan and Prince of Wales public houses.

Village Road provides the western boundary for Bromham Park and also contains the Green which, along with Vicarage Green and its adjoining meadow on Oakley Road and Lower Farm Road provide green open spaces within the built-up area of the village. Others include the recreation ground behind the Village Hall and the community orchard and football pitches in the Chestnut Avenue area.

The village is surrounded by rich and varied countryside, containing woodland, parkland, hedgerows, water meadows, arable land and pastures. There are also the nature reserve and allotments at the eastern end of Lower Farm Road. All of these help to define the rural nature of the parish. The woodlands include Salem Thrift, Bowel's Wood and Mollivers Wood, and these in particular provide a clear sense that human settlement and nature can successfully exist side by side within the village. There is an extensive network of footpaths, bridle paths and cycleways that connect these rural features with the village, and with each other.

Looking outwards from the parish there are some fine views of the wider countryside with which the Bromham countryside connects – from the water meadows in the Great Ouse Valley to the south east and south; Hangar Wood with its Site of Special Scientific Interest to the south west, the agricultural landscape to the west of the parish and the long and rolling limestone hills to the north and east. These features enable Bromham to sit comfortably within the wider rural setting.

Endorsements

Endorsement by Bromham Parish Council:

Bromham Parish Council is happy to endorse this Green Infrastructure Plan, which has been produced by current residents of the parish, for this and future generations. In endorsing this Plan, the Parish Council confirms its support for the concept of GI Planning and the methodology used to produce the Plan. In addition, the Parish Council will seek to be an active partner in the delivery of this Plan, leading and assisting the implementation of those actions which fall into the remit and plans of the Council.

The Parish Council will regularly review the Plan, reporting to the community activity undertaken and planned, both by the Council and others, towards implementing the Plan.

Endorsement by Bromham Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee:

Bromham Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee is pleased to endorse this Green Infrastructure Plan. It has been produced using an agreed and well developed process involving current residents in a series of focussed working groups. As such, it represents their more detailed views on how the issues previously identified can be addressed in the future. It sets a clear plan for the future that will be supported by Local Planning Policies in the forthcoming revision of the Bromham Neighbourhood Plan.

Support from BRCC:

BRCC will support the community of Bromham in implementing this Plan where appropriate and feasible, providing advice, support in securing funding and leading practical works.



Definition of Green Infrastructure

The Town and Country Planning Association (2023) defines green infrastructure as follows:

“Green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space and other green features, urban and rural, which can deliver quality of life and environmental benefits for communities.”

Thus, for a Green Infrastructure Plan, we are investigating this network of green spaces, access routes, wildlife habitats, landscapes and historic features that provide:

- a healthy and diverse environment
- attractive places to live and visit
- a good quality of life
- a sustainable future

Green Infrastructure assets include:

- Accessible green space
- Country parks
- Green corridors
- Urban parks and gardens
- Habitats for wildlife including nature reserves, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and County Wildlife Sites.
- Historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Waterways and water bodies, including flooded quarries
- Public rights of way and cycleways
- Allotments
- Children’s play space
- Formal sports facilities
- Cemeteries

It is important to plan the GI network in the same way that we plan other networks and facilities, so that we can safeguard and enhance the environment and meet the needs of a wide range of people, both now and in the future. Green infrastructure also provides social and economic benefits, including:

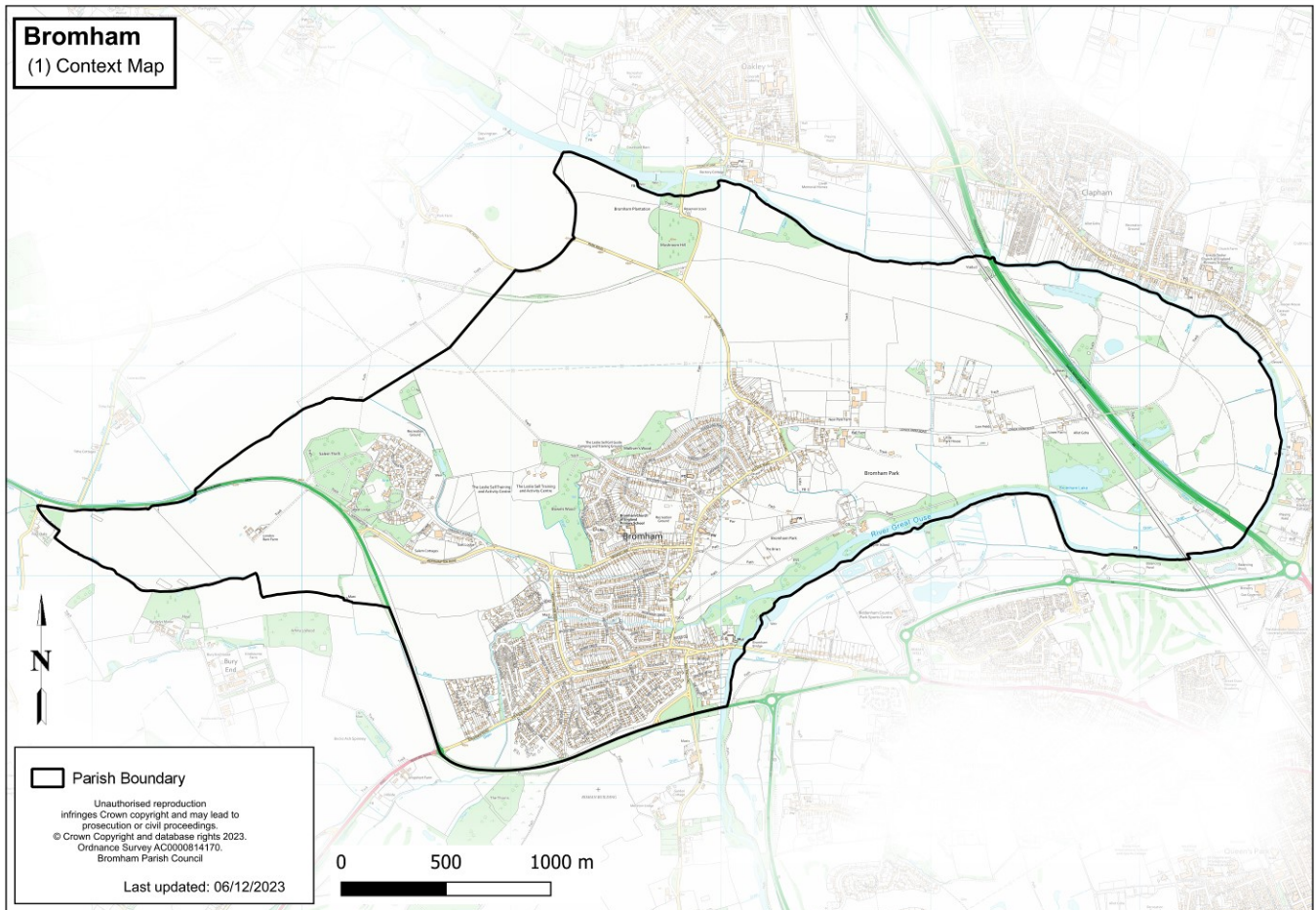
- Places that can be used as a focus for community activity and events
- Opportunities to keep fit and healthy
- Helps support the local economy, including village shops, pubs and B&Bs
- Links between town and country helping people in rural areas to access facilities
- Helps reduce the use of cars

Green Infrastructure Themes

Green Infrastructure is composed of 5 themes; landscape, history, biodiversity, access and open space. These themes are presented separately to enable the different elements of GI to be considered both individually in detail and as part of the integrated GI network.

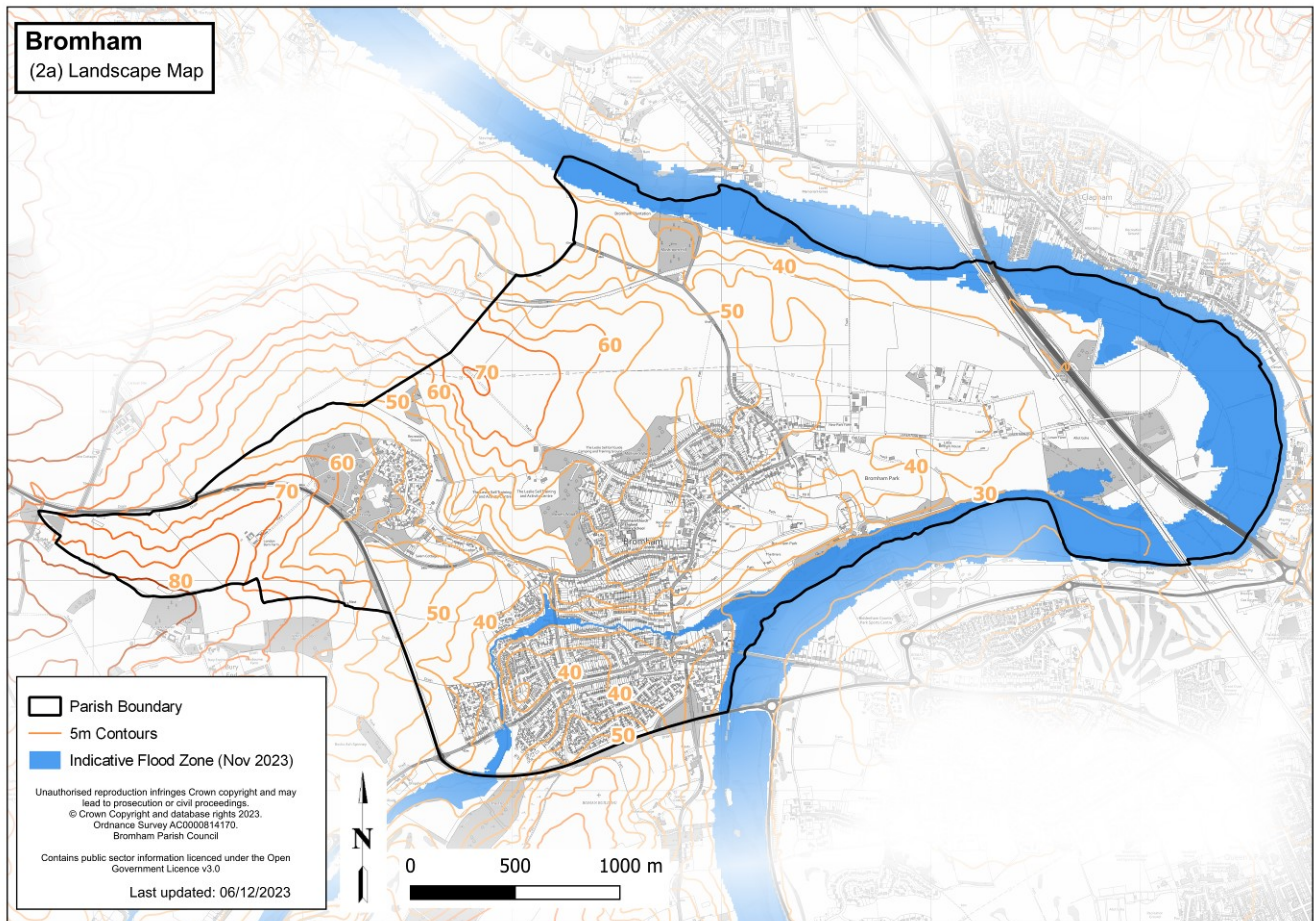
GI Themed Maps and Map Information

Context Map (Figure 1)



Landscape Map (Figure 2a)

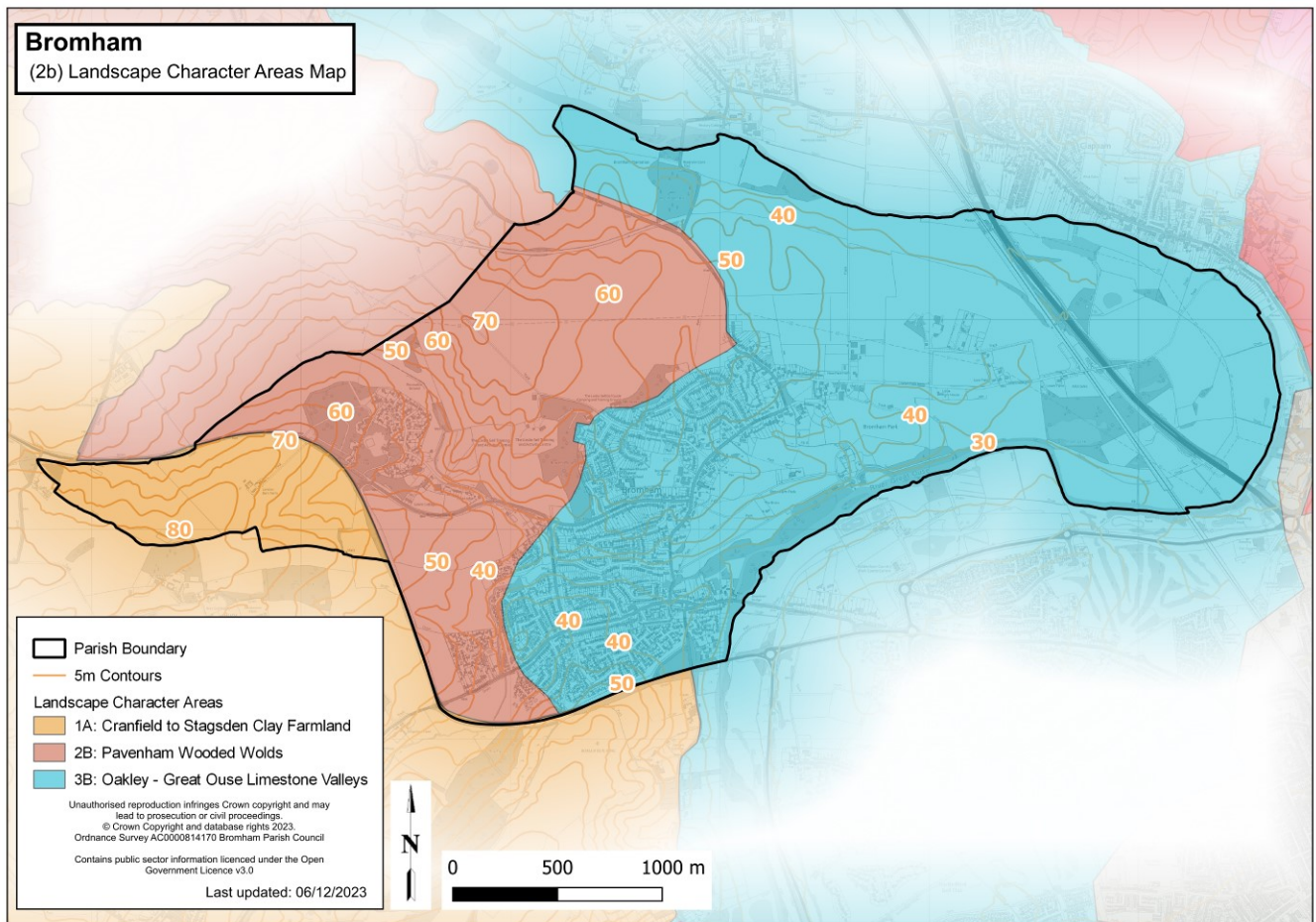
The landscape map shows the position of contours within your parish. It also has the areas at risk from a 1% chance flood from a river marked. Contours and flood zones can be useful when creating green infrastructure corridors.



Landscape Character Areas Map (Figure 2b)

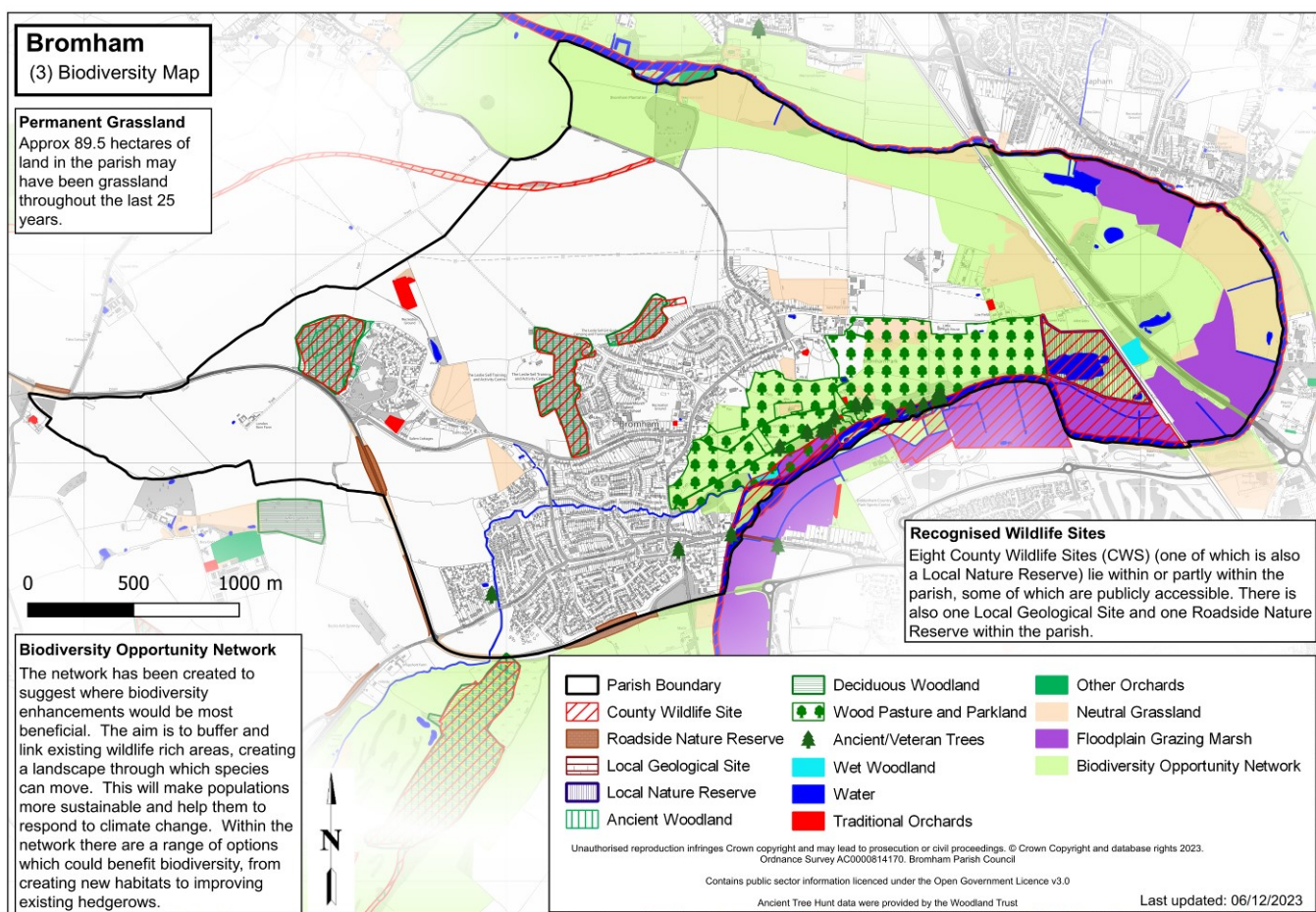
The Landscape Character Areas are used to understand what the landscape is like, how it formed and how it may change in the future. Each area is a distinct part of the landscape with a particular sense of place. Assessments of these areas can be used to help make decisions on the appropriate location, scale and design of new development. Further information can be found on the Bedford Borough Council website

(<https://edrms.bedford.gov.uk/OpenDocument.aspx?id=H1s1ijkK2oPN8wKbNf7JDw%3d%3d&name=Bedford%20LCA%202020.pdf>).



Biodiversity Map (Figure 3)

This map shows the location of designated sites, important habitats and opportunities to enhance wildlife in Bromham parish.



Within the parish there are eight County Wildlife Sites (CWS): Bowels Wood CWS, Bromham Lake CWS, Bromham Park CWS, Bromham Water Meadows CWS, Molliver's Wood CWS, Salem Thrift CWS, Turvey-Bromham Disused Railway CWS and along the eastern side of the parish boundary the River Great Ouse CWS.

Bowels Wood CWS along the north western edge of the village is ancient woodland, composed of Oak and Ash with an understorey of old Hazel coppice with a wide variety of other native species interspersed throughout including Bluebells and Dog's Mercury. Bromham Lake CWS (which is also a Local Nature Reserve) is located to the west of the railway line. It is a flooded disused limestone pit with surrounding neutral and calcareous grasslands; and to the northeast of the main lake two small shallow pools. The area of calcareous grassland to the east of the lake was originally seeded with purchased wildflowers. Bromham Park CWS comprises of a field of marshy grassland to the east and an area of broadleaved woodland to the west, both of which lie north of the River Great Ouse. Bromham Water Meadows CWS lies partly within Bromham parish adjacent to the River Great Ouse in the south of the parish and comprises good examples of neutral grassland and marsh, as well as areas of broadleaved woodland. Molliver's Wood CWS to the north of the village is an ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland comprising mostly Ash with some Oak, Field Maple and Sycamore. Salem Thrift CWS is another ancient woodland site to the west of Bromham. It consists mainly of semi-natural broadleaved woodland with a mixture of sub communities. The wood is dominated by Oak, Ash and Field Maple with Blackthorn, Hazel and Hawthorn understorey. The ground flora is dominated by Bluebells, Dog's Mercury, Lesser Celandine and Ground Ivy. Turvey-Bromham

Disused Railway CWS is a disused railway line extending from SP932511 east to TL008524 which has been in existence for at least 100 years. The railway line supports calcareous and neutral grasslands, dense scrub and woodland, and contains a number of cuttings and embankments. The cuttings provide good habitat for butterflies, and such species as marbled white and grizzled skipper have been recorded. The whole length of the river Great Ouse has been recognized as a CWS and a section of it flows along the southern boundary of the parish.

Bromham Bridge is designated as a Local Geological Site (LGS) and is also a Scheduled Monument. It has been designated as there are no natural exposures of Middle Jurassic limestone in Bedfordshire at present. The bridge presents a good opportunity to view the local limestones, although some stone has been imported from beyond the county to effect repairs. The wide variety of limestones here are useful for teaching purposes as they illustrate different petrology, fabric, fossil content and sedimentary structures, where the surfaces are weathered and clean, spectacular examples of shell beds and strongly cemented sandy limestones can be seen.

Bromham Bypass Roadside Nature Reserve (RNR) is made up of five substantial blocks (three main areas) of cutting slopes along the A428 sown with various wildflower mixtures in 1987 and subsequently managed annually to realize their wildlife potential. The predominant habitats on the site are semi-improved neutral and calcareous grassland, unimproved calcareous grassland, scrub, broadleaved plantation woodland and hedges.

Not all of the sites listed above have public access and are in private ownership, but where they do this has been shown on Map 5.

County Wildlife Sites are sites that have been recognized as important for wildlife when assessed against a set of criteria. The selection guidelines consider aspects of the site such as size, diversity, rarity, fragility, typicalness and recorded history. Recognition as a CWS does not confer protection on the site, or right of access, however for any significant change of land use the planning authorities will expect the wildlife interest to be taken into account alongside other normal planning considerations. Local conservation organisations may comment on planning applications that could affect a CWS.

Within the parish are approximately 89.5 hectares of land that were identified as semi-improved neutral grassland in the late 1980s and may have remained as grassland since then.

Species records of note found across the parish include: amphibians (Smooth and Great Crested Newt, Common Frog, Common Toad and Midwife Toad), birds (such as Skylark, Cetti's Warbler, Marsh Tit and a recent record of a Black-tailed Godwit), birds of prey (such as Little Owl, Barn Owl, Hobby), and Swallows, Swifts and House Martin have been recorded recently within the Parish. Plants such as Southern Marsh Orchid, Bee Orchid and Spiny Restharrow have been recorded at Bromham Lake CWS. There are a scattering of other notable records including White-Letter Hairstreak and Grizzled Skipper butterfly and several records of Otter, Hedgehog, Badger and Brown Hare. Common Lizard has been recorded in the past within the parish, but has not been recorded in the last 20 years or so.

Green infrastructure planning can help to link or buffer existing wildlife sites, providing them with increased protection from harmful activities and making their wildlife populations more sustainable. The Biodiversity Network suggests where this could be most beneficial.

If you would like further information or advice about the wildlife in your parish, please contact The Wildlife Trust (01234 364213 or bedfordshire@wildlifebcn.org). The Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Recording and Monitoring Centre (BRMC) has a wealth of records about the species seen in your parish and is beginning to compile habitat data. If you would like to access this resource please contact them (01234 355435 or brmc@bedsbionet.org.uk).

Historic Environment Map (Figure 4)

A variety of historic sites are shown on this map. Integrating these sites into green infrastructure plans can help to preserve parish history. The numbers associated with the site boundaries represent locations in the Historic Environment Record (HER) which is maintained at Bedford Borough Council, Borough Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford.

The table below the map gives a brief summary of each numbered site; more details are available from the HER, along with historic maps of your parish. Listed Buildings are shown, however far more information is available which could not easily be included on the map. For advice or further information about historic areas in your parish please contact the Historic Environment Team at Bedford Borough Council (archaeology@bedford.gov.uk or use the online Heritage Gateway <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

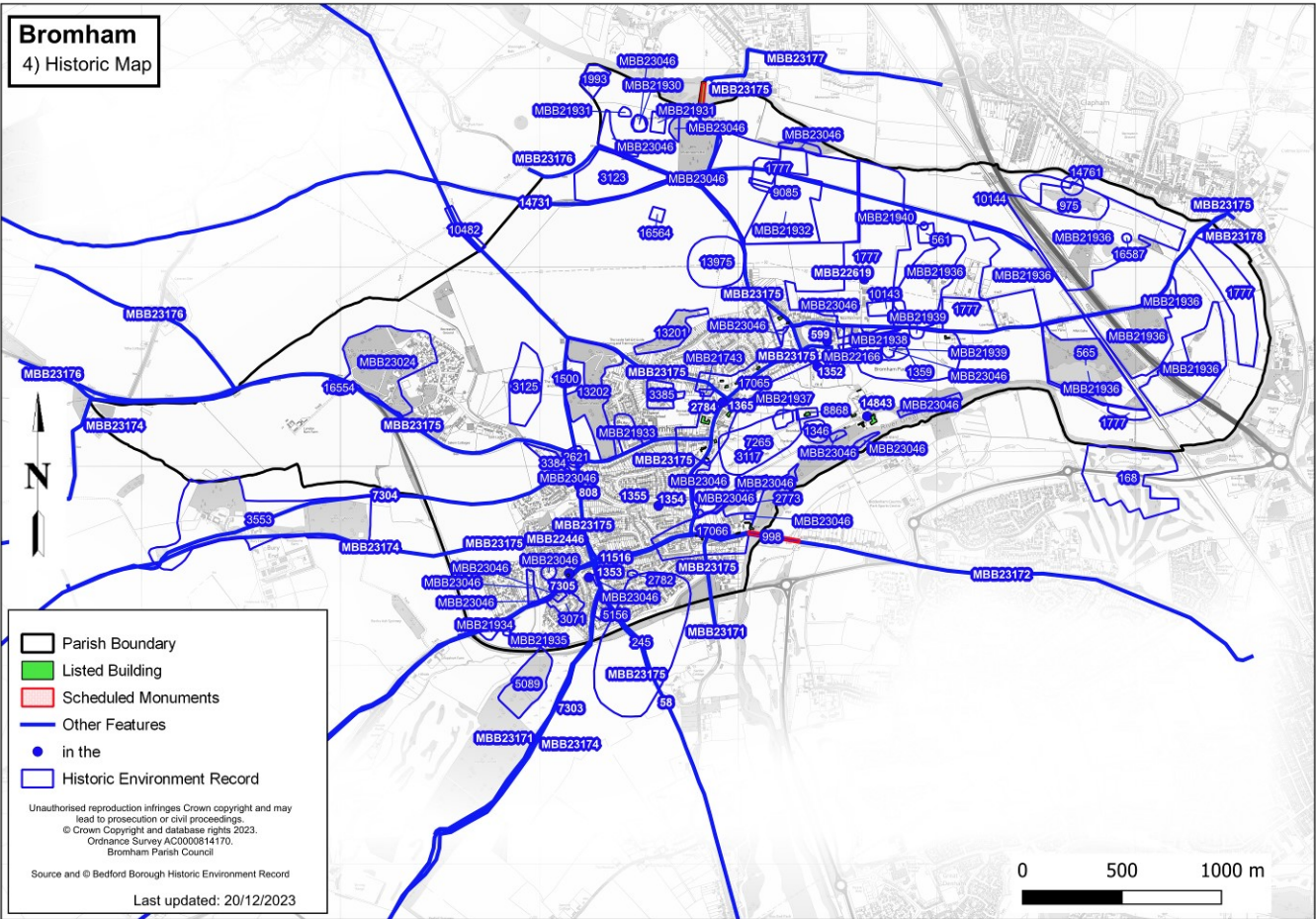


Figure 4 Historic Environment Table

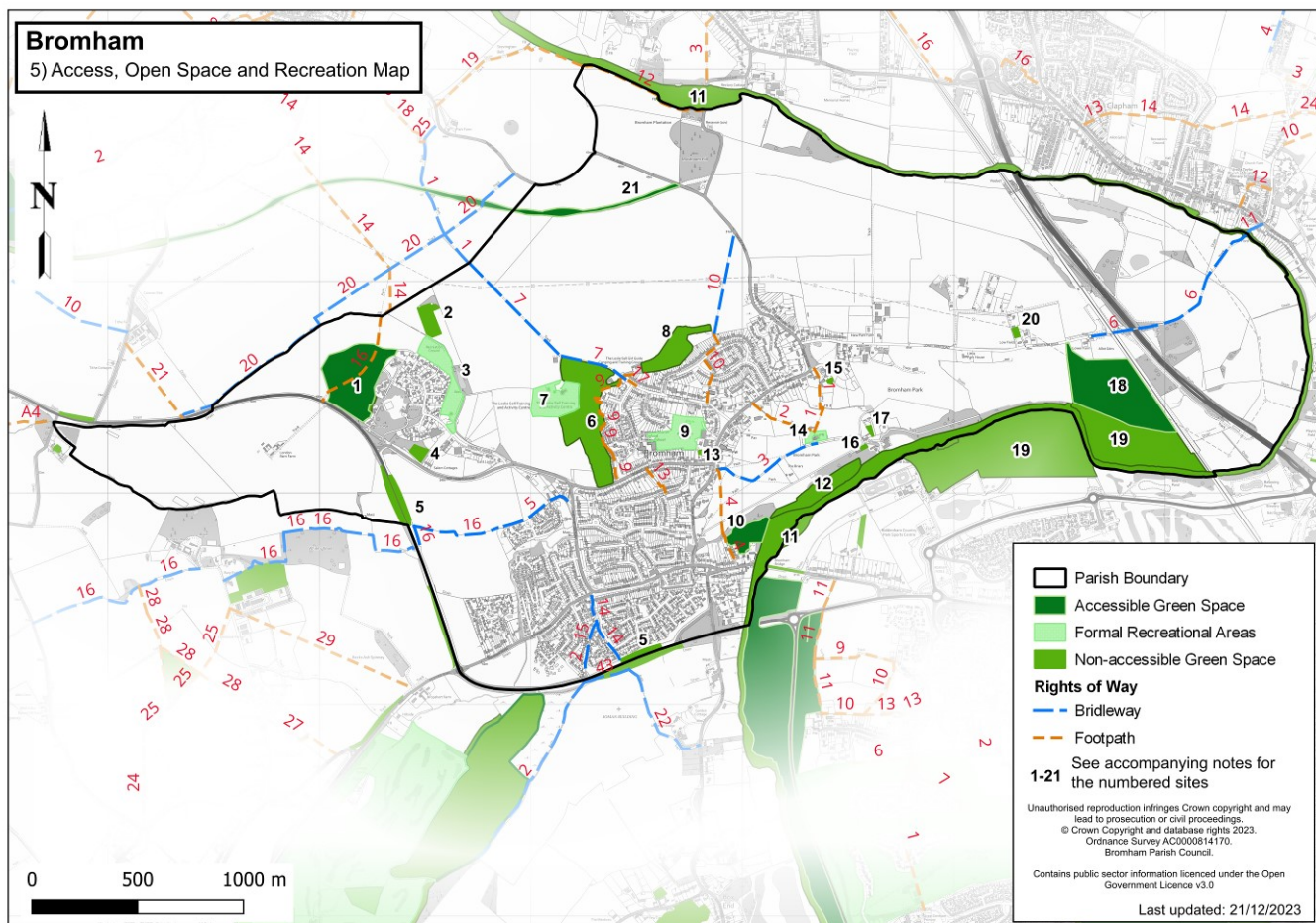
Map no.	Site		Map no.	Site
58	ROMAN ROAD, (Viatores no 170a)		3384	MEDIEVAL EARTHWORKS, Bromham Grange
168	LIMESTONE QUARRY AND SLAKE PITS		3385	MOAT, Bowells Manor
245	ROMAN BUILDING, Moor End		3553	MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT; Bury End, Stagsden
561	IRON AGE/ROMANO-BRITISH ENCLOSURE CROPMARKS, South of old railway		5089	RIDGE AND FURROW, Stagsden parish
565	CROPMARKS + Iron Age HUT		5156	AGGER, Thistley Green
599	IRON AGE 'A' POTTERY/ROMAN POTTERY & FILE		7265	POSSIBLE DESERTED MEDIEVAL VILLAGE, Bromham Park
808	ROAD METALLING		7303	RIDGEWAY, Cranfield to Bromham
975	BELGIC & ROMAN OCCUPATION, in East of Bromham parish		7304	TRACK Bromham to Olney
998	*BROMHAM BRIDGE		7305	SHEEPYARD (site of)
1346	EARTHWORKS		8868	ST OWEN'S PARISH CHURCHYARD
1352	VICARAGE (site of)		9085	CROPMARKS, East of Mushroom Hill
1353	LIONHEAD STANDPIPE		10143	CROPMARKS, North East of Hall Farm
1354	GRAVEL PIT		10144	RING DITCH, North of old railway
1355	QUARRY		10482	ROAD METALLING
1359	EARTHWORKS, North of Bromham Hall		11516	TURNPIKE ROAD, Bedford-Newport Pagnell
1365	VILLAGE PUMP		13201	MOLLIVER'S WOOD, Ancient Woodland
1500	STONE SCATTER/ ?ROMAN ROAD		13202	BOWELS WOOD, Ancient Woodland
1777	RIDGE AND FURROW, Bromham parish		13975	CROPMARKS, West of Oakley Road
1993	?BUILDINGS (site of)		14731	BEDFORD-NORTHAMPTON RAILWAY
2621	MILL (SITE OF)		14761	DANISH HARBOUR, Bromham
2773	EARTHWORKS, Bromham Mill		14843	POST-MEDIEVAL CULVERT, Bromham Hall
2782	CROPMARK OF QUARRY		16554	IRON AGE OCCUPATION, North East of London Barn Farm
2784	WELL(S)		16564	POSSIBLE DITCHED RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE; SW of Mushroom Hill, Bromham
3071	QUARRY & LIME KILN		16587	RING DITCH, S of Clapham village
3117	STONE PIT		17065	BROMHAM MEDIEVAL VILLAGE
3123	CROPMARKS		17066	BRIDGE END MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT
3125	CROPMARKS & ROMAN POTTERY; E of Bromham Hospital		MBB21743	ANGLO-SAXON AND MEDIEVAL OCCUPATION: 10 The Green, Bromham
*Also part of, or areas within the site are Scheduled Monument				

Map no.	Site		Map no.	Site
MBB21930	PROBABLE POST-MEDIEVAL TREE RING; W of Mushroom Hill, Bromham		MBB22446	ANTI-TANK OBSTACLE; Bromham
MBB21931	POST-MEDIEVAL QUARRIES; W of Mushroom Hill, Bromham		MBB22619	PALAEOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC FLINT IMPLEMENTS
MBB21932	POST-MEDIEVAL/MODERN LINEAR DITCHES; N of Bromham.		MBB23024	SALEM THRIFT; The Glade, Bromham
MBB21933	TWENTIETH CENTURY QUARRY/GRAVEL PIT; Bromham		MBB23046	UNNAMED COPSES AND SPINNEYS IN BROMHAM PARISH; Bromham
MBB21934	IRON AGE/ROMANO-BRITISH RECTILINEAR ENCLOSURE; NE of Dropshort Farm		MBB23171	HISTORIC ROUTEWAYS IN KEMPSTON RURAL PARISH; Kempston Rural
MBB21935	IRON AGE/ROMANO-BRITISH ENCLOSURE CROPMARK; NE of Dropshort Farm		MBB23172	HISTORIC ROUTEWAYS IN BIDDENHAM PARISH; Biddenham
MBB21936	GRAVEL EXTRACTION ALONG THE GREAT OUSE; Bromham		MBB23174	HISTORIC ROUTEWAYS IN STAGSDEN PARISH; Stagsden
MBB21937	SMALL POST-MEDIEVAL QUARRY; W of St Owen's Church, Bromham		MBB23175	HISTORIC ROUTEWAYS IN BROMHAM PARISH; Bromham
MBB21938	HOLLOW WAY; E of Hall Farm, Bromham		MBB23176	HISTORIC ROUTEWAYS IN STEVINGTON PARISH; Stevington
MBB21939	POST-MEDIEVAL GRAVEL PIT; E of Hall Farm, Bromham		MBB23177	HISTORIC ROUTEWAYS IN OAKLEY PARISH; Oakley
MBB21940	RING DITCH CROPMARK; S of River Great Ouse, Bromham		MBB23178	HISTORIC ROUTEWAYS IN CLAPHAM PARISH; Clapham
MBB22166	MEDIEVAL/POST-MEDIEVAL BOUNDARY DITCH; S of Hall Farm, Bromham			



Open Space, Access and Recreation Map (Figure 5)

This map shows the positions of open spaces (e.g. recreation grounds or school playing fields) within your parish. Not all of them are accessible to the public. Rights of Way are key to providing access to open spaces within green infrastructure plans. When creating networks, access barriers such as busy roads, would need to be considered. The main (illustrated and labelled) greenspaces are summarized below the map.



Main greenspaces in Bromham

Map no.	Name	Publicly accessible?	Area (Hectares)
1	Salem Thrift CWS	Yes	7.76
2	Orchard	No	1.01
3	Recreation Field	Yes	2.96
4	Orchard	No	0.38
5	Bromham Bypass RNR	No	1.56 (3.10 total)
6	Bowels Wood CWS	No	8.46
7	Lesley Sell Training Centre	No	3.15
8	Molliver's Wood CWS	No	2.85
9	Village Hall Playing Field	Yes	2.73
10	Bromham Mill Meadow	Yes	1.94
11	River Great Ouse CWS	Yes (via footpaths)	12.04 (213.11 total)
12	Bromham Park CWS	No	4.47
13	Orchard	No	0.03
14	St Owen's Churchyard	Yes	0.43
15	Orchard	No	0.06
16	Orchard	No	0.06
17	Orchard	No	0.08
18	Bromham Lake CWS/Local Nature Reserve	Yes	10.86
19	Bromham Water Meadows CWS	No	35.60
20	Orchard	No	0.12
21	Turvey-Bromham Disused Railway CWS/Stevington Country Walk	Yes	1.57 (18.77 total)
22*	The Paddock	Yes	1.17

Note: Site 22* is not shown on the above map, due to it being added to the listing during the consultation process.



Aims of this Plan

To identify the key existing natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, accessible greenspace and rights of way and to plan new features that will provide a connected network of green infrastructure for the benefit of present and future generations.

Objectives

To create a comprehensive document that will assist the local community to:

- Protect and where possible enhance the landscape, biodiversity and the historic environment
- Improve access and links for people and wildlife
- Provide a multi-functional green infrastructure network
- Provide a source of information and guidance for planners, landowners and developers in formulating land use plan
- Promote community involvement
- Identify projects and produce an action plan to implement projects.



Links to other Green Infrastructure related plans

Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (2007)

The Bedfordshire & Luton Strategic Green Infrastructure Plan (2007) identifies a broad, spatial vision for green infrastructure across the area and highlights 11 strategic GI corridors across the county.

The parish of Bromham is identified by the Plan as lying within the Upper Great Ouse River Valley Corridor (2) and in Historic Environment Character Area (HECA) Number 6.

The Landscape Character Area map shows the parish as lying within the Great Ouse Limestone Valley (3B).

Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030

The Local Plan 2030 sets out how much growth and development there will be in Bedford borough until 2030 in order to meet local needs. It plans for the additional houses and facilities required to support new communities and provide jobs and services such as schools, transport and shops.

The Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan 2009

The Bedford Green Infrastructure Plan complements the Bedford and Luton Strategic GI Plan (2007) by identifying more detailed spatial priorities across Bedford borough and provides detailed background information to support other Bedford Borough Council policies and proposals

Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 - 2021

Produced by the Bedford Borough Partnership in 2009, the Strategy sets out the Partnership's vision for the future of Bedford borough and the goals that the Partnership was seeking to achieve. Although the Partnership itself no longer exists, the goals and aims remain relevant; many have direct links to the Local Plan 2030 and can be delivered by the local plan's policies.

Bedford Borough Corporate Plan 2022 - 2026

The Corporate Plan (Together Bedford Borough) is part of the Council's adopted Policy Framework and is the Borough Council's plan for economic recovery and growth. It builds on the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-2022 and reflects the global impact of the pandemic and a number of other factors.

Methodology & Community Involvement

A methodology for the production of Parish Green Infrastructure Plans was developed in 2007 and 2008 by the PGIP Working Group and endorsed by the Beds & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium (now the Beds & Luton Local Nature Partnership). This standard methodology has been used to produce 40 parish-level GI Plans across Bedfordshire.

An initial workshop was promoted to local stakeholders and residents through the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The workshop presentation, which took place on 22 February 2024 at Bromham Village Hall, provided an overview of GI Planning and its use in helping to shape and prioritise actions for future enhancements to Staploe's network of public access, biodiversity and landscapes assets.

The workshop was attended 34 residents, details below:

- **Attendees:** Male x16, Female x18
- **Age ranges of attendees:**

25-44	x2
45-59	x4
60-74	x24
75+	x4
- **Length of attendee residence in the parish:**

Less than one year	x1
1-5 years	x7
6-10 years	x4
11-25 years	x11
25 years plus	x11

The meeting also introduced an online survey, which was open to all stakeholders and residents to provide their views on what they valued about the local area and what their future aspirations were for Bromham. In addition to the survey questions, maps and guidance were available on a dedicated web page, and consultees were asked to view the information and answer the questions in their own time over the following weeks. Hard copies of the survey and the information page were made available for those residents who did not have online access.

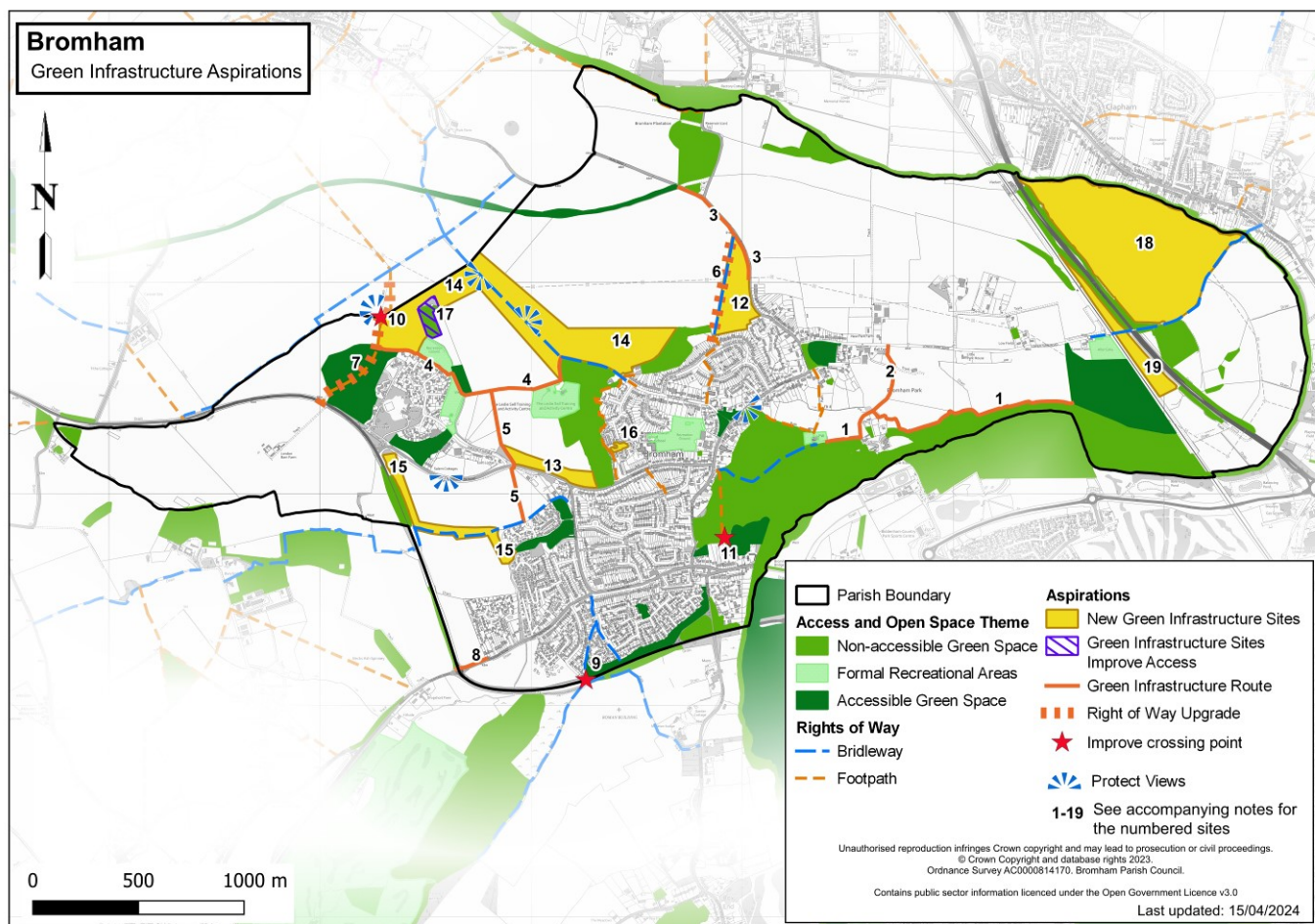
The responses from the online survey were analysed and the views expressed were compiled to produce a list of aspirations.

A face-to-face drop-in session, hosted by BRCC and the Bromham Parish Neighbourhood Plan group, then took place on 9 November 2024 at Bromham Village Hall in order to enable residents to view and comment on the aspirations identified through the online consultation. Attendees were also invited to provide their views on these and put forward new aspirations.

A second online questionnaire, open to all stakeholders and residents, was then circulated in order to produce a set of prioritised aspirations, and the identification of a set of prioritised important spaces.

The collation and analysis of the survey responses led to the production of the final GI map and prioritised table of aspirations and the identification of important green spaces, as detailed in the following pages.

Bromham Parish Green Infrastructure Aspirations - map and table



Where future built developments are proposed on land where GI aspirations have been identified, consideration should be given as to whether the aspiration(s) can be delivered either as part of a potential built development, or whether an alternative location for the aspiration(s) can be found. Such developments may contribute, either financially or through direct works, to the implementation of GI aspirations.

Table of GI Aspirations

The Aspiration numbers in the table below relate to locations on the GI Map above.

Aspiration Number	Aspiration
1	Create a new public footpath from the nature reserve (site 18 on Access Map), along the southern boundary of Bromham Park to the church
2	Create a new public footpath from Lower Farm Road south into Bromham Park, linking with Aspiration 1 above
3	Create a new public footpath from the northern end of housing on Oakley Road to Stevington Country Walk
4	Create a new public bridleway linking BW7 and FP16
5	Create a new public bridleway to the north and south of Northampton Road to link existing BW5 to proposed bridleway at Aspiration 4
6	Improve the surface of BW10
7	Upgrade FP16 and FP14 (north to BW20) to public bridleways
8	Create a short public footpath alongside Stagsden Road west to the A428 roundabout to provide access to Stagsden's FP 29 (outside parish)
9	Improve the safety of BW2 crossing of A428
10	Improve the footbridge over the stream to the north of Salem Thrift
11	Improve the footbridge over the brook on FP4 near Bromham Mill
12	Create a woodland extension east and north-east from Molliver's Wood to Oakley Road
13	Create a woodland belt along the north side of Northampton Road
14	Plant a woodland corridor linking the woodland areas of Salem Thrift, orchard, Bowels Wood, Lesley Sell Training Centre and Molliver's Wood (sites 1,2,6,7,8 on Access Map) for landscape and wildlife benefits and enhanced access setting
15	Plant a woodland belt for landscaping and wildlife connectivity
16	Create a community garden on the green space by the library
17	Provide public access to the orchard (site 2 on Access Map)
18	Create a new publicly accessible nature reserve directly east of the A6, to include wetland, natural water areas, scrub and trees
19	Create a nature reserve, with no public access, on the land between the railway and the A6

Prioritisation activities

From the list of aspirations above, residents were asked to identify and prioritise the top five that they would like to see implemented. The prioritised table of aspirations is displayed below, with the top five aspirations shown in **bold**.

Aspiration ref.	Aspirational GI Enhancements	Aspiration ranking
1	Create a new public footpath from the nature reserve (site 18 on Access Map), along the southern boundary of Bromham Park to the church	1st
13	Create a woodland belt along the north side of Northampton Road	2nd
14	Plant a woodland corridor linking the woodland areas of Salem Thrift, orchard, Bowels Wood, Lesley Sell Training Centre and Molliver's Wood (sites 1,2,6,7,8 on Access Map) for landscape and wildlife benefits and enhanced access setting	2nd
2	Create a new public footpath from Lower Farm Road south into Bromham Park, linking with Aspiration 1 above	4th
18	Create a new publicly accessible nature reserve directly east of the A6, to include wetland, natural water areas, scrub and trees	5th
12	Create a woodland extension east and north-east from Molliver's Wood to Oakley Road	6th
15	Plant a woodland belt for landscaping and wildlife connectivity	7th
3	Create a new public footpath from the northern end of housing on Oakley Road to Stevington Country Walk	8th
4	Create a new public bridleway linking BW7 and FP16	8th
5	Create a new public bridleway to the north and south of Northampton Road to link existing BW5 to proposed bridleway at Aspiration 4	8th
8	Create a short public footpath alongside Stagsden Road west to the A428 roundabout to provide access to Stagsden's FP 29 (outside parish)	8th
9	Improve the safety of BW2 crossing of A428	8th
11	Improve the footbridge over the brook on FP4 near Bromham Mill	8th
16	Create a community garden on the green space by the library	14th
19	Create a nature reserve, with no public access, on the land between the railway and the A6	14th
6	Improve the surface of BW10	16th
7	Upgrade FP16 and FP14 (north to BW20) to public bridleways	16th
10	Improve the footbridge over the stream to the north of Salem Thrift	16th
17	Provide public access to the orchard (site 2 on Access Map)	16th

Notes:

(1) In addition to the aspirations noted in the table above, the following concerns were submitted by online respondents:

- Protect general green space around Bromham Mill – including Mill Meadow, mature trees and badger sett.
- Create more woodland areas / belts for wildlife
- Improve current rights of way re. surfaces and scrub encroachment
- Protect waterways from pollution / run-off
- Create more walking / cycling routes

(2) Marrons, on behalf of Rainier Developments, have made a number of comments on the GI Plan, describing how they are able to “support delivery of new green infrastructure”:

- “Helping enable delivery of a section of Green Infrastructure Route 5 (from the existing bridleway FP8 to Northampton Road). This could route via the existing green space network proposed as part of Rainier’s illustrative masterplan, it does not need to rigidly follow the line of the existing hedgerow as currently suggested on the Green Infrastructure Plan.
- Green space, landscaping and recreational areas to the west and south of Rainier’s site south of Northampton Road, generally aligning with the extent of ‘New Green Infrastructure Site 15’. However, we do not support a ‘woodland belt’ as is currently proposed and we endorse a more multi-functional green corridor as is currently illustrated on Rainier’s illustrative masterplan, which includes tree planting, recreational routes, play trail, other green spaces, wildlife habitats and children’s play provision. This will have a much greater range of benefits from a green infrastructure planning perspective, and we consider links better with the existing accessible green space to the south and east.
- It is also important to note that in addition to the proposals on the Green Infrastructure Plan, Rainier’s current outline planning application provides further green infrastructure features including children’s play space, skate park/provision for older children (a priority in the adopted Neighbourhood Plan), new ponds for wildlife and drainage, community orchard planting and allotments, other green space and a range of recreational routes.”

Important Green Spaces

Similar to the above exercise, residents were also asked to identify and rank their most important green spaces in the parish. The results of this activity provided a consensus as to the top three most important spaces. The table below shows only those sites that received votes.

Priority ranking	Site	Ref. number on Access, Open Space and Recreation map (Map 5)	Percentage of votes received
1st	Bromham Mill area	10	39%
2nd	Bromham Park	12	24%
3rd	Salems Thrift	1	18%
4th	Lower Farm Road Local Nature Reserve	18	15%
5th	Land around St Owen's Church	14	3%
6th	Molivers Wood	8	1%



Local Green Space designation

The National Planning Framework (NPPF), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2012, sets out the government's planning policies for England. Paragraphs 76 to 78 introduce a new Local Green Space designation (LGS) to protect local green areas of particular importance to local communities. This enables communities, in certain circumstances, to identify and protect areas that are of value to them through local and neighbourhood plans. Once designated, the LGS is subject to the same strong development restrictions as Green Belt, and new development here is ruled out other than in special circumstances. The LGS is designated by the planning authority (borough, district, metropolitan or other unitary authority).

Some areas may already be available for public access; other land could be considered for designation even if there is no public access. Designation does not confer any rights of access over what currently exists.

Summary of the Staploe LGS Assessment: Stage 1

The stage 1 assessment is designed to filter out which sites - proposed for LGS Designation by the 2024 Staploe Green Infrastructure Plan - do not meet the basic NPPF LGS eligibility criteria. Sites which have current planning permission, or have been allocated for development, or have an existing designation giving the same level of protection as a LGS designation, do not meet the criteria and are not carried forward to the stage 2 assessment.

Bromham LGS assessment process Stage 1 – table of sites put forward for LGS designation

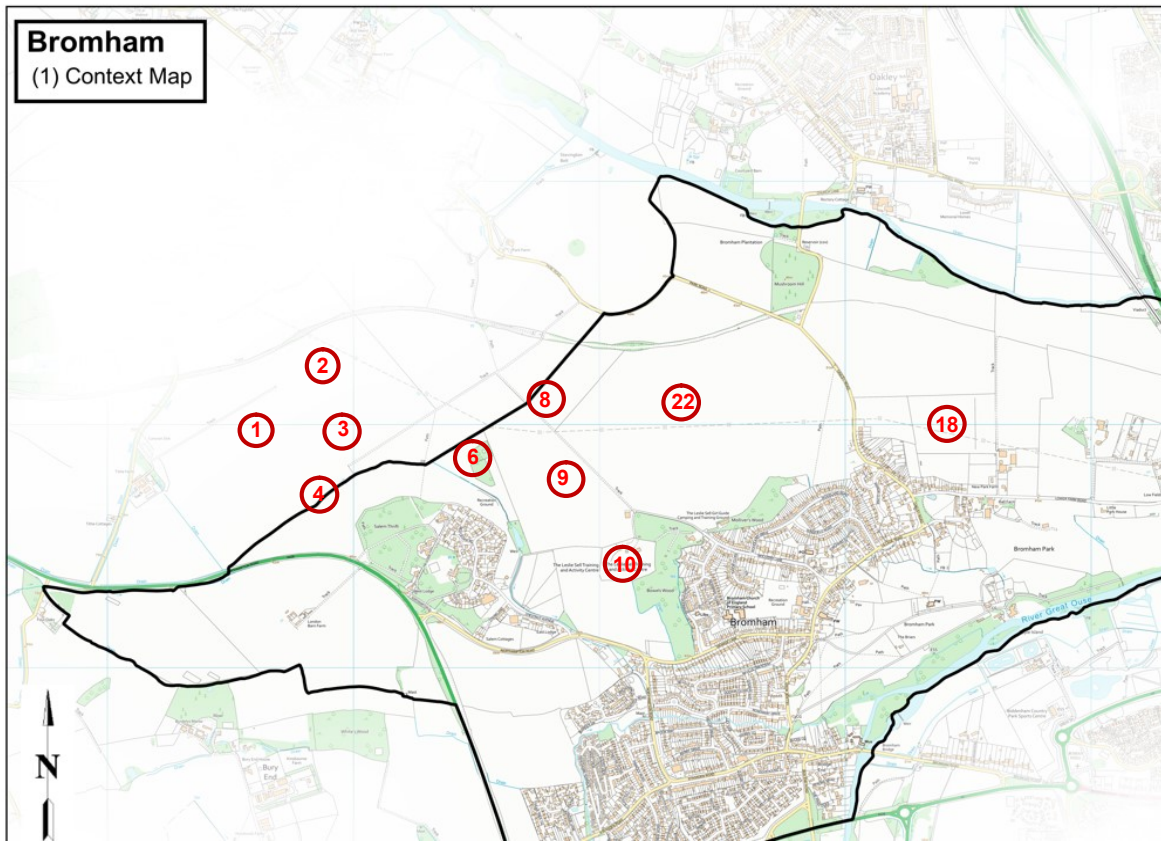
CWS = County Wildlife Site

Site name (and map reference number)	Current Planning Permission?	Allocated for Development?	Already Designated?	Pass to Stage 2?
Salem Thrift CWS (1)	NO	NO	NO	YES
Orchard (2)	NO	NO	NO	YES
Recreation Ground (3)	NO	NO	NO	YES
Community Orchard (4)	NO	NO	NO	YES
Bowels Wood CWS (6)	NO	NO	NO	YES
Molliver's Wood CWS (8)	NO	NO	NO	YES
Bromham Village Hall Playing Field (9)	NO	NO	NO	YES
Bromham Mill Meadow (10)	NO	NO	NO	YES
Bromham Lake CWS /Local Nature Reserve (18)	NO	NO	NO	YES
The Paddock (22)	NO	NO	NO	YES

Bromham LGS assessment process Stage 2 - table and map of sites put forward for LGS designation

Site (and map reference number)	Too Extensive?	Close Proximity?	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant?	Recommend for Designation?
Salem Thrift CWS (1)	N	Y	Y	Y
Orchard (2)	N	Y	Y	Y
Recreation Ground (3)	N	Y	Y	Y
Community Orchard (4)	N	Y	Y	Y
Bowels Wood CWS (6)	N	Y	Y	Y
Molliver's Wood CWS (8)	N	Y	Y	Y
Bromham Village Hall Playing Field (9)	N	Y	Y	Y
Bromham Mill Meadow (10)	N	Y	Y	Y
Bromham Lake CWS /Local Nature Reserve (18)	N	Y	Y	Y
The Paddock (22)	N	Y	Y	Y

Bromham
(1) Context Map



Bromham Neighbourhood Plan - Policy recommendations

In line with the aspirations identified by the community and taking into account the existing GI network and assets as displayed on the maps in the GI map pack, this GI Plan proposes two recommendations for policies to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

- **Protect Bromham Mill from over-development**
- **Create a safe footway over Bromham bridge**



Bromham Parish Green Infrastructure Plan 2025 - Action Plan

[1] Lead Partner Organisation / individual taking the lead in the planning and implementation of the aspiration (see key below)
 [2] Other Partners Other organisations to be involved in the planning and implementation of the aspiration (see key below)
 [3] Resourcing Likely level of funding needed: Low (achievable with no or minimal funding), Medium (achievable with moderate new funding), High (achievable with significant new funding)
 [4] Timescale Likely date of implementation: Short 2026-28; Medium 2029-31; Long 2032+

BPC Bromham Parish Council
 BBC Bedford Borough Council

BNPSG Bromham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
 LO Landowner

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
1	Create a new public footpath from the nature reserve (site 18 on Access Map), along the southern boundary of Bromham Park to the church	PC	BBC Highways LO	M-H	L	Liaise with partners Create reference in NP
2	Create a new public footpath from Lower Farm Road south into Bromham Park, linking with Aspiration 1 above	PC	BBC Highways LO	M-H	L	Liaise with partners Create reference in NP
3	Create a new public footpath from the northern end of housing on Oakley Road to Stevington Country Walk	PC	BBC Highways LO	M-H	L	Liaise with partners Create reference in NP
4	Create a new public bridleway linking BW7 and FP16	PC	BBC Highways LO	M-H	L	Liaise with partners Create reference in NP
5	Create a new public bridleway to the north and south of Northampton Road to link existing BW5 to proposed bridleway at Aspiration 4	PC	BBC Highways LO	M-H	L	Liaise with partners Create reference in NP

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
6	Improve accessibility and surface condition of BW10	PC	BBC Highways LO	H	S	Liaise with partners
7	Upgrade FP16 and FP14 (north to BW20) to public bridleways	PC	BBC Highways LO	M-H	L	Liaise with partners Create reference in NP
8	Create a short public footpath alongside Stagsden Road west to the A428 roundabout to provide access to Stagsden's FP 29 (outside parish)	PC	BBC Highways Developer	M	M	Liaise with BBC
9	Improve the safety of BW2 crossing of A428	PC	BBC Highways	M	S-M	Liaise with BBC
10	Improve the footbridge over the stream to the north of Salem Thrift	PC	BBC LO	M-H	S-M	Liaise with BBC, LO
11	Improve the footbridge over the brook on FP4 near Bromham Mill	PC	BBC LO	H	M	Create reference in NP
12	Create a woodland extension east and north-east from Molliver's Wood to Oakley Road	PC	LO	M	M	Create reference in NP
13	Create a woodland belt along the north side of Northampton Road	PC	LO	M	M	Create reference in NP
14	Plant a woodland corridor linking the woodland areas of Salem Thrift, orchard, Bowels Wood, Lesley Sell Training Centre and Molliver's Wood (sites 1,2,6,7,8 on Access Map) for landscape and wildlife benefits and enhanced access setting	PC	LO	M-H	S	Create reference in NP
15	Plant a woodland belt for landscaping and wildlife connectivity	PC	LO	L-M	M	Create reference in NP
16	Create a community garden on the green space by the library	PC	BBC LO (BPHA?)	L-M	M	Create reference in NP

Ref	Aspiration	Possible Lead Partner [1]	Other Partners [2]	Resourcing [3]	Timescale [4]	Next Steps
17	Provide public access to the orchard (site 2 on Access Map)	PC	LO	L	S-M	Create reference in NP
18	Create a new publicly accessible nature reserve directly east of the A6, to include wetland, natural water areas, scrub and trees	PC	LO	H	L	Create reference in NP
19	Create a nature reserve, with no public access, on the land between the railway and the A6	PC	LO	M	L	Create reference in NP

