

Local Green Spaces

Below are details of the Local Green Spaces of demonstrably special interest to the local community in Bitton Parish. The comments are reviews of the justifications put forward previously.

LGSD605: North Street allotments site, North Street, Oldland Common

Mapped incorrectly originally but this was corrected in your email of 23 July.

This site is surrounded by houses in North Street, Cooks Close, Noble Avenue and Batley Court. It offers 80+ allotments, all of which are currently leased to tenants by Bitton Parish Council and are actively worked. There is a mains water supply. Bitton Parish Council undertakes investment in the site regularly to keep it in good condition with reasonable access. It is an oasis of calm. It is a haven for wildlife: a few years ago we had a vixen and two fox cubs in a den on the site. We have worked with the Avon Reptile and Amphibian Group to survey the slow-worm population there and established a hibernaculum. We have set aside one section of the site as a managed wildlife area. Each year pupils from Cherry Garden Primary School visit the site and are shown where their food comes from, how it is grown and are encouraged to plant something (with the co-operation and support of tenants).

LGSD605: Redfield Hill allotments site, Redfield Hill, Oldland Common

Mapped incorrectly originally but this was corrected in your email of 23 July.

This Green Belt site lies between houses in Redfield Hill and is adjacent to the Aitchison Field, also put forward as a Local Green Space. It offer 11.5 plots. All are currently leased to tenants by Bitton Parish Council and are actively worked. Being a small site the tenants particularly know each other and co-operate and collaborate in working their plots. The site is a haven for wildlife. The margins are left uncultivated to encourage suitable habitat. In the winter deer have been seen on the site, helping themselves to some of the produce.

LGSD606: Aitchison Field, Castle Road, Oldland Common

Mapped correctly as LGSD606.

This site is well positioned in the centre of Oldland Common and can also be accessed from Redfield Hill along public right of way PBN81. It is bounded on its western side by houses in High Street. It lies adjacent to the Redfield Hill allotments site which is also put forward as a Local Green Space.

Aitchison Field was donated to the local community in the 1930s as a recreational space. It is managed by South Gloucestershire Council. It is well used for its original purpose. The site is leased to Deerswood/Oldland Abbotonians FC who run youth, women's and men's football teams. The pitch can be floodlit and has a stand for spectators. The clubhouse is also used two evenings per week as the base of Bitton Road Runners. It incorporates the only play area in Oldland Common, which was refurbished three years ago with equipment for children aged 8-14 years. There are plans in hand to add equipment for younger children.

The boundaries of Aitchison Field adjoin open countryside and fields stretching up Redfield Hill, offering a rich wildlife habitat. Young deer are often seen in the area.

LGSD607: Pound Ground, Golden Valley Lane, Bitton

Mapped correctly as LGSD607.

The Pound Ground is also accessed from Mill Lane, Bitton. It is a well-loved and well-used area of open space within the Green Belt and the Bitton Conservation area. It is adjacent to houses on its SW and SE boundaries with rural land to the north so offering a rich wildlife habitat along its margins. To the west is the former Intier factory which is currently the subject of a planning application for 115 houses with community facilities and commercial property (PK15/0532/F). If allowed, this will increase the size of Bitton village by one third, placing significant strain on the existing leisure and other facilities.

Part of the Pound Ground is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas legislation as it relates to remains of national importance. There are suggestions that it was used as a Roman camp. There are also indications of its use as a Medieval enclosure. As a recreational site it offers a basketball court and posts, a football field and goal posts and three benches/seats as well as a large grassed area for informal use and mature trees. Local residents have plans to upgrade the site further to offer even more potential for enjoyment. Adjacent to open countryside this site is a haven for wildlife with bats nesting close by.

LGSD608: Aubrey Meads play area, Aubrey Meads, Bitton

Mapped correctly as LGSD608.

This play area is adjacent to houses in Aubrey Meads. It is the only play area serving Bitton Village. It lies in the Green Belt and is surrounded on three sides by rural land so offering a rich wildlife habitat along its margins.

Aubrey Meads play area was completely refurbished by South Gloucestershire Council in 2014 at a cost of £60,000. It now offers superb play value for children over a wide age range. It is well used by local residents. There are a roundabout, two sets of swings, a hanging swing, a climbing tower and slide, a rocker and vertical balance logs set in a well landscaped site provided with tables, seats and benches.

LGSD608: Pines Road play area, Pines Road, Bitton

Mapped correctly as LGSD608.

Also known as Cherry Gardens play area. Can be accessed from Pines Road, Cherry Gardens and the Bitton Station car park (Avon Valley Railway and cycle/walkway).

The play area offers a roundabout, two sets of swings and a multi-tower with slide plus one seat. There is also a large grassed area for informal play thus offering excellent recreational value as both a play area and sports field.

The site is adjacent to the recreational facilities of the Avon Valley Railway's Bitton Station and the cycle/walkway and so it is used by both local residents and those attracted by the other facilities nearby, so enhancing their appeal.

LGSD609: linear park alongside Siston Brook from Hazelbury Drive, North Common to Court Road, Oldland Common

Mapped correctly as LGSD609 from Cowhorn Hill to Court Road. It should also cover the map LGSD617 from Cowhorn Hill north to Hinton Drive, including the area to the north of St Barnabas School. It should not include the area between Malvern Drive and Cheviot Way as this is within LGSD 617 (below).

This was proposed by Bitton Parish Council. However, the area stretches north into Siston Parish (up to Hinton Drive) and west and south into Oldland Parish (down as far as Willsbridge Mill) and should take in both sides of Siston Brook, for example as far as the back of houses in Roy King Gardens, Tower Road South, Stanley Gardens, Cedar Close, Berenda Drive and Sunnyvale Drive, Longwell Green. It is not known if Siston and Oldland Parishes have nominated these areas separately.

This area can be accessed from a number of residential roads in North Common, Oldland Common and for the extended area, Cadbury Heath, Longwell Green and Willsbridge and is surrounded by houses.

For the most part, this area provides a walk along Siston Brook from Hinton Drive in the north to the A431 at Willsbridge Mill. It is very well used for recreational purposes including dog walking and as a route to school (Sir Bernard Lovell School and St Barnabas Primary School). It serves well the many residents who live in housing estates (including priority neighbourhoods) along its route. Along its length there is a play area at Malvern Drive LGSD1178 (also known as Chiltern play area), and newly excavated allotment plots and a skate park at the former Warmley Golf Course site. Bitton Parish Council has identified the

open space below Brooklea, Oldland Common (locally known as Slippery Jim) as suitable for a play area. There was one here in the past until the equipment became dangerous. The area is a significant wildlife corridor offering a variety of habitats alongside Siston Brook. Otters have been sighted.

LGSD610: Bristol to Bath cycle/walkway

Not mapped. In the ownership of South Gloucestershire Council so can details be found? The Bristol to Bath cycle/walkway is on the route of the former Midland Railway line. It is now set aside with two main features: 1) it is a preserved steam railway operated by the Avon Valley Railway, centred on Bitton Station; and 2) it is a nationally recognised cycle/walkway providing access for many people every day, both for long journeys and (given the large number of access points even within Bitton Parish) for very local ones. The cycle/walkway is well used for recreational purposes – cycling and walking being the obvious ones. But it is also ideal for teaching young children to learn to cycle in a safe environment. It is used by local groups (especially youth groups) for sponsored cycle rides and walks for fund-raising. It is used in part by runners for races (eg the annual race from Mangotsfield School along part of the cycle/walkway and through Warmley Forest Park).

As a long, linear route stretching down to the River Avon in the south it is a significant wildlife corridor and offers special and distinctive habitats.

LGSD611: Bitton Recreation Ground, Bath Road, Bitton

Mapped correctly as LGSD611.

This site lies on the A431 and within the Green Belt. Although not immediately adjacent to houses it lies close to both Willsbridge and Bitton and is easily accessible given its main road location.

The site was left to the community by [REDACTED] for recreational use and is managed by a charity with a Board of Trustees, all of whom are local residents. It comprises a clubhouse, football pitch with floodlights and stands for spectators, cricket pitch and multi-use games area. These are the only such facilities in Bitton and Willsbridge and are therefore very special to the residents. The site is the home of Bitton Football Club, Bitton Cricket Club and is also used for archery. The clubhouse and multi-use games area are available to the public for hire.

The site is adjacent to the cycle/walkway and close to the River Avon and open countryside.

As such its margins are a rich habitat for wildlife and it is an important part of the local ecology. Deer are frequently seen in the area.

LGSD613: Dramway, North Common to Londonderry Wharf

I have been trying to get details of the Dramway, a local tramway that used to run from Coalpit Heath to the River Avon at Londonderry Wharf, carrying coal from local collieries to Bristol and beyond. The last section goes through Bitton Parish, but its entire length is in South Gloucestershire. Bitton Parish Council has nominated the Dramway as a Local Green Space but I don't know if parishes on the more northerly sections have done the same.

This link <https://www.southglos.gov.uk/documents/the%20dramway.pdf> to a booklet produced by South Gloucestershire Council provides full details of the route of the Dramway, its historical significance and its desirability as a linear route. Is this sufficient for your purposes?

LGSD614: The Retreat, Marshfield Lane, Upton Cheyney

Mapped correctly as LGSD614.

This wonderful site lies within the Green Belt. It was planted with trees as a Millennium project by the Woodland Trust but now forms part of the Forest of Avon and so is well-known despite its isolated location. It is a very special place offering calm and peace. There are paths for short walks around a wooded area with spectacular views over the Severn

Estuary to the Welsh Hills. Or you can sit on one of several benches, relax and admire the vista. Young people with learning difficulties have been working up there, looking after the trees. Teachers have used it for training courses on ecology. Wild flowers flourish enriching the rural location and offering a rich wildlife habitat.

LGSD614: Barons Wood, Marshfield Lane, Upton Cheyney

Mapped correctly as LGSD614.

This smaller Woodland Trust site lies in the Green Belt. The trees give a very pleasing aspect offering a peaceful and beautiful experience. It is popular with those seeking a place to walk. In this rural idyll a rich wildlife habitat exists.

LGSD614: Briarlands Activity Site, Wick Lane, Upton Cheyney

Mapped correctly as LGSD614.

Briarlands lies within the Green Belt and is owned by the Guiding Association. It is well-used as an activity centre base by young people from the Guiding Association and also many other youth organisations and schools. Accommodation has been developed for disabled people to enjoy its facilities too. Users camp there and access the local countryside for orienteering, walking, map reading, rural craft, etc. Local residents in the small village of Beach nearby support the facility and enjoy the use of the countryside made by the young people who stay at Briarlands. Its margins are a haven for wildlife as it is in a very rural area.

LGSD617: area beside stream from North Common Hall, Millers Drive to Siston Brook at Cowhorn Hill

Not correctly mapped. This covers the section mapped as LGSD617 ONLY between Malvern Drive and Cheviot Way. However, it should also extend eastwards, crossing Cloverlea Road/Millers Drive up to the site of North Common Village Hall.

The area is well used for general recreation including dog walking. Bitton Parish Council planted a stand of some 20 trees between Malvern Drive and Cloverlea Road some years ago which are now maturing. This is a delightful green space in a large housing estate, offering a wildlife corridor of grassed area and water.

LGSD1177: play area at Tweeney Lane, Poplar Road, North Common

Mapped incorrectly originally but this was corrected in your email of 23 July.

This well used play area was refurbished by South Gloucestershire Council at considerable cost about five years ago and offers excellent play value. It offers two sets of swings, two climbing frames, one tower slide, one small slide, two small rocking horses, a roundabout, a balance frame and vertical balance logs. There are two benches and a seat. It is used by the popular Red Roofs Nursery whose premises are in Poplar Road.

LGSD1178: play area at Malvern Drive, North Common

No map listed. As it is owned by South Gloucestershire Council can details be found?

This site is also known as Chiltern play area.

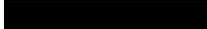
This is a large area including play equipment and a grassed area fenced off from the linear park from Hazelbury Drive to Court Road (LGSD609). A further large grassed area adjoins it.

The play area serves the many houses close by off Mill Lane plus also a significant amount of 'passing traffic' along this well used route. It has been better used since it was fenced off a few years ago and is on the list for refurbishment. It offers two sets of swings, a slide and a climbing frame. It is next to Siston Brook and part of the linear path from North Common to Willsbridge Mill and so its margins are a rich habitat for wildlife.

LGSD1179: play area at Coombes Way, North Common

Mapped incorrectly originally but this was corrected in your email of 23 July.

This play area serves the houses in this part of Millers Drive plus is on the route to school for Redfield Edge Primary School. It offers two sets of swings, two slides and a rocking horse plus a large enclosed grassed area. It also adjoins the cycle/walkway and so its margins form part of the rich wildlife habitat that this corridor provides.


Bitton Parish Council
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