

Local Green Space Consultation – June 2015 Response Form

Your name / organisation:

Winterbourne Parish Council

Address and contact details (please include phone number & email address):

[Redacted address and contact details]

In order to be able to proceed with the protection of the green spaces that have been put forward for designation as Local Green Spaces we must have for each space:

- details of the ownership of the land (if at all possible)
- a map of the boundaries
- an explanation of how it meets the criteria for designation and
- specific justification for why it is demonstrably special to the local community

Therefore please first check the List of Nominated Local Green Spaces and maps which can be viewed at: www.southglos.gov.uk/lgsd15 which identifies where further information on any of the above is still needed and then provide us with the additional information where necessary using this form:

PLEASE USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH GREEN SPACE

Name and code of nominated space:

Please clearly reference the individual Local Green Space's code provided in both the List of nominated Local Green Spaces and the maps, available from www.southglos.gov.uk/lgsd15

LGSD1155 Huckford Quarry Winterbourne Down

A) Ownership of Local Green Space

Please indicate if you or your organisation are the landowner:

YES Winterbourne Parish Council is the landowner.

If you are not the landowner can you provide their name and contact details?

Not Applicable

Is the land owner aware of the proposal to designate their land?

Not Applicable

(If you are not the landowner please now continue to Section B)

If you are the landowner, are you in support of or objecting to the proposals to designate this land?

YES. Winterbourne Parish Council is the landowner and fully support the proposal to designate this land.

If you are objecting to the proposals to designate your land, what are your reasons? (please refer to criteria in sections C and D below in particular)

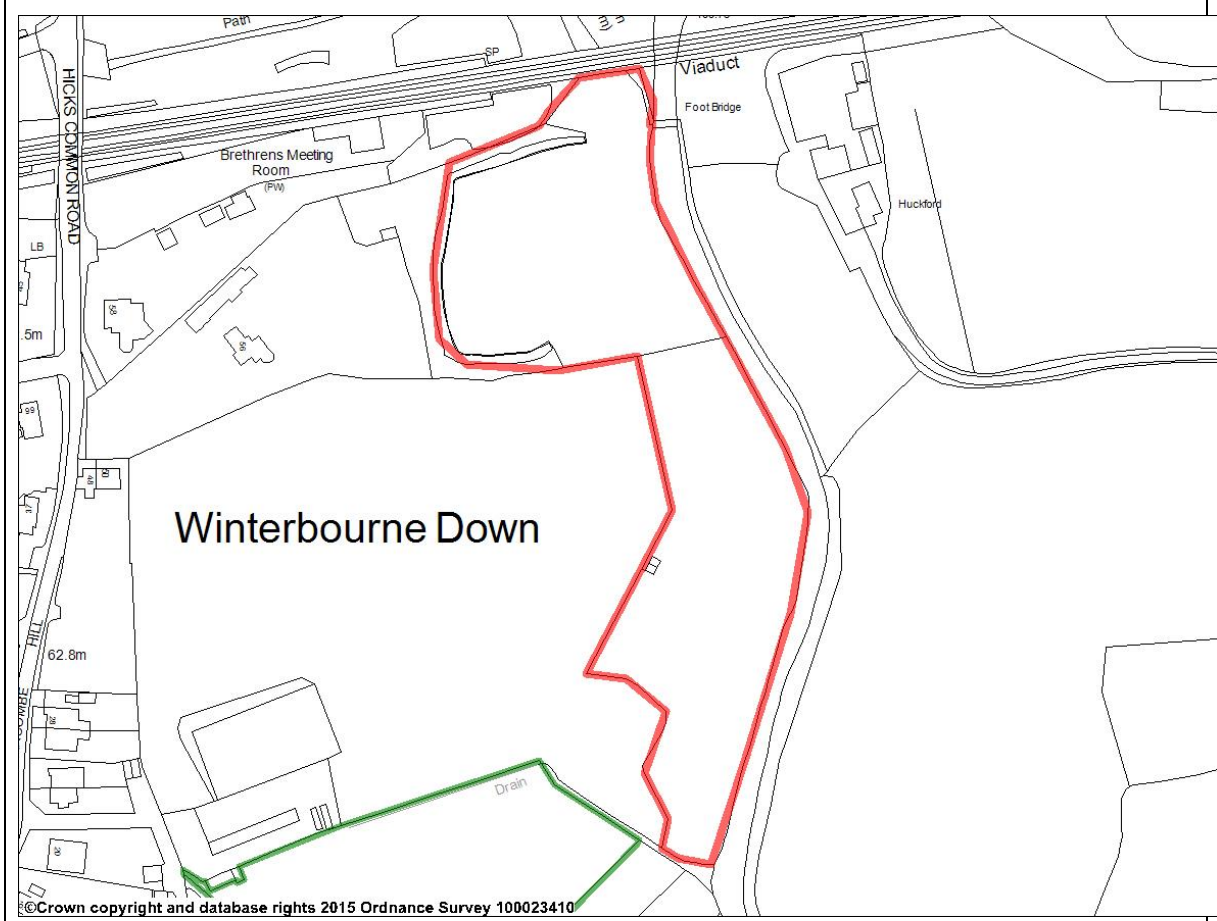
Not Applicable

B) Map of proposed Local Green Space

PLEASE PROVIDE A MAP WHICH SHOWS THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED LOCAL GREEN SPACE

If not previously provided. Please see List of Nominated Local Green Spaces and Mapped, nominated Local Green Spaces to check if this is required. www.southglos.gov.uk/lgsd15

Green Space Code	Name of Nominated Space	Ward
LGSD1155	Huckford Quarry – Winterbourne	Winterbourne Ward



IF YOU ARE THE LANDOWNER PLEASE PROVIDE A MAP OF YOUR OWNERSHIP

This is particularly important if this differs from the area proposed for designation e.g. if you own only part of the proposed Local Green Space, see the Mapped, nominated Local Green Spaces: www.southglos.gov.uk/lgsd15

C) Does the space meet the national criteria for designation as a Local Green Space?

Please provide a response to each of the following 5 criteria - where information has not already been provided or is incorrect in the List of nominated Local Green Spaces. (Table 1 of the Local Green Space Designation Updated Guidance Note (June 2015) www.southglos.gov.uk/lgsd15 provides further details of the criteria and guidance on what sort of information you may wish to submit):

1. Is the proposed space subject to a planning permission for development? (See Criteria 1 in the guidance note)

NO

2. Is the proposed space the subject of an allocation, or proposal to allocate, for development in the Local Plan? (See Criteria 2 in the guidance note)

NO

3. Is the proposed space an extensive tract of land and is it local in character? (See Criteria 3 in the guidance note)

The proposed space is not an extensive tract of land. It is less than 19 hectares in size. The site is within the village, near the Parish Church and due to its position and history is local in character.

4. Is the space within close proximity to the community it serves? (See Criteria 4 in the guidance note)

YES

The space is within the village of Winterbourne and Winterbourne Down and is easily accessible to all and most of local users walk to the area.

5. Is the specific space demonstrably special to the local community? e.g. not a blanket designation (see Criteria 5 in the guidance note)

YES

D) Why is the space of particular local significance?

Please use the following response box to provide specific evidence as to how at least one of the following criteria is relevant:

Please state which criterion, 6-11, are relevant to the nominated space. Table 2 of the Local Green Space Designation Updated Guidance Note (June 2015) www.southglos.gov.uk/lgsd15 provides further details on the criteria and guidance on what sort of information you may wish to submit to justify how the space is of particular local significance and demonstrably special to the community that use it:

6. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty
7. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its historic significance
8. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value
9. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity
10. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife

11. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of another reason not covered by criteria 6-10.

LGSD1155 Huckford Quarry Winterbourne Down meets the following criteria:

6. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty
7. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its historic significance
8. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value
9. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity
10. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife

Huckford Quarry is a nature reserve. It sits on one edge of the high section of land between the River Frome and the Bradley Brook.

It is a steep hill of pennant sandstone which was regarded as good building material. A number of stone quarries were opened around the Winterbourne Down area from the sixteenth century onwards and many local cottages are built of pennant stone.

With the coming of the railways, a viaduct across the Frome was built adjacent to the quarry which provided the stone for the core of brick-faced viaduct piers. As the building of the railway progressed, a vertical scar was left in the hillside which is there to this day.

The stone quarrying continued in the Huckford Quarry until about 1940 but its discontinuance left a sheer cliff face and slopes covered in fragments of rock.

What is left is an almost enclosed nature reserve, its open side facing the river Frome. It is visible for those walking the Frome Valley footpath from the river's source to Bristol.

Following its closure, the quarry was left for nature to reclaim it. Despite a lot of the quarry floor being rock, fern grows from the rock-face and around the rim trees remained. Where the ground was damp, harts tongue fern established itself together with other ferns and mosses. On some of the slopes birch took root.

The site was acquired by the local authority some years ago and there is a joint management agreement with Winterbourne Countryside group to manage it. The general policy has been to allow the quarry to re-establish itself naturally. This has happened although ash and sycamore seedlings needed some active control.

Safety was recognised as important and some paths were moved away from vertical drops and steps introduced on steep climbs. At a few locations barriers were erected to prevent people falling into the quarry.

Gradually nature has taken over, shrubs such as hazel, hawthorn and holly.

Small colonies of wild flowers survived throughout the quarrying years and appear each spring. They include wood spurge and red campion, bugle, and wood anemone. A wildflower survey has been carried out every three or four years. Occasionally trees fall tearing gaps in the tree cover and rank vegetation crowds out the flowers. Foxglove is one species that struggles to survive. The site is becoming greener and richer but with fewer colourful flowers. Oak, ash and sycamore are to be found but not in abundance.

It is the wish of the local authority that the quarry continues to regenerate as naturally as possible, within the needs of safety and proper management. Being adjacent to the river Frome and the Frome valley walkway it has no access except on foot. It has no development potential and should be retained as a site of natural beauty for villagers and walkers to enjoy exploring.

See attached photographs

Entrance to the Quarry area from Harcombe Hill



Quarry Entrance





Typical views in the quarry area. Highly valued natural reserve



Please return completed forms by close of business on 30th July 2015:

By e-mail: PlanningLDF@southglos.gov.uk

By post: Strategic Planning Policy and Specialist Advice Team, South Gloucestershire Council, Environment and Community Services Department, PO Box 299, Civic Centre, High Street, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 0DR.

Viewing documents

The consultation documents can be viewed from: www.southglos.gov.uk/lgsd15

The consultation documents are also available to view online at:

- South Gloucestershire Libraries (please refer to www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries for locations and opening times); and
- The Council's One-Stop Shops, from 8.45am - 5pm Mondays to Wednesdays and 8.45am - 4.30pm Thursdays and Fridays, in the following locations:
 - Thornbury Library, St Mary Street, Thornbury, BS35 2AA
 - Yate, Kennedy Way, BS37 4DQ (access via West Walk)
 - Kingswood Civic Centre, High Street, Kingswood, BS15 9TR
 - Patchway Hub, Rodway Road, Patchway, BS34 5PE

Data protection

The information collected as part this consultation will also be used by the Council in accordance with the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. The purposes for collecting this data are: to assist in plan making; and to contact you, if necessary, regarding the planning consultation process. Some of the data may be made public as it will form part of the evidence base used to inform the creation of planning policy documents. The above purposes may require public disclosure of any data received on the response form, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.