Wantage Local Green Spaces, Public Open Space and Allotments
December 2015

Key

Local Green Spaces
a Manor Road Memorial Recreation Ground
b Betjeman Millennium Park
c Wantage Football Club
d Wantage Cricket Club
e Tugwell Field
f Humber Ditch and adjacent green spaces
g Harcourt Green and land on Harcourt Road
h Alfred’s Well
i Land on Stockham Park
j The Wharf
k Letcombe Wildlife Corridor (including Willow Walk Nature Reserve)
l Land near allotments on Grove Road
m Tom’s Field
n Wilts & Berks Canal
o The old Canal route
p Green spaces on the developments on Denchworth Road
q Ham Field
r Land at Charlton Day Centre
s Mably Grove Green
t The Mead Field
u Castle’s Wood
v Charlton Village green
w Land near Foliat Drive
x Larkdown play area
y Warmans Close green
z Chapel Close green

Other public open space
3.1 – 3.5 Wantage Town Allotments
North Wessex Downs AONB boundary

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This 6.8ha space comprises a children's playground, tennis courts, bowling green, mown grass, trees, shrubs. The northern boundary of the park is adjacent to Wantage Church of England Primary School and the southern boundary is adjacent to the North Wessex Downs AONB. The Park is home to both the Bowling Club and the Tennis Club. This is the only recreational park in Wantage and is therefore demonstrably special to our local community.
This 0.63ha managed park has a performance area, sarsen stones, poetry plaques, three exhibits, informal footpaths, winding through semi-natural areas of woodland, glades of trees, shrubs, grass, and seasonal displays of wildflowers and bulbs. Letcombe Brook runs along the edge of the park.

1. This managed woodland park is in the centre of Wantage and serves the entire town.
2. This area is demonstrably special to our local community and holds a particular local significance, because John Betjeman lived close by and wrote about the town.
These are the main football pitches for the town and cover an area of 3.55ha. The northern area was originally owned by St Mary’s School as their sports pitch and was given to the Town when the school was sold for development. On the southern boundary is Manor Road Spring, a tributary of Letcombe Brook. This is a BAP Priority Habitat – chalk stream with veteran willow pollards and is inside the AONB.
This 1.3ha site is the home of the only Cricket Club in Wantage and is included in Crab Hill development site which has outline planning permission. Developers originally planned to move the Cricket Field to the eastern side of the new development, but after consultation they decided to leave it where it is. It is adjacent to the AONB and very special to our local community.
This 1.26ha site is the home of the Wantage Silver Band and is being developed as additional football fields for the youth teams of the Football Club. This site was provided when Wantage Primary school was sold for the housing in Garston Lane. It lies inside the AONB.
This combination of open green spaces along the Humber ditch totals approximately 2.7ha and includes:

- Chestnuts Play area with equipment for pre-school and primary school aged children and mature chestnut trees;
- Open green space to the east of the playground with mown grass, trees and semi-natural fringe;
- A small nature reserve owned by Charlton School;
- The large area of mown grass, mature trees and footpath along Humber Ditch (used for dog-walking) with a semi-natural fringe along banks of Stream; and
- The small mown area south of Hamden Road.

It forms a key part of the Green Infrastructure Network through the eastern part of the town.
These two open green spaces along Harcourt Road total approximately 0.35ha and comprise mown grass and mature trees. These are a key part of the character of this part of Charlton Village.
Important geological and historical site of 0.07ha where springs issue out of the chalk rock was once dammed to form a pool for sheep dipping and cleaning cloth. It was also used for baptisms and landscaped as a fern garden. It was gifted to Wantage Town Council for public enjoyment and restored by Letcombe Brook Project with an interpretation board.
This collection of open spaces on Stockham Park totals approximately 1.74ha and includes 2 children's play areas, a large open space opposite the primary school, an area next to the allotments and smaller areas to the northern edge of the estate which all consist of mown grass and mature trees, and a small area of dense mature woodland.

These green areas are an important part of the green infrastructure of the area and integral to the character of the estate.

NB the area off Ogbourne Close and the area next to 9 Stockham Park have been missed from the policy maps in error and should be added.
This 0.1ha area of mown grass, cycle and footpath, benches and stone sculpture is part of the Letcombe Brook corridor and chalk stream (BAP Priority habitat with Protected Species - water voles are present). It was the location of the wharf of the Wantage branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal. It is adjacent to the Wilts and Berks Canal Museum in the Sackhouse and has been restored by VWHDC and Letcombe Brook Project with an interpretation board.
This collection of open spaces along the Letcombe Brook through the centre of town totals approximately 3.84ha and includes Willow Walk Nature Reserve and the rest of the area of the Letcombe Brook corridor and chalk stream (BAP Priority Habitat with Protected Species - water voles are present) is semi natural woodland. Grass and tarmac paths linking Grove Street and the developments west of the Brook. There is a cycle and footpath from Mill Street to bridge over brook at Limborough Road. The area next to Brook is managed for wildlife and there are formal gardens next to flats at Smiths Wharf. This is a key part of the Green Infrastructure Network of the Town.
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This is a key part of the Green Infrastructure Network of the Town.
This 1.6ha area lies just outside the area with outline planning permission for the Crab Hill Development. It lies opposite the Willow Walk Nature reserve. This is a key part of the Green Infrastructure Network of the Town.
This 2.6ha area lies just outside the area with outline planning permission for the Crab Hill Development and next to Crab Hill Lane. It is special to the local community and while Mr Smith was alive he encouraged its use by the local community. As major developments are planned around this site, it becomes even more important that this small oasis of tranquillity remains a local green space.
This 0.53ha area covers the area of the Wilts and Berks canal route through the western part of the Stockham Farm development. We believe that the eastern part of the route through the development has already been protected through the planning agreements. This is the only part of the main Wilts and Berks Canal route which is within our Neighbourhood Plan area (the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area is indicated in red on this map) and the ambition of the local Canal group is to reinstate the canal.

It is also adjacent to the wildlife rich area to the north of the canal where newt ponds have been located as a result of recent developments. This green space is therefore very important to both the Canal Trust and the local community.
This collection of open spaces along the route of the Wantage spur of the Wilts and Berks Canal totals approximately 1.36ha and includes grass, balancing ponds, trees and ditch. The Canal route runs behind Roman Way to the end of the obvious canal route behind Elizabeth Drive. The footpath sticks to towpath for part of the way and then meanders through the developments to the town centre.

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This collection of open spaces through the developments to the east of the Denchworth Road total approximately 0.57ha and includes small mown areas in the developments with mature trees. These small green oases in the development are important parts of our green infrastructure and are important to the local community.
These two small green spaces off Ham Field total approximately 0.31ha and comprises two small mown areas in the developments with mature trees. The area of Mary Whipple Court also includes a children's play area. These small green oases in the development are important parts of our green infrastructure.
These two small green spaces adjacent to Charlton Primary School total approximately 0.42ha and comprises a mown sports ground used by those attending the Day Centre and local residents for football, and a market garden used by the Day Centre and supported by volunteers from Sustainable Wantage. These small green oases at the east end of Wantage are important parts of our green infrastructure and are very important to the local community.
This green space just south of Mably Grove is approximately 0.33ha and comprises a mown green with young trees with a footpath through the centre. It is an important space to the local community.
This is the field that is part of The Mead, to the north of (and visible from) Lock's Lane, by the Letcombe Brook. It abuts footpaths on both the north east and south east sides. It comprises 1.47ha. The Mead was the home of the John Betjeman family between 1951 and 1972 and the surrounding area featured in his poem 'On Leaving Wantage' 1972. The house features on the map of 'Betjeman's Wantage' - a walk around the town of Wantage and places associated with the Poet. As such the site has historical and literary significance. It is also importantly part of the 'borrowed landscape' along the Letcombe Brook corridor, the main 'spine' of the Green Infrastructure Network.
Castle’s Wood, 0.46ha is a mixture of mature native trees, lying on the western edge of the proposed Crab Hill development and to the north of the Reading Road. The wood, which is believed to be over 20 years old, creates a natural green corridor or buffer between the houses off Charlton Village Road and the proposed Crab Hill development. The wood is featured on the Crab Hill site, but is not part of the site since it is in private ownership. It is thought to be the only wood of its size and maturity in Wantage. The wood is highly visible from the Reading Road and there are long-distance views of the wood from the Reading Road as one approaches Wantage. As such it is an important historic landscape feature in the town.
Charlton Village green is 0.11ha of mown grass and mature trees near Charlton Church. The land is dissected by Charlton Village Road and is an important green oasis in the centre of Charlton Village.
These green areas around Foliat Drive total approximately 0.94ha of mown grass and mature trees. They form a key part of the character of this part of Wantage and are important to the local community.
This green oasis off Larkdown is approximately 0.2ha of mown grass and trees with play equipment for preschool/primary children in the South West corner. This is the only public green space in this corner of Wantage and is important to the local community.
This green oasis in Warmans Close is approximately 0.08ha of open green space, mown grass with a few small trees. The northern part of open green space was built on (approx. 8 houses) in approx. 2012. The ‘Green’ to the south has been maintained and is important to the local community.
This small green area in the centre of Chapel Close comprises approximately 0.06ha of mown grass and immature trees. This is a central focus to this small area where Garston Lane Primary school used to be and is important to the local community.