

# **Kington St. Michael Neighbourhood Plan**

**Green and Blue Infrastructure Report  
Draft, February 2023  
Updated December 2025**

# 1 Introduction to Green and Blue Infrastructure

The National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF) defines green infrastructure as ‘a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity’.

Planning Practice Guidance<sup>1</sup> (Natural Environment) states:

*‘Green infrastructure can embrace a range of spaces and assets that provide environmental and wider benefits. It can, for example, include parks, playing fields, other areas of open space, woodland, allotments, private gardens, sustainable drainage features, green roofs and walls, street trees and ‘blue infrastructure’ such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies. (Paragraph 004)*

*Green infrastructure is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits, at a range of scales. For communities, these benefits can include enhanced wellbeing, outdoor recreation and access, enhanced biodiversity and landscapes, food and energy production, urban cooling, and the management of flood risk. These benefits are also known as ecosystem services.’ (Paragraph 005)*

This report uses the term **Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI)** to refer to the above.

## **Objectives of this report:**

- To provide a source of information and evidence on existing GBI assets as part of the Neighbourhood Plan, for the community as well as for planners, landowners and developers.
- To identify priority assets and opportunities to enhance the Green and Blue Infrastructure of the Kington St Michael Neighbourhood Area.

## **Green and Blue Infrastructure in Kington St Michael Parish**

Kington St. Michael’s local GBI network is made up of spaces and connections that provide multifunctional benefits for both the natural environment and for people. These benefits are also known as ‘ecosystem services’. In Kington St. Michael, our GBI and some of the ecosystem services that it provides includes:

- Intact ancient hedgerows that line the routes into the village from the north and the south, providing biodiversity value and a sense of place for those arriving at the village;
- Three areas of Ancient Woodland to the east of the village. Ancient Woodland is our richest land-based habitat for wildlife, and plays a key role in carbon storage. Fifty percent of the carbon in woods is stored in the soil and leaf litter. In ancient woodland this represents a huge carbon store that has been locked up for some time, making their preservation even more important.
- Nymph Hay Woodland, an important local woodland area used regularly by the community for recreation including walking and picnics. Valuable for the local community’s mental and physical wellbeing.
- Important local trees, some of which are listed on the Ancient Tree Inventory, others which have been planted / sponsored by the Parish Council and local people to commemorate local people or events. These trees provide a number of ecosystem services including:
  - Improving local air quality; trees cut the level of airborne particulates and absorb nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone
  - Contributing to our local sense of place and heritage

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>

- Providing links for pockets of wildlife and supporting biodiversity.

## **2 Wiltshire Context**

### **2.2 Wiltshire Planning Policy Context**

The Wiltshire Core Strategy 2016 provides the local policy framework for protecting and enhancing green infrastructure across the county. The policies below are of particular note:

#### *CP50: Biodiversity and Geodiversity*

Development proposals must demonstrate how they protect features of nature conservation and geological value as part of the design rationale. All development should seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity.

#### *CP52: Green Infrastructure*

Development shall provide for the retention and enhancement of Wiltshire's green infrastructure network, and shall ensure that suitable links to the network are provided and maintained.

### **2.3 A Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire: Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan 2022-30**

This document sets out goals for delivering positive outcomes and benefits from investment in Wiltshire's GBI network, under three main themes:

- Mitigation, adaptation and resilience to climate change
- Halting the loss of and improving biodiversity
- Contributing to health and wellbeing.

The strategy sets out priorities for action for the short-medium term, the most relevant to Kington St Michael are included below:

- Embedding GBI into development and place-making
- Planting the right trees in the right places
- Supporting access to nature
- Encouraging environmentally sensitive farming
- Supporting a green economic recovery from the pandemic.

## **3 Existing Green and Blue Infrastructure in Kington St Michael Parish**

### **3.1 Route Ways and Connections**

There are a great number of Public Rights of Way (PROW) within Kington St Michael Parish, all shown on Map 1 below. The PROW network in Kington St Michael is a key asset linking key facilities within the village, as well as linking the village to the surrounding countryside and valued local landscape features such as Tor Hill. These links between the village and its rural surrounds are particularly highly valued by the local community.

Figure 1 – Public Rights of Way

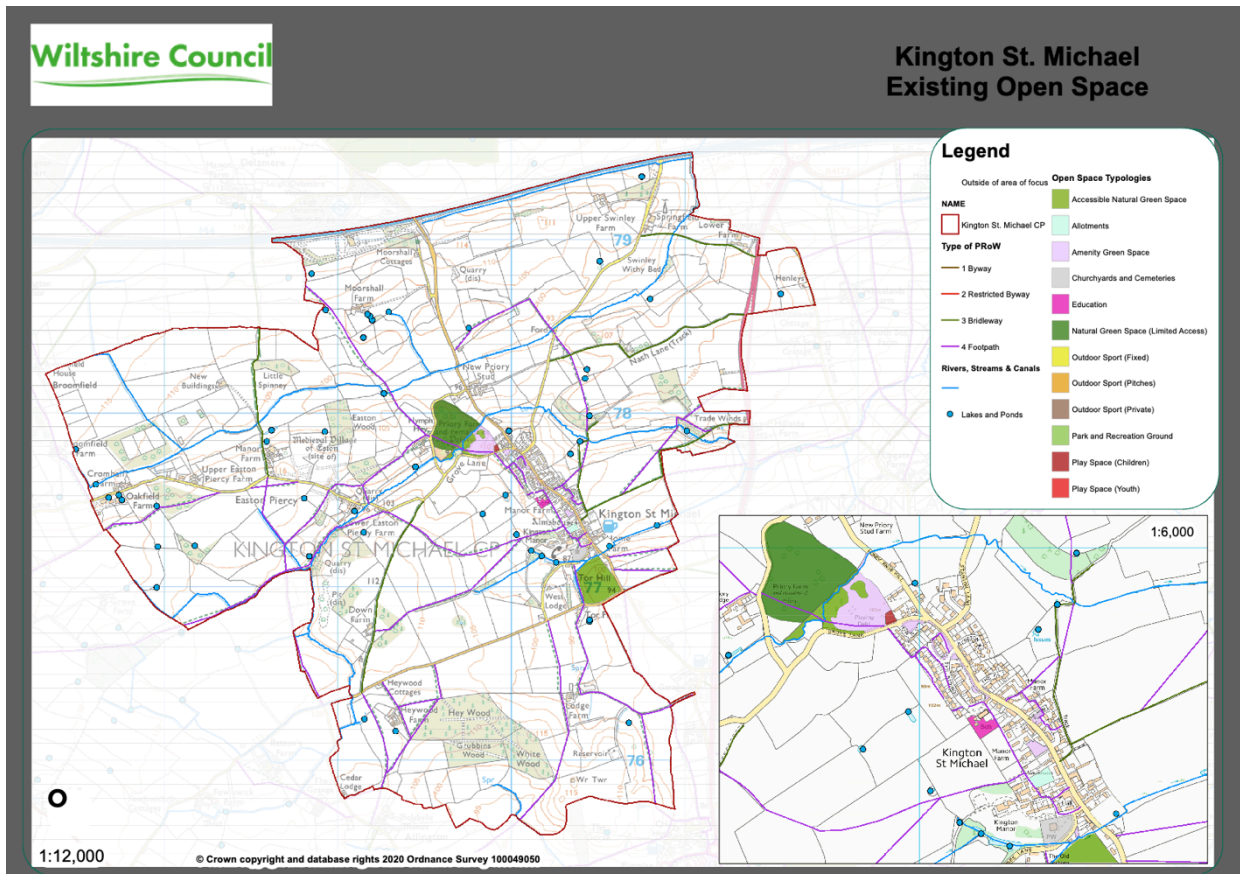




### 3.2 Open Spaces

There is a network of open space across the Parish. In 2020, Wiltshire Council prepared a map of open space for the Parish, which also categorized the spaces. This has been checked and updated by the Steering Group and is included as Map 3 below.

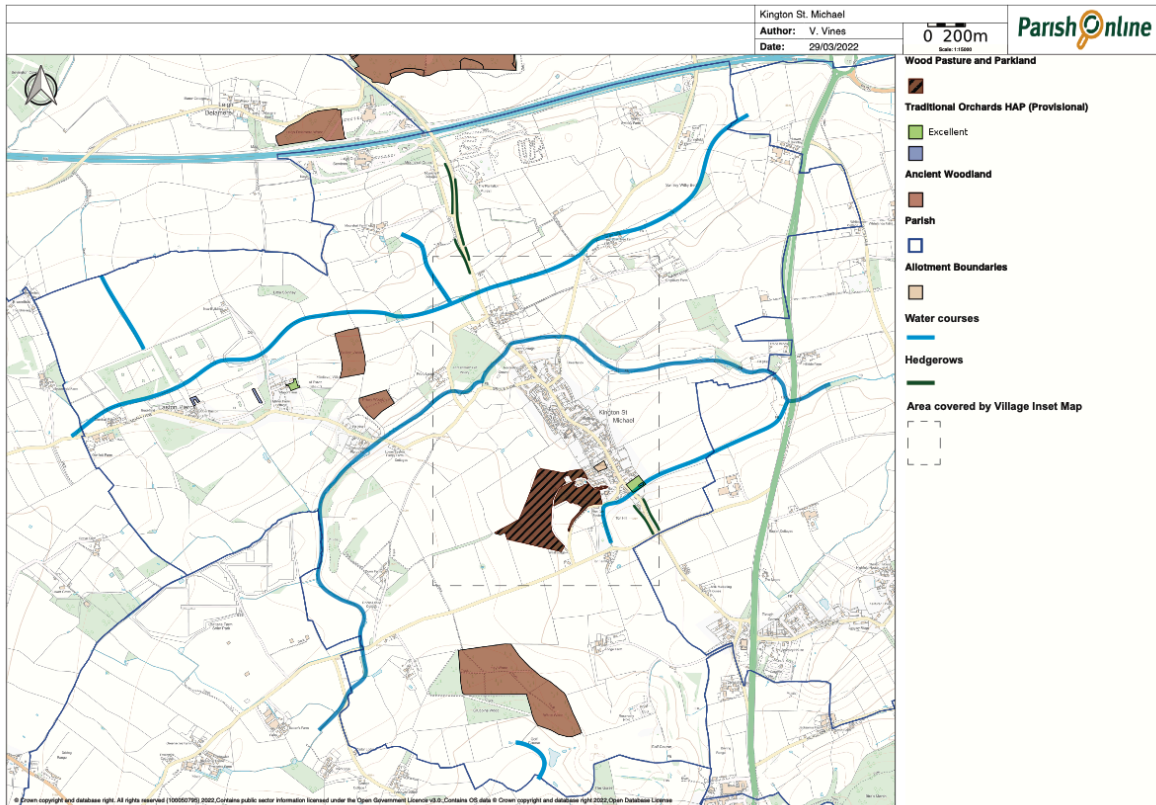
Figure 3 – Open Spaces



### 3.3 Kington St. Michael Green Infrastructure Key Assets and Priorities

Key assets, priorities and local detail are shown on maps 4 and 5 below. The maps are informed by Maps and 1-3 above.

Map 4 Parish Green and Blue Infrastructure Key Assets and Priorities



Map 5 Village Inset Green and Blue Infrastructure Key Assets and Priorities

