

Kington St. Michael Neighbourhood Plan

Local Green Spaces Report

December 2025

Introduction

One of the aims of the Kington St. Michael Neighbourhood Plan is to protect green spaces within the village that are important to the local community. This report sets out the process that has been undertaken so far to identify potential Local Green Spaces for designation in the Neighbourhood Plan.

What is 'Local Green Space' (LGS)?

Through Local and Neighbourhood Development Plans, local communities can identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them by designating them Local Green Space.

Once a site is designated as a Local Green Space, it is protected against inappropriate development except in 'very special circumstances' (National Planning Policy Framework 2024, para 153) and consistent with the protection of land in the Green Belt (National Planning Policy Framework December 2024, para. 108).

What makes a space suitable for Local Green Space designation?

Paragraph 107 of the National Planning Policy Framework sets out when LGS designation can be used:

The LGS designation should only be used where the green space is:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land*

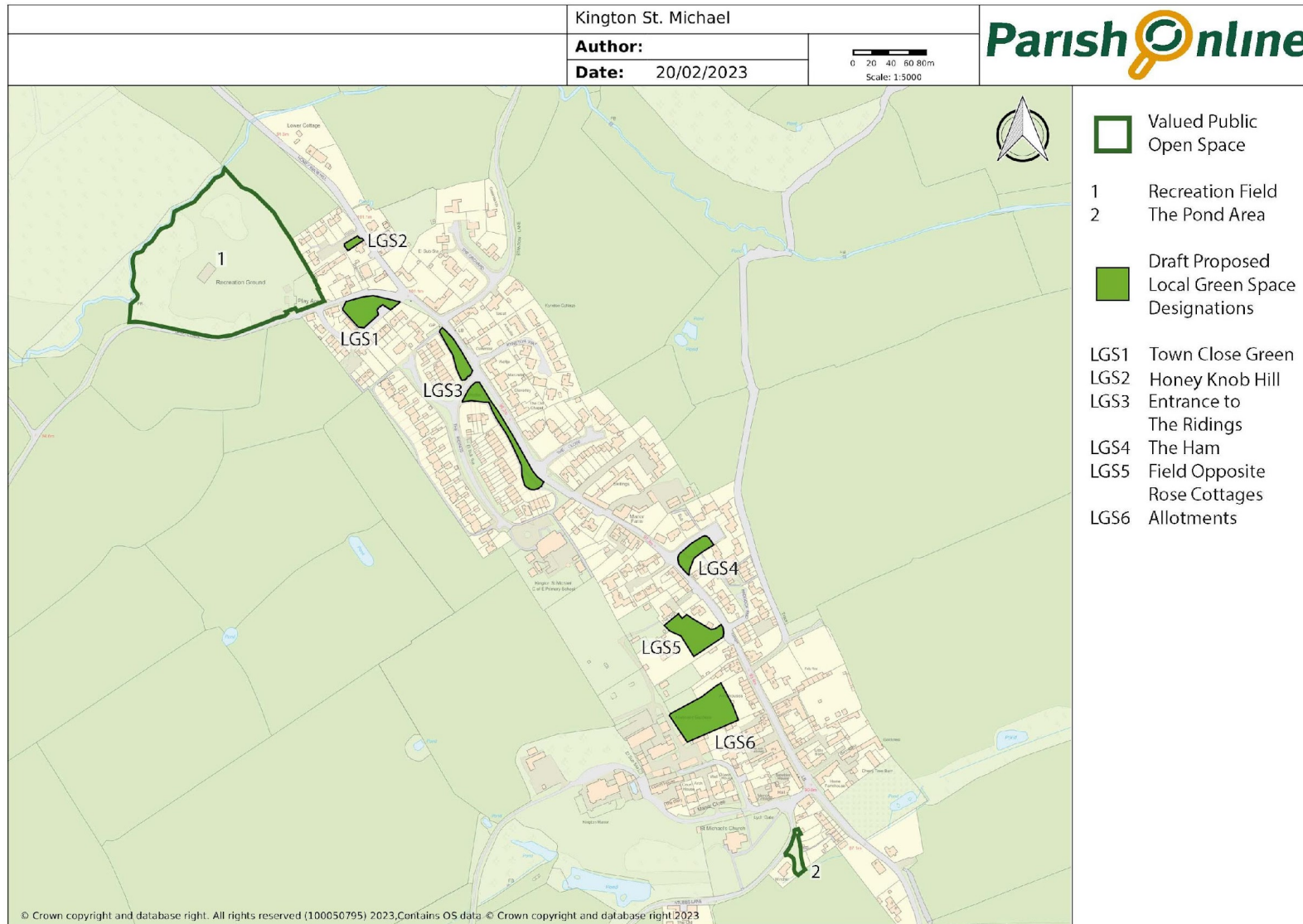
National Planning Practice Guidance also identifies certain types of spaces which are often not suitable for LGS designation due to their function, including:

- Education sites (school fields, playgrounds etc),
- highway land / verges, and
- sites with extant planning permission.

Six potential LGS have been identified for inclusion in the Kington St. Michael Neighbourhood Plan. These are mapped on the following page. Individual site maps can be found in the appendix.

The process and justification for identification of these areas as LGS follows.

Map 1. Local Green Space Designations



Process to date

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering group compiled a list of potential Local Green Spaces, drawing on local knowledge and spaces identified in the existing Parish Plan (2007) as 'Valued Open Spaces'.

The Steering Group considered if and how each space was demonstrably special to the community.

An initial assessment against National Planning Policy criteria was carried out. This found some spaces on the list to be unsuitable for Local Green Space designation, but also identified other more appropriate ways for such spaces to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

In spring 2022, landowners of spaces found to be potentially suitable for designation were contacted in writing to inform them of the potential designation of their land and to ask for their comments and questions.

Also in spring 2022, the draft Local Green Space list was shared with the wider community on the Neighbourhood Plan page of the village website. Comments were invited on any of the potential spaces, to understand more about if and how the spaces are special to the community. People were also invited to let the Steering Group know if there were any further spaces that they thought should be considered for designation.

Wider community consultation on the potential Local Green Spaces, to understand more about if and how the spaces are special to the community, will be undertaken as part of formal Regulation 14 consultation. Regulation 14 consultation will also involve further landowner consultation.

Table 1, on the following page provides an overview of the assessment carried out to date.

Table 1: Assessment of Long List

NOTE. When considering whether the suggested Local Green Spaces are ‘in reasonably close proximity to the community (they serve’, we have used an accessibility standard of within 600m, which is the standard used for Parks and Recreation Grounds and Amenity Green Space in Stroud District Council’s Open Space and Green Infrastructure Study (2019). Wiltshire Council is currently working on an emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy and Open Space Strategy, which would be expected to include more detail on the accessibility standards of open space for Wiltshire.

	Draft proposed Local Green Space
	Not suitable for Local Green Space Designation

LGS Criteria A: Reasonably close to the community it serves?

LGS Criteria B: Local in character and not an extensive tract of land?

LGS Criteria C: Of Particular Importance / Demonstrably special to the community in some way

ID & ownership	Planning context	Reasonably close? (LGS criteria A)	Local in character? (LGS criteria B)	Of Particular Importance / Demonstrably special to the community? (LGS criteria C)	Landowner Comment	Recommendation
LGS2 Honey Knob Hill Owned by Green Square Housing	Within settlement boundary	Yes	Yes	Green space at entrance to no’s 1-8 Honey Knob Hill. Bounded by a low stone wall. Although small, this grassed area surrounded by stone walls provides a welcome green entrance to the view	The landowner does not object to the proposed designation.	Propose to include in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

Association				of the village as you come over the crest of Honey Knob Hill from the north.		
LGS1 Town Close Green Owned by Green Square Housing Association	Within settlement boundary	Yes	Yes	Green space in front of Town Close development. Bounded by a low stone wall. This is a flat grassed area in the centre of the northern part of the village, providing an attractive green recreational space, especially for young children, and helps blend the newer Town Close housing development with the surrounding older properties and leading into the recreation ground on Grove Lane. Recently, residents have started planting and developing the verges around this green to make it look more appealing.	The landowner does not object to the proposed designation.	Propose to include in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

<p>LGS3 Entrance to The Ridings</p> <p>Majority of space owned by Wiltshire Council</p>	<p>Within settlement boundary</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>These long grassed areas, with 18 mature trees, stretch either side of the entrance to The Ridings and provide an attractive calm area between the main village road and houses, a welcome boundary during the busy school drop-off and pick-up periods. They are bounded on the road-side by an old, low stone wall. In the spring the verge is a mass of daffodils. The front gardens of the houses are deliberately left open, providing a colourful bio-diverse extension of the green area.</p> <p>Linear green space parallel to Honey Knob Hill. Bounded by a low stone wall to the east. Mature trees.</p>	<p>The landowner does not object to the proposed designation of space.</p>	<p>Propose to include in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>LGS4 The Ham</p> <p>Private landowner</p>	<p>Within settlement boundary</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Another road-side grassed area with 7 mature trees, including the 'one-leaved ash' and other smaller shrubs. An important vista that breaks up the main</p>	<p>No landowner response received to date</p>	<p>Propose to include in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

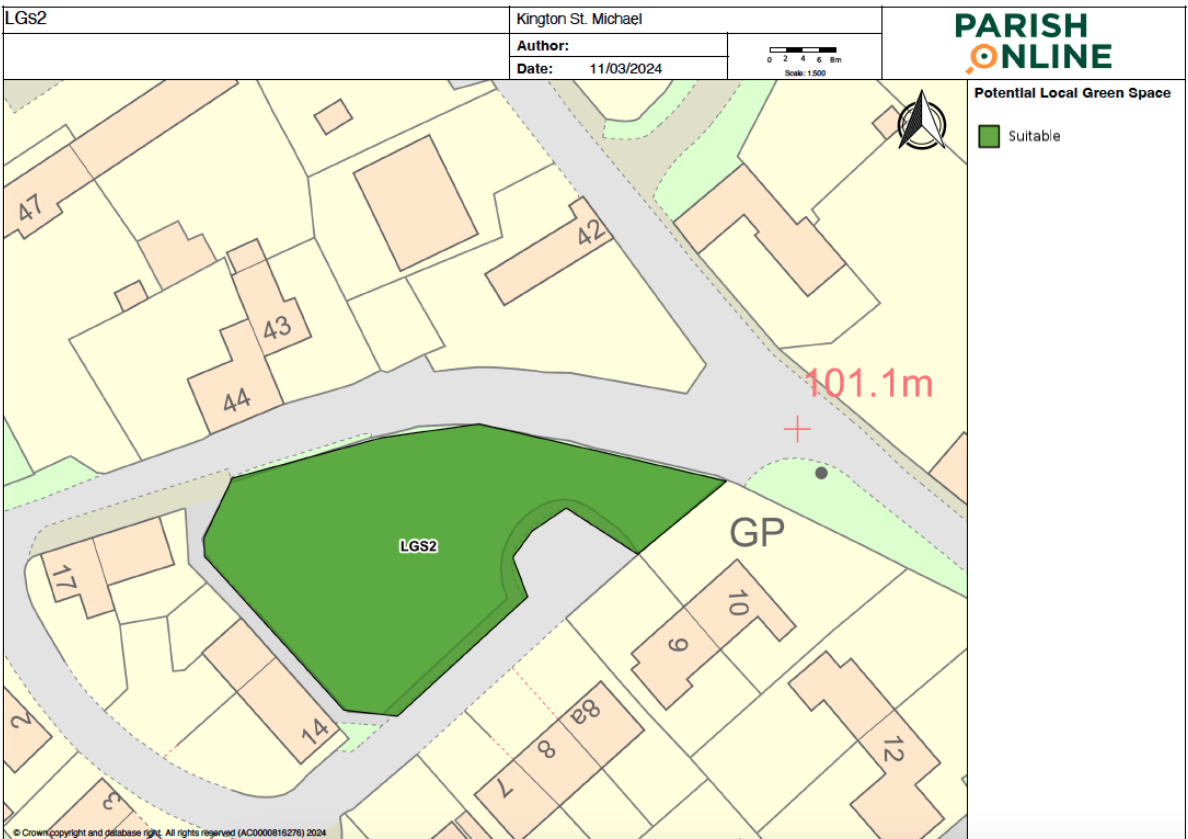
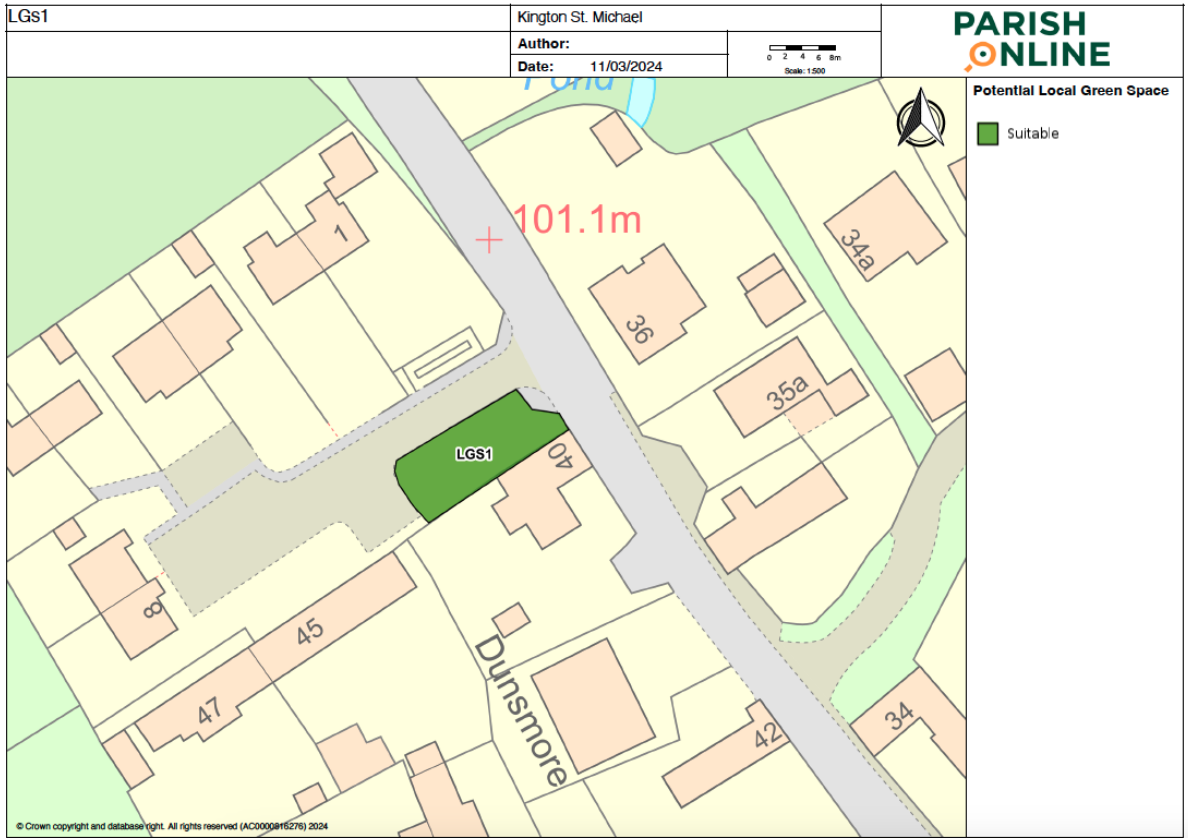
				<p>stretch of houses and creates a feeling of open space near the narrowing road traffic-calming feature.</p> <p>Green open area in the village, with a good specimen ash tree cultivar, called 'one-leaved ash'.</p>		
<p>LGS5 Field opposite Rose Cottages</p> <p>Private owner</p>	<p>Within the Conservation Area. Outside of, but adjacent to, settlement boundary</p>	Yes	Yes	<p>This unique, prominent, agricultural space captures the feel of a rural village, especially when the new-born lambs graze there in the spring to the delight of the village's small children.</p> <p>Small paddock, often with grazing animals.</p>	No landowner response received to date.	Propose to include in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
<p>LGS6 Allotments</p> <p>Owned by Kington St Michael United Charities</p>	<p>Within the Conservation Area. Within the setting of listed Almshouses. Outside of, but adjacent to, settlement boundary</p>	Yes	Yes	<p>There are 30 allotments in this large area behind the 17th century Almshouses. They are in popular demand, often with a waiting list. Many are split between tenants who change as time passes along with the size of individual plots. Villagers grow a wide variety of healthy fruit and vegetables and flowers in this productive and diverse area.</p>	No landowner response received to date	Propose to include in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

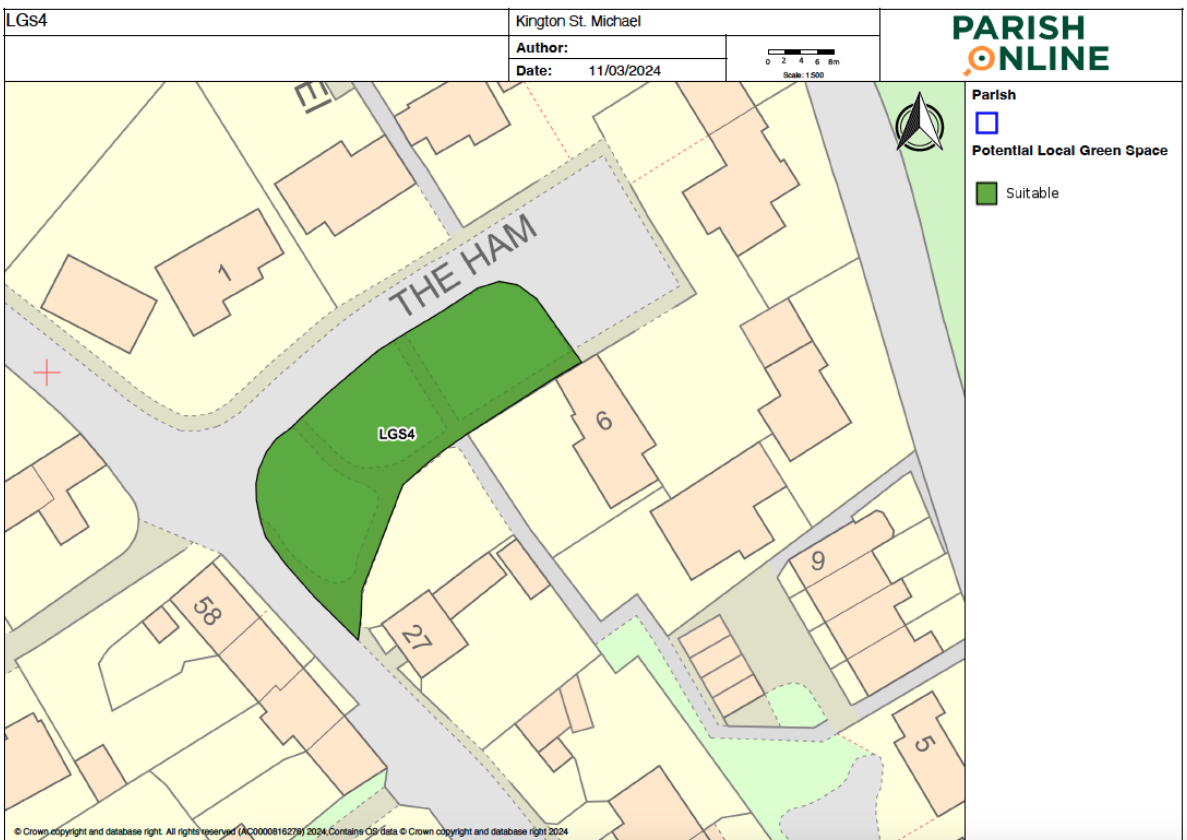
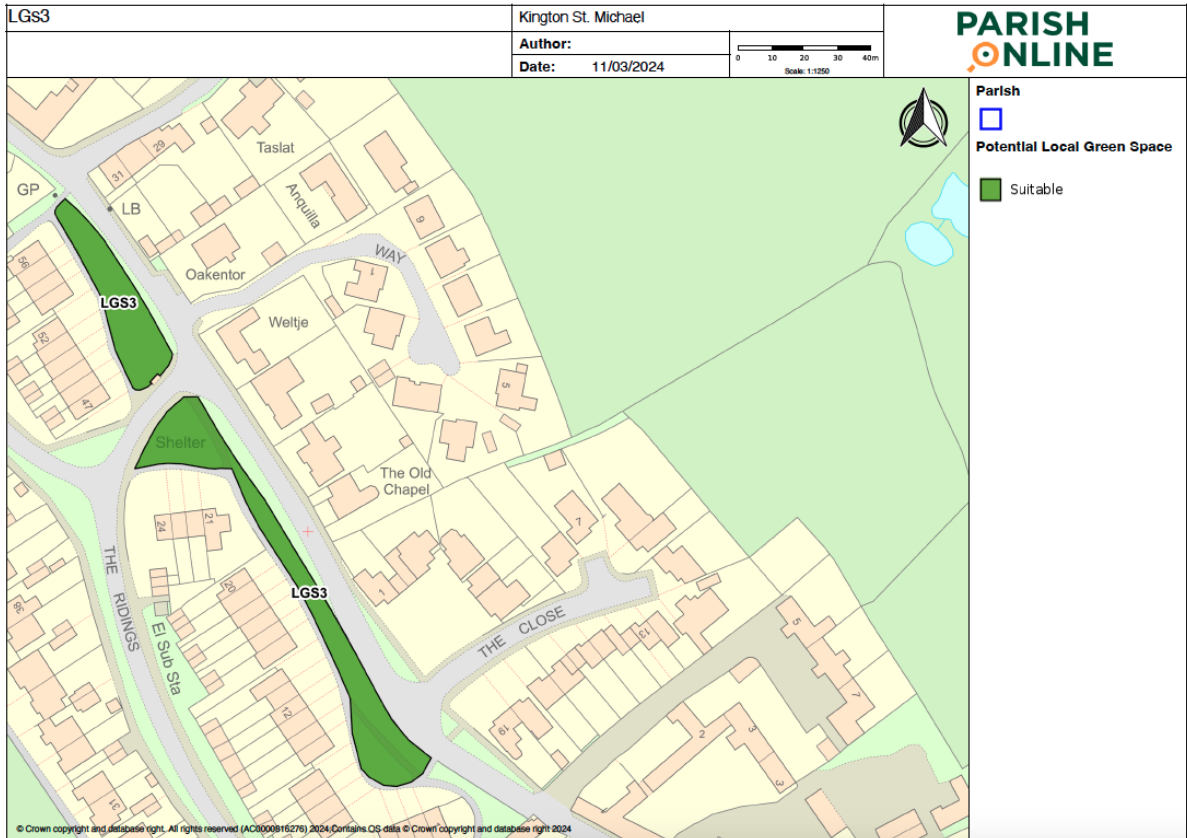
				30 allotments, located to the rear of the Almshouses		
The Pond Area It is understood that there is no landowner	Within the settlement boundary. Within the Conservation Area.	Yes	Yes	Historically, a ford crossed the stream at the bottom of the grassed plot, forming the route south out of the village. There are, reputedly, cobbles under the grass by the stream, which presumably led to the stream, and where the cattle from Home Farm used to drink. When the nearby cottages were refurbished years ago the soil and debris were put here as the ford was no longer needed. It remains an attractive, unspoilt green area, helping to blend the village and conservation area boundaries into the surrounding rural fringes of the parish. Registered Village Green	It is understood that there is no landowner as it is a designated Village Green.	This area is considered adequately protected from development by way of its status as a Village Green. Do not propose for LGS designation/.
I Nymph Hay Wood	Outside of and removed from settlement boundary	No	No	N/A Woodland	Do not take forward to next stage of LGS work	Unsuitable for LGS designation. The woodland can be identified as part of the NDP's green

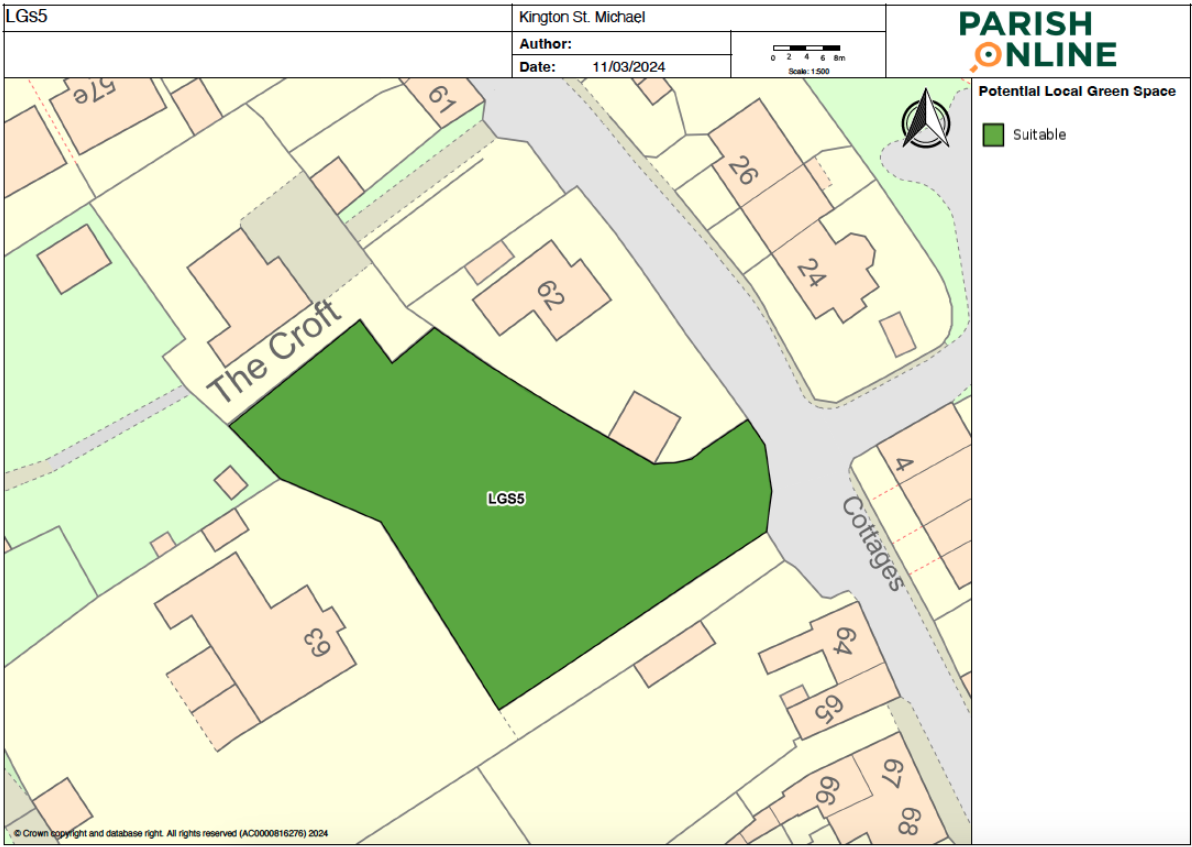
						infrastructure / biodiversity evidence base
Recreation Field Owned by Parish Council	Outside of but adjacent to settlement boundary	Yes	Yes	<p>Queen Elizabeth II Field.</p> <p>An area of approx. 7 acres, mainly grass, wooded area and a stream on 2 sides. It contains a football pitch, hard standing and kick wall, community BBQ and picnic area, playground, basketball net, football pitch, table tennis table and a shelter.</p> <p>Volunteers set up the space to enhance facilities here and encourage greater usage by the community. Aside from much informal use, it is also used weekly by fitness groups, hired by a local football team in season and holds annual events including Bonfire and Fireworks Night and Family Fun Day. More information on Parish Council website: https://www.kingtonstmichael.com/kingtonstmichael/sport_and_recreation-17916.aspx ,</p>	Parish Council considers that the field is already adequately protected as a recreation facility by way of its status as a QEII Field.	Do not propose for Local Green Space designation.

				https://www.kingtonstmichael.com/kingtonsmichael/KSM_QE2_Field_Group_17966.aspx		
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Appendix – Individual Site Maps

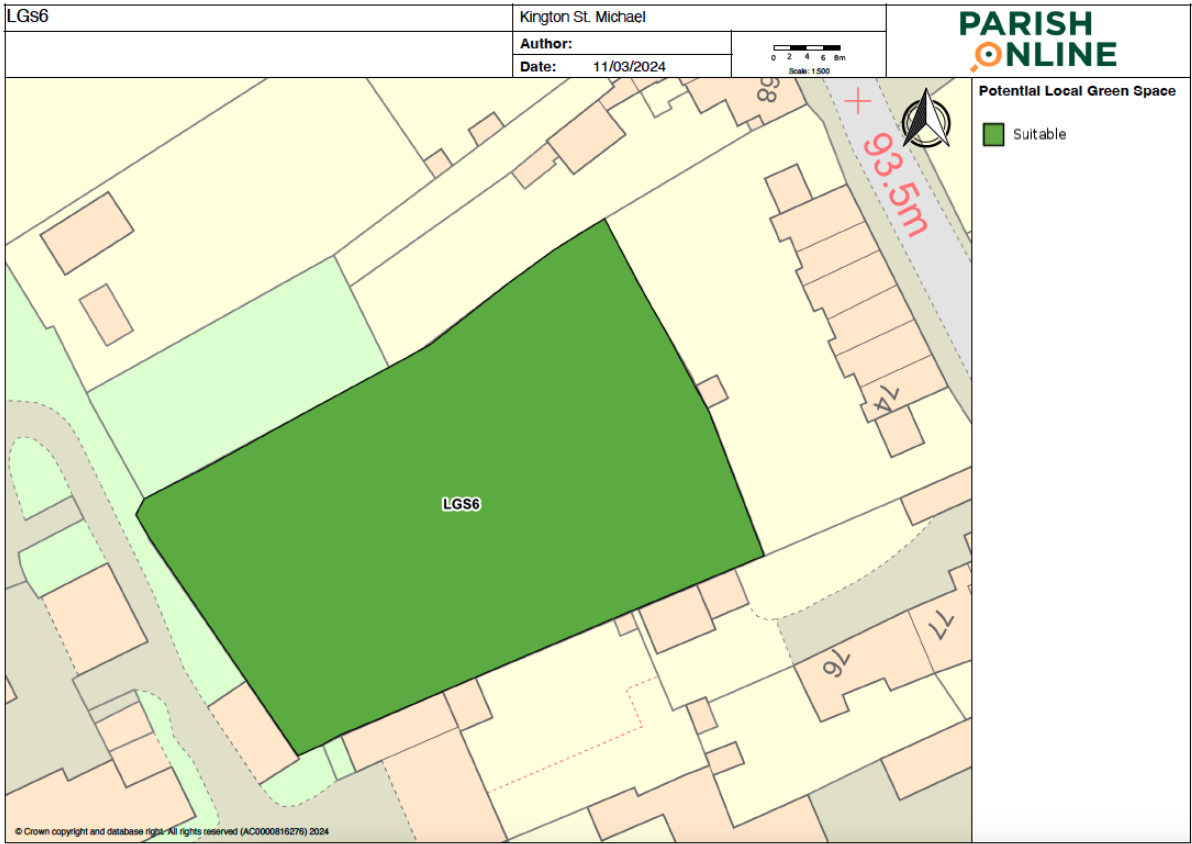






Potential Local Green Space

■ Suitable



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