

## SE16 AREAS OF OPEN SPACE

Important areas of open green space that do not already enjoy appropriate protection have been identified on the plan as areas of Local Green Space. It is hoped that further areas of open space will be created as part of the proposed residential and commercial development. There is a presumption that these areas will be retained for recreation, local amenity or as breaks in the built form. Future development will not be permitted on such areas, except small-scale facilities for sport, leisure and assembly, where such facilities cannot be provided elsewhere, and there is a proven need for such facilities in the area. Areas of existing and proposed Local Green Space are listed below with their criteria and are indicated on Map 5.

### Existing Local Green Spaces

Area 1. The Recreation Ground. ~~Playing field for Sports Club and Recreation ground for village.~~ This provides the main recreational facility for the village and is home to the local football and cricket teams. Both are well supported locally and, when not in use for matches, the area is used for village events.

Area 2. Green space near church. ~~Central to village, creates the setting for the medieval chure~~ As well as providing a green area amongst the built environment, this site prevents any further encroachment of development around the medieval St John's Church – a site of historic interest.

Area 3. The Play Park. ~~Central to village and contains the main children's play park~~ Again, providing an open area amongst the built environment, this site is well used, not only by local children but also those from the surrounding villages. The play area has been sympathetically designed from matured wood in order to enhance the site and blend with the nearby rural aspect of the Elder Road Green Space.

Area 4. 'Podgers' and West Street green space. A small area of green space at the Western end of West Street at the junction with the hamlet of Shitterton, providing a visual break between these two communities. ~~Podgers has the ancient hand pump used in the past by steam tractors.~~ represents a site of significant historical interest as it is home to the still-functioning village pump which, in days gone by, was used for filling steam engines.

Area 5. Bitchams Mead green space and nature reserve. An area of green space on the northern bank of the Bere Stream, part SNCI, which has features a rich diversity of wildlife and streamside features, as well as the footpath linking Shitterton with the village centre. The area is well used by residents and forms part of a DDA compliant, circular route around the SNCI and Local Nature Reserve enabling villagers of all ages and abilities access to this important green space.

Area 6. Souls Moor SNCI and village nature reserve. An unspoilt water meadow rich in wildlife close to the heart of the community, designated common land.

Area 7. Souls Moor green space. An ~~unremarkable area of rough grazing,~~ important area of open green space in the centre of the village, close to the local school and partly in flood plain, which links the Eastern settlements to the school and village and contains the school access drive. A well-used area for recreation by residents of all ages, containing a beautiful specimen of a lime tree.

Area 8. Elder Rd green space. This area is a designated SNCI and local nature reserve. The area consists of some youth recreational facilities, together with the Scout Hut. To the south is an area of SNCI and grazed common land. The site is extremely well used by villagers and is rich in ecological interest. The nature reserve contains a wealth of flora and fauna and is managed by volunteers of the Bere Regis Wildlife Group. One of the finest chalk streams in the south of England flows through the site. ~~Designated common land, containing some youth recreational facilities and the Scout Hut, close to the village centre.~~

### Proposed Local Green Spaces

Area 9. North Street local green space. Close to North Street, and contiguous with Area 1, the Recreation Ground. This is a former area of grazing and pasture, with great potential recreational value. It will extend the proposed SANG and acts as a hugely important site, separating the bypass from the village and is ideally suited for future recreational facilities.

Area 10. Elder Road extension. Close to the village centre, mainly in flood plain, this small piece of woodland has the potential to complete the streamside nature reserve and link the Bitchams Mead and the Elder Road local green spaces. Currently in private ownership, should

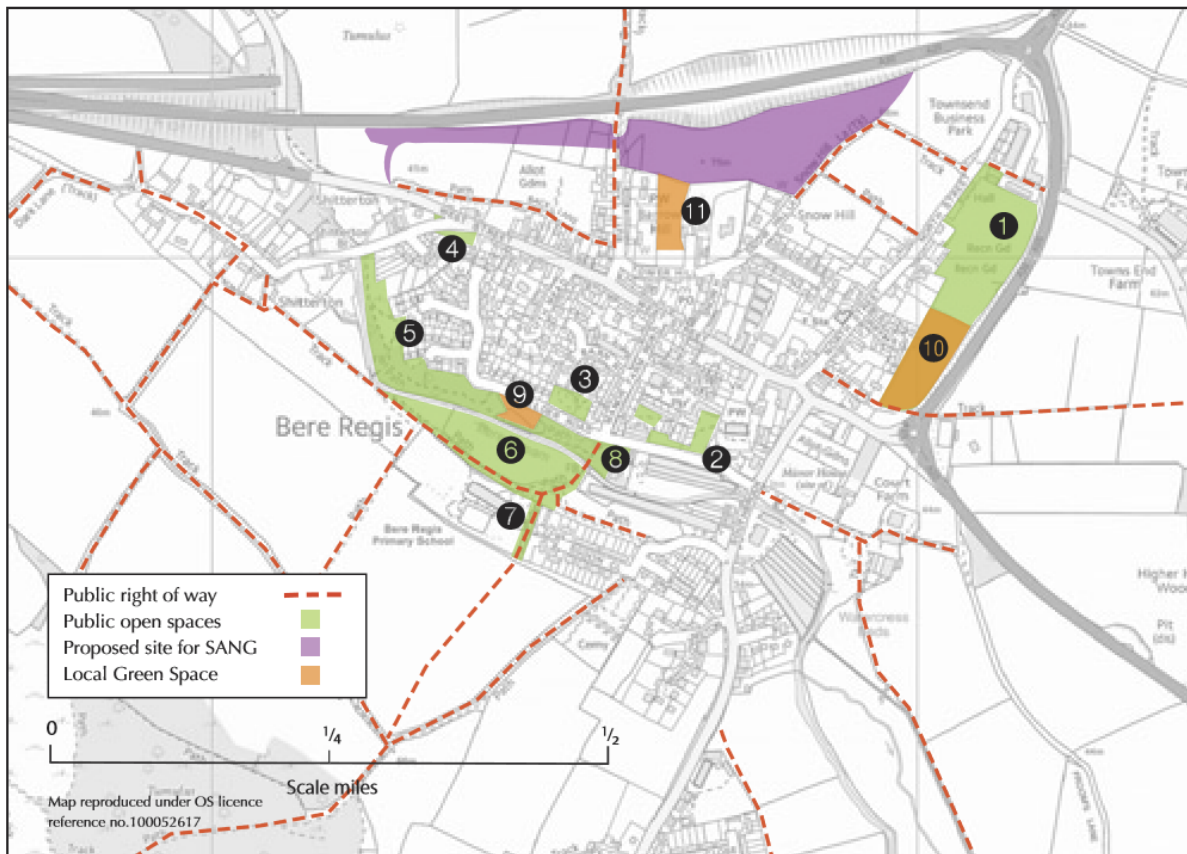
the site become available, we would wish to integrate it with the SNCI and Local Nature Reserve and provide a continuation of the circular walk.

Area 11. Barrow Hill local green space. In close proximity to the northern residential areas of the village, the potential of this unspoilt field is to protect and preserve a rich diversity of wildlife and the archaeological heritage of the ancient Butts of the village. It will also provide an important footpath link from ~~Barrow Hill and Snow Lane~~ the centre of the village to the proposed SANG to the North.

These areas are highlighted in orange of Map 5 of the Plan.

**Policy BR10: Local Green Space**

Existing areas of open space will be designated Local Green Space. Three other parcels of land as identified on Map 5 will be designated as Local Green Space.



**Local Green Spaces (new and proposed) with footpaths and SANG.**

- Proposed site for SANG
- Existing Public open spaces
- 1. Recreation Ground
- 2. Green Space to West of Church
- 3. Play Park
- 4. Podgers West Str/Shitterton Junc.
- 5. Bitchams Mead Green Space
- 6. Soul's Moor SNCI
- 7. Soul's Moor Green Space
- 8. Elder Road Green Space
- Proposed Local Green Spaces
- 9. North Street by Recreation Ground
- 10. Elder Road extension
- 11. Barrow Hill