

SE16 AREAS OF LOCAL GREEN 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.

Local Green Spaces

Area 1. The Recreation Ground. 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. 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. 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 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 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. 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.

Area 8. 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.

Policy BR10: Local Green Space

The following sites, as shown on Map 5, are designated as Local Green Space, where development will not be allowed except in exceptional circumstances:

- The Recreation Ground
- Green Space around the Church
- The Play Park
- "Podgers" and West Street green space
- Bitchams Mead green space and nature reserve
- Souls Moor SNCI and village nature reserve
- Elder Road Green Space
- Elder Road extension