

## SE18 – Areas of Open Space

Identified areas include;

1. Sports Ground - The sports ground has been a key village facility for about 100 years. It is used regularly for football, cricket and other sports. The ground supports an active Sports Club with changing rooms, bar and meeting facilities.
2. Green Space Adjacent to the Parish Church - This small area of grassland is adjacent to the famous Bere Regis Church. As well as contributing to the setting of the church, it provides a small amenity area for the surrounding retirement homes and bungalows.
3. Play Park - The play park benefits from play equipment that was recently replaced following a fundraising event, and provides an important facility for children. The play park is currently the only play facility of this type for younger children in the village.
4. Podgers, including the Village Pump - The village pump is an historic site in Shitterton and represents an attractive feature on a small grassed site. The site also supports the infamous 'Shitterton' sign, a well-known landmark and photo opportunity.
5. West Street Open Space - This grassed area between West Street and the residential estate is bounded by a tree screen. The trees screen some of the built form, while the grass provides a valued local amenity that is well used by locals, particularly for dog walking.
6. Nature Reserve - The nature reserve is part of an area acquired by the Parish Council in 2012. It is designated as an SNCI on account of the exceptional wildlife value of the wet meadow, woodland and Bere Stream. The area is much frequented by villagers and visitors alike who enjoy this peaceful area and enjoy observing the wildlife. It is a very good example of how wildlife areas can help the health and well-being of local people. An application is currently being prepared to designate this area a Local Nature Reserve, recognised nationally by Natural England. A copy of the Management Plan is available on the Parish Council's website.
7. The Moor - This grassed area is set in the flood plain and supports a number of paths that are popular with dog walkers. The ground also forms part of the pedestrian route to the new school.
8. Bitchams Mead Open Space - An open space adjacent to the SNCI that is popular with dog walkers, and benefits from benches for those wishing to sit.
9. Elder Road Open Space - An open space laid to grass and adjoining the Bere Stream, with a kicking wall and shelter for use by younger members of the community. This land forms part of a circular route around The Moor, and is used by some children walking to the school. This area is designated as Common Land, and provides an important buffer against the nature reserve.

Green Infrastructure - The area to the south of the current sports ground, is identified as green infrastructure in PLP1. This land has been allocated as Green Space since 2004. The Parish Council wish to see a more permanent designation applied, to provide protection against future development and to increase public use of the land.