

ARTHINGWORTH



NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2022 - 2029

Made version 9 February 2024

Arthingworth Parish Council



ARTHINGWORTH

Neighbourhood Plan

Contents

FOREWORD.....	5
1. Introduction.....	6
2. How the Neighbourhood Plan fits into the Planning System.....	7
3. The Plan, its vision, aims and what we want it to achieve.....	8
4. How the Plan was prepared.....	9
5. Our Parish.....	10
6. History of Arthingworth.....	11
7. Meeting the requirement for sustainable development.....	14
8. Neighbourhood Plan Policies.....	15
Housing and the Built Environment.....	15
Introduction.....	15
Residential Allocation.....	16
Village Confines.....	17
Housing Mix.....	19
Affordable Housing.....	21
Windfall sites.....	22
Design and the built environment.....	22
The Natural, Historical and Social Environment.....	24
Introduction.....	24
Landscape, geology and setting.....	24
Historical environment.....	25
Natural environment.....	26
Existing environmental designations.....	26
Environmental inventory.....	26
Local Green Spaces.....	27
Important Open Spaces.....	28
Sites and features of Natural Environment significance.....	31
Woodland and notable trees.....	33
Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity.....	35
Sites of Historical Environment significance.....	37
Ridge and furrow.....	38
Designated Heritage Assets.....	41
Non Designated heritage assets.....	42
Important Views.....	43
Footpaths and other walking routes.....	45
Dark Sky.....	46

Flood risk resilience and climate change.....	48
Community Sustainability.....	51
Community Assets.....	51
Community Spirit.....	51
The Village Church.....	51
The Village Hall.....	52
The Village Pub.....	52
The Village Green.....	52
The Nursery.....	53
Disability issues.....	53
New or Improved Community Facilities and Amenities.....	53
Parish Communications.....	54
Broadband and mobile infrastructure.....	54
Transport and Road Safety.....	55
Business and Employment.....	57
Support for new businesses and employment - use of existing buildings.....	58
Home working.....	59
Farming.....	60
Tourism.....	60
9. Monitoring and review.....	61

Appendices (available on Parish Council website)

- A [Housing Census data](#)
- B [Housing Needs Report](#)
- C [Affordable Housing](#)
- D [Site Assessment Process](#)
- E [Design Guide](#)
- F [Inventory of environmentally significant sites](#)
- G [Local Green Space evidence base](#)
- H [Non-designated Heritage Assets](#)
- I [Important views](#)

FOREWORD

The Localism Act of November 2011 introduced new rights and powers to allow local communities to shape new development by coming together to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. Local people now have a greater say about what happens in the area in which they live by preparing a Neighbourhood Plan that sets out policies that meet the needs of the community whilst having regard for local and national strategic planning policies. Arthingworth's Neighbourhood Plan takes its lead from national legislation, the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and Daventry District Council through its Part 2 Local Plan. However, it has a local focus aimed at protecting the village's history and heritage.

The aim of this Neighbourhood Plan, driven by the Parish Council and members of the community through an Advisory Committee, is to put forward the wishes of the community regarding future development and to deliver local aspirations within the context of the strategic planning framework.

Arthingworth is a small rural village with a long history and a number of distinctive characteristics including seven listed buildings and several other undesignated but nevertheless important heritage assets. There is a strong community ethos. The Plan aims to ensure the village develops whilst retaining its rural character and enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

We are grateful to Officers from West Northamptonshire Council who have supported us through the process and to our community for engaging in the process. The Parish Council wishes to express sincere thanks to all the Parishioners who kindly contributed to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. The perseverance of the various teams who have contributed to this Plan during the trying time created by the Covid 19 Pandemic is appreciated.

Arthingworth is an attractive and popular place in which to live and the contribution from people who care about their community and want to make it better for generations to come is welcomed.

Sue Handy

Chair

Arthingworth Parish Council

Lesley Sanderson

Chair

**Arthingworth Neighbourhood Plan
Advisory Committee**

1. Introduction

This is the 'Made' version of the Neighbourhood Plan for Arthingworth Parish. It has been prepared by the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee together with the support of three Theme Groups. This organisation has brought together members of the local community and Parish Councillors and has been led by the Parish Council. A Neighbourhood Plan is a new type of planning document that gives local people greater control and say over how their community develops and evolves. It is an opportunity for local people to create a framework for delivering a sustainable future for the benefit of all who live or work in that community, or who visit it.

As the Plain English Guide to the Localism Act 2011 states, “Instead of local people being told what to do, the Government thinks that local communities should have genuine opportunities to influence the future of the places where they live”.

A neighbourhood plan can be general or more detailed, depending on what local people want. However, they must have regard for national planning policies and be prepared in a prescribed manner. In addition, they should be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan (here the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1 and the Settlements and Countryside Local Plan Part 2)).

Neighbourhood Plans can be general or more detailed, depending on what local people want. They must, however, be in general conformity with strategic planning policies such as those in the West Northamptonshire Development Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework (2021), have regard for national planning policies and must be prepared in a prescribed manner.

During the development of this Plan and the dialogue with residents and other stakeholders, it became evident that there were opportunities for the community to improve the Parish. These opportunities are included as Community Actions. The aspiration is to progress these Community Actions in support of the formal policies contained in this Neighbourhood Plan, however they are not planning policies and will not be subject to examination.

Comments received through the pre-submission and submission consultation process have been taken on board.

After being ‘Made’, each time a planning decision has to be taken by West Northamptonshire Council, or any other body, they will be required to refer to the Neighbourhood Plan (alongside the West Northamptonshire’s own Core Strategy and other relevant documents) and check whether the proposed development is in accordance with the policies the community has developed.

2. How the Neighbourhood Plan fits into the Planning System

The right for communities to prepare Neighbourhood Plans was established through the Localism Act 2011, which set out the general rules governing their preparation.

A Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory Development Plan for the area in which it is prepared. This statutory status means that it must be taken into account when considering planning decisions affecting that area.

A Neighbourhood Plan is not prepared in isolation. It also needs to be in general conformity with relevant national and authority-wide (i.e. West Northamptonshire) planning policies.

For Arthingworth, the most significant planning documents are the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and Daventry Part 2 Local Plan alongside the Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. These documents set out the strategic planning framework for future development up to 2029. It contains a number of policies and objectives which are relevant to Arthingworth and which the Plan must be in general conformity with. These policies and objectives span issues such as the provision and location of new housing; providing strong and sustainable communities; protecting and enhancing historic character and local distinctiveness whilst protecting and enhancing natural habitats; and providing transport systems that reduce the need to travel. The Neighbourhood Plan is in general conformity with the policies contained in these documents.

Also important is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) updated in July 2021. This sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF requires the planning system (including Neighbourhood Plans) to promote sustainable development and details three dimensions to that development: an economic dimension – they should contribute to economic development; a social dimension – they should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities by providing the right supply of housing and creating a high quality-built environment with accessible local services and an environmental dimension – they should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment. In addition, Neighbourhood Plans must be compatible with that European Union (EU) legislation that is now absorbed into English law. Particular obligations which pertain to the neighbourhood planning process are those relating to Strategic Environmental Assessments, protected European Habitats and Human Rights Legislation.

Full details of how the Plan complies with these legislative requirements will be set out in the Basic Conditions Statement which will be part of the submission package once the Plan has reached that stage. These policies are specific to Arthingworth and reflect the needs and aspirations of the community.

3. The Plan, its vision, aims and what we want it to achieve

Neighbourhood planning enables communities to produce their own planning policies for West Northamptonshire Council to take into account when determining planning applications in the Parish.

They add local detail to broader strategic policies and can include anything for which planning permission is required.

The aim of the Arthingworth Neighbourhood Plan is to ensure that the existing rural charm of the parish is preserved and enhanced by:

- Maintaining the existing significance and protecting the listed buildings and other important heritage assets for future generations.
- Improving health outcomes through a range of environmental and social improvements.
- Ensuring that any new infill development is planned to be beneficial to the sustainable population growth of the Parish, matching it to support current amenities, e.g. the village hall. These constructions to be of eco-friendly design using sources of renewable energy where possible and meet the visual appearance and materials requirements throughout the parish.
- Preserving the natural environment and rural assets of the parish; including footpaths, bridleways, wildlife areas and green areas.
- Promoting the existing local economy including small businesses and farming. Encouraging, where applicable, new small businesses to the area to benefit the people of the Parish and to provide employment opportunities.
- Endorsing highways policies that ensure any potential increase in traffic volume is controlled in order to maintain the character of the parish and the safety of the residents and visitors.

It is important to note that when using the Plan to form a view on a development proposal or a policy issue the whole document and the policies contained in it must be considered together.

While every effort has been made to make the main parts of this Plan easy to read and understand, the wording of the actual policies is necessarily more formal, so that it complies with statutory requirements.

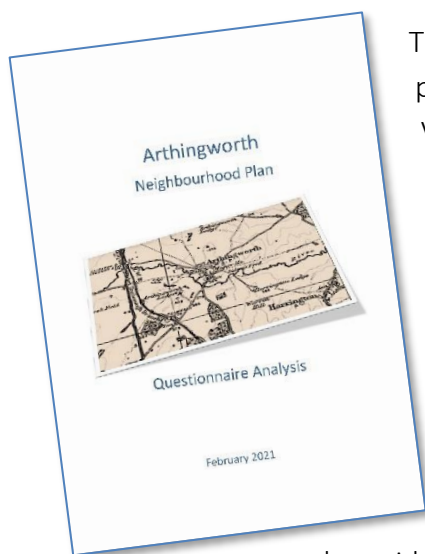
The Plan will be kept under review and may change over time in response to new and changing needs.

4. How the Plan was prepared

The Parish Council decided to undertake the formulation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Arthingworth following a well-attended public meeting in January 2020 and appointed an Advisory Committee to take the process forward. The Parish Council appointed neighbourhood plan consultants 'Yourlocale' to advise and assist the Advisory Committee.

The mandate was to drive the process, consult with the local community, gather evidence to support the development of policies and deliver the plan.

The whole of the Parish was designated as a neighbourhood area by Daventry District Council (now part of West Northamptonshire unitary authority) on 18 March 2020.



The onset of the Coronavirus pandemic in March 2020 prevented any face-to-face open events taking place at the Village Hall. However, a questionnaire was produced by the Advisory Committee and delivered to each household in the parish during January and February 2021 and was available by hard copy and electronically. 82 responses were received, representing a return of over 42% of the adult population and up to 85% of households in the parish.

Once background information such as socio-economic data had been gathered, three separate 'Theme Groups' were established in the spring of 2021 to explore in detail the evidence that was being gathered and to consider what policies should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Theme Groups were on the subjects of housing and the built environment, the natural and historic environment and community sustainability, incorporating community facilities, transport and employment. These groups continued to meet until into 2022 and it was through this process that the draft policies and supporting evidence emerged.

On 23 April 2022 a Drop-in Event was held in the Village Hall to allow Parishioners to view draft policy statements and make their comments on the Plan.

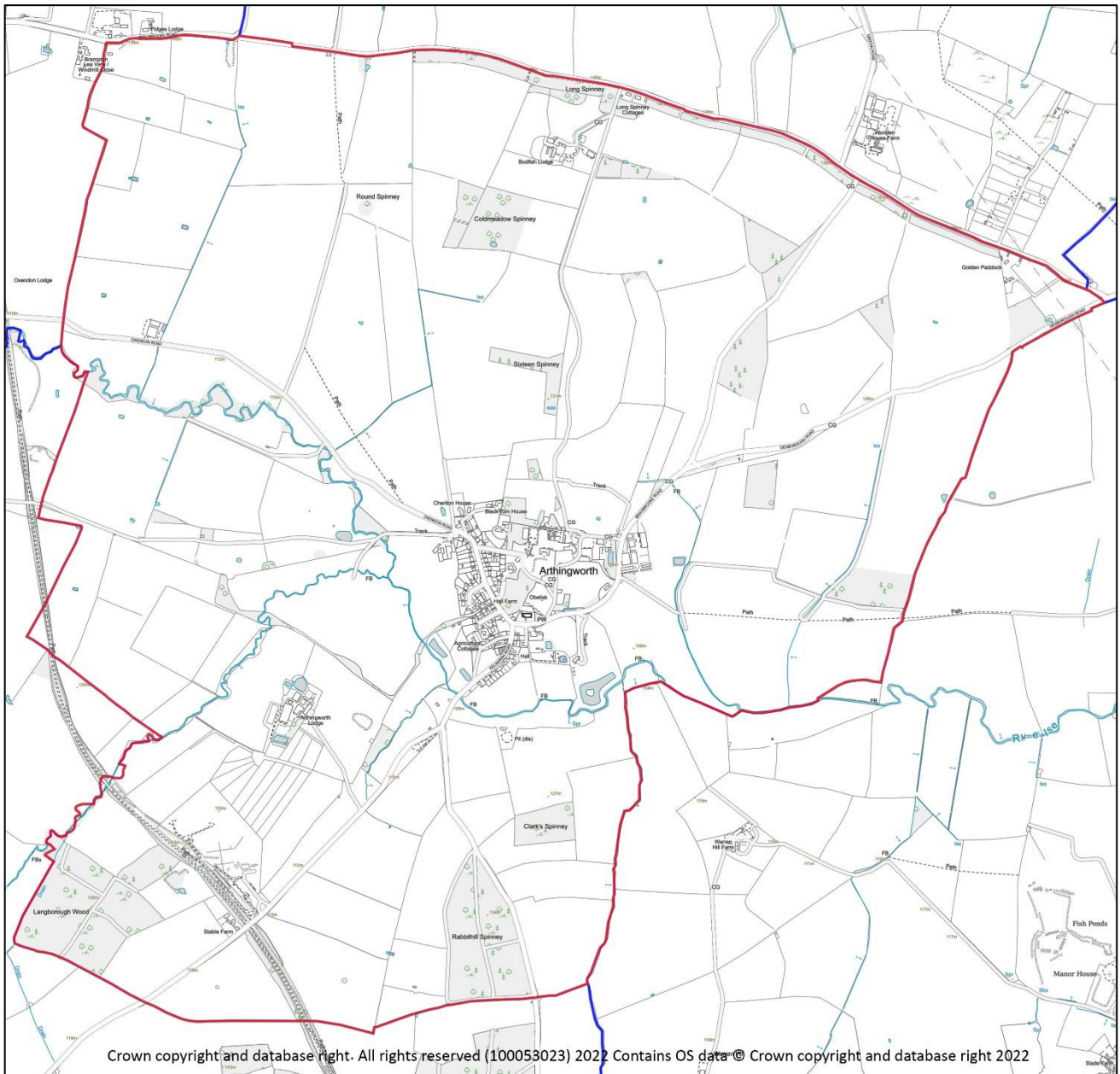
Throughout the process, Parishioners have been kept informed on progress and all supplementary documents relating to the consultation process can be found on the Parish Council website.

5. Our Parish

The Plan area comprises the whole of the Arthingworth Parish, within the West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority, as shown in Figure 1. (High resolution versions of all figures are available in 'Supporting Documents and Information' on the Parish Website.)_The Plan period is 2022 to 2029.

The area was formally designated by Daventry District Council on 18 March 2020.

Figure 1 – Arthingworth Neighbourhood Area



6. History of Arthingworth

Location

Arthingworth is a small hilltop village that lies in the rolling countryside of West Northamptonshire, the village is 10 miles north of the town of Northampton, 5.5 miles south-east of Market Harborough and 3.5 miles from the county border with Leicestershire. Administratively, Arthingworth falls under Northampton County Council and Daventry District Council (although at the time of writing the Secretary of State has approved a move from the current 8 district councils to 2 new councils of North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire).

The village has been designated as an 'Other Village' due to its rural location, whilst being close to two major roads (A508 and A14). It is relatively hidden and not well known in the general locality which is considered one of its main attributes by the residents who enjoy this relative isolation, peace and quiet along with the superb views of the surrounding countryside. The parish of Arthingworth, covers an area of 710.33 Hectares at a density of 0.3 people per hectare.

The village has a strong farming community with farms in and around the village, a large proportion of the land in the Arthingworth area is owned by a private estate creating a strong and continuous agricultural setting.

History

Arthingworth is a village with a long history, there is evidence of C2nd and C3rd Roman pottery having been found in the grounds of Arthingworth Manor. The village is recorded in the Great Domesday Book commissioned in 1085 four times, being recorded as Arningvorde, Arniworde, Narninworde and Erniwade.



Arthingworth via the Kelmarsh road

Thomas Catesby (d.1592), of Whiston, Northants, who succeeded to a number of manors in Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire is said to have been the first lord of the Manor of Arthingworth. In December 1700 the Manor was left to Langham Rokeby and remained in the Rokeby family until 1931.

In 1939 Arthingworth became part of a sealed area bounded by Desborough, Oxendon and Braybrooke which was used during the war for the storage of bombs and ammunition. A hidden aviation fuel depot was constructed between Arthingworth and Kelmarsh in 1941 with a capacity of 15,000 tons, the depot can still be seen built into the rolling hillside.

Character of the Village

Population

The estimated population of the village in 1801 was 146, in 1831 it was 225, in 1961 it was 189 and by 1986 had recovered to 225. As at Census day 2011, there were 231 residents, the average (mean) age of residents was 44.8 years and in total there were 101 household spaces.

Architecture

The architecture of the village can be described as mixed and include, for example, a church that dates back to the 12th century and a grade 2 listed mid-18th century farmhouse. Most of the housing has tended to have been built in Leicestershire red brick rather than Northamptonshire ironstone.

Development

In 1944 the Arthingworth Manor estate was sold to Overman Son and Company and occupied by the Guinness family. The estate has since been sold off in small lots however there is still a large, farmed acreage in place.



St Andrews Church, Arthingworth

Arthingworth Hall was demolished in the early 1950's and replaced in the 1960's with 10 new homes (Hall Close). In 1953 a row of 8 council houses (now privately owned) were built along the Kelmarsh road and in 1990 a further 4 houses (Home Farm Grove) were constructed in the village, whilst at around the same time dairy and cattle sheds belonging to Church farm were sold and a further 9 houses built.

Local Economy

Arthingworth does not have a shop or post office, a doctors' surgery, a regular bus or train service or a school. However, the village does have a shared rector, a Village Hall and a public house (The Bull's Head), a children's nursery and a small quantity of bed and breakfast accommodation. Tourism is enhanced by a local cycle way, (the Brampton Valley way) together with a network of footpaths and byways that cross the surrounding countryside. There are a number of home-based workers/enterprises now supported by fibre optic broadband recently installed by British Telecom.

Whilst there is local support for small business and cottage industries that enhance village amenities and provide limited employment in the locality, residents have no desire for larger commercial developments that would not be in keeping with the villages' rural setting. Agriculture is regarded as central to the character of the village and to the local community. There is a strong and well-developed sense of community within the village, in 1991 over 40% of villagers had lived in the village for more than ten years.

Reference:

- i. Our Village - A History of Arthingworth - first published 1991 - Louisa Deas
- ii. Arthingworth Village Design Statement – 25th February 2016
- iii. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census>
- iv. <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

Arthingworth in recent years

At the time of the 2011 Census, the Arthingworth Parish was home to around 231 residents living in 96 households. Analysis of the Census suggests that between 2001 and 2011 population in the local area grew by around 3% (6 people). During this period, it is estimated the number of dwellings increased by 1.

There is evidence of an ageing population with the number of over 65-year-olds rising by 117% and up from 10% of total population in 2001 to 22% in 2011. In line with national trends the local population is likely to get older as average life expectancy continues to rise.

Home ownership levels are very high with around 77% of households owning their homes outright or with a mortgage or loan and at 2% the share of households living in social rented accommodation is very low when compared with regional and national rates.

There is evidence of under occupancy suggesting a need for smaller homes of one to two bedrooms which would be suitable for residents needing to downsize, small families and those entering the housing market. Providing suitable accommodation for elderly residents will enable them to remain in the local community and release under-occupied larger properties onto the market which would be suitable for growing families.

There is a predominance of larger and detached homes and an under representation of housing for single people with just 5% of dwellings having one bedroom.

Land Registry data indicates there has been just one new build residential sale between 1995 and 2019.

Deprivation is not a significant issue in the Parish, but Index of Multiple Deprivation domain data suggests that some residents may find it difficult to access owner-occupation or access the private rental market.

Further information relating to this housing data is provided on page 22 and within the Housing Needs Report (Appendix B).

7. Meeting the requirement for sustainable development

The NPPF states that there are three dimensions to sustainable development: social, environmental and economic, all of which are important and interrelated.

a) Social

We have sought, through the neighbourhood plan, to safeguard existing open space for the future enjoyment of residents.

We are also seeking to protect existing community facilities and to deliver a mix of housing types so that we can meet the needs of present and future generations and ensure that we support the community's needs and its health, social and cultural wellbeing.

b) Environmental

In order to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, we are seeking to ensure that housing development is of the right type in the right location, so that it does not harm but instead positively reflects the existing historic character of the area in order to:

- Protect the village identity and conserve the rural nature of its surroundings;
- Recognise the need to protect and, where possible, improve biodiversity and important habitats; and
- Provide for improved pedestrian facilities.

c) Economic

The built-up parts of the parish of Arthingworth are primarily residential, but there is a desire to ensure that appropriate economic activity is maintained on condition that the local infrastructure supports it. We therefore wish to encourage employment opportunities in our area by:

- Supporting appropriate existing business development and expansion where the local infrastructure would not be adversely affected by the proposals; and
- Encourage start-up businesses and home working.

This document sets out local considerations for delivering sustainable development across Arthingworth Parish. Development proposals should meet the requirements of all relevant policies in the Local Development Plan.

8. Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Housing and the Built Environment

Introduction

One of the ways in which the planning system can ensure sustainable development is to direct residential and employment growth to the most sustainable locations and to shape the key characteristics of that development.

This is a core principle of the NPPF, which promotes “guiding development towards sustainable solutions” whilst recognising that in doing so it “should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area”. It is also at the heart of the Daventry Part 2 Local Plan which seeks to direct growth to the most sustainable settlements based on a Settlement Hierarchy.

In the Part 2 Local Plan for Daventry, (now West Northamptonshire) a settlement hierarchy is established to help determine the most suitable locations for development. Primary Service Villages are deemed to be most appropriate for local housing and employment needs followed by Secondary Service Villages. Arthingworth is in the ‘Other Village’ category along with 36 other similarly sized villages. About 12,730 net additional dwellings are required up to 2029, with about 2,360 of these being in the Rural Areas.

In general terms, development in Other Villages is described in the Part 2 Local Plan as performing ‘a predominantly local role in providing a limited number of services and facilities for their residents’. Development is expected to fall within village confines unless it is required to meet an identified local need or is needed to support an essential local service.

The Local Plan Part 2 (Policy RA3 – Other Villages) says that development proposals will also need to meet the following criteria:

- i. Be small scale; and
- ii. Not result in the loss of existing services and facilities important to the sustainability of the settlement and its role as an Other Village; and
- iii. Protect the form, character and setting of the village and areas of historic or environmental importance including those identified in conservation area appraisals and village design statements; and
- iv. Protect the integrity of garden or other open land that makes an important contribution to the form, character and setting of the settlement; and
- v. Be accessible by walking and cycling to the majority of services and facilities within the settlement; and
- vi. Protect the amenity of existing residents.

The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan Part 1 was Adopted in December 2014.

The Joint Core Strategy makes it clear that ‘Quality and affordable housing must be delivered to create balanced communities and to meet the current and future needs of our communities, taking into account mix, size and tenure and including the requirements for specialised accommodation. Housing should be sustainable, flexible and well designed’ (para 4.57).

Results from a Questionnaire completed in February 2021 revealed that the community do not wish to see significant housing growth in the Parish but are generally sympathetic to small-scale developments within the village confines. Over 94% of respondents agreed with the Local Plan Part 2 policy of limited development.

Residential Allocation

Through the Neighbourhood Plan, the opportunity has been taken positively to plan for development within Arthingworth to help meet local need and help to support local services. Village Confines have therefore been introduced in order to accommodate the potential for housing growth up to 2029 and to direct development to the most suitable locations.

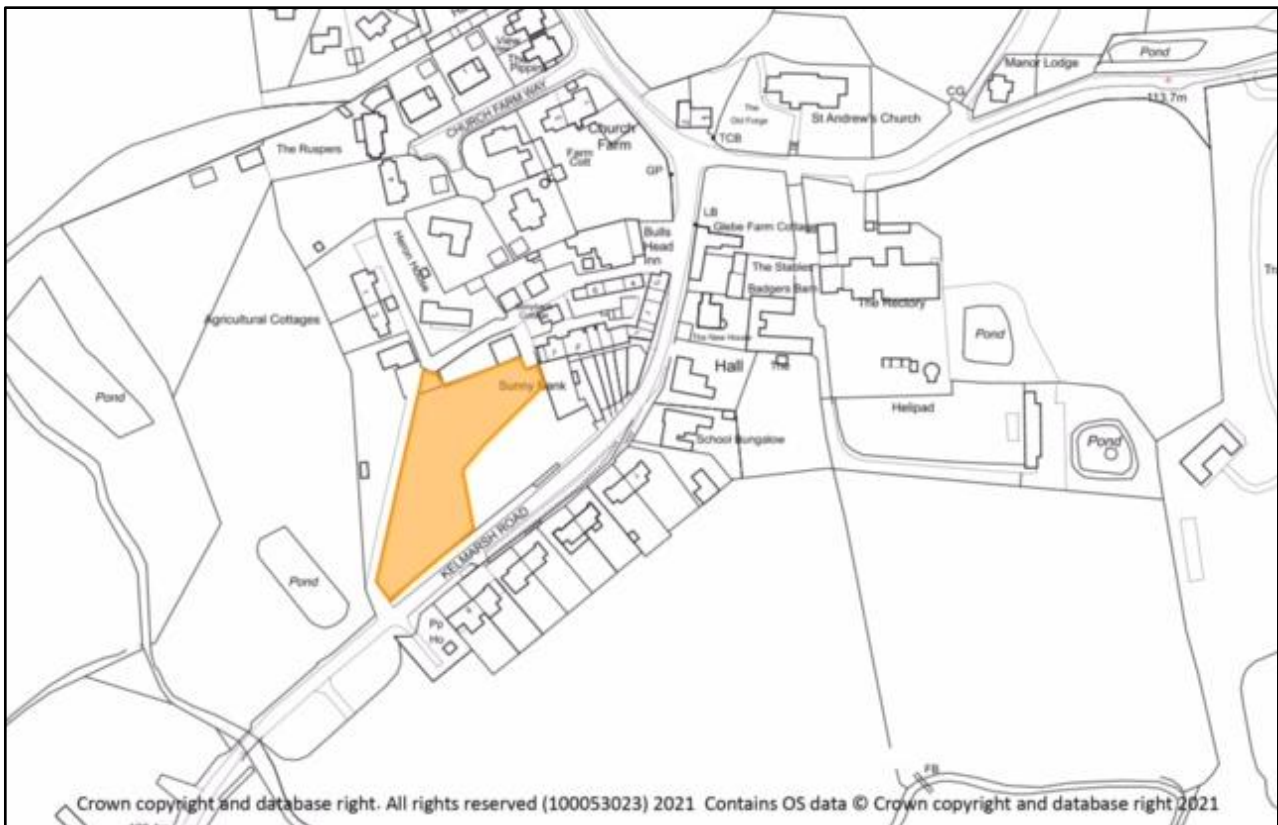
An assessment of the limited options for residential development in the Parish was undertaken by the members of the Housing Theme Group (See Appendix D).

A total of 5 sites were put forward for consideration through a site assessment process which was independently led. The outcome of the assessment process is described in Appendix D. As a result of this process, a single site is put forward as an allocation in this Neighbourhood Plan.

POLICY H1: RESIDENTIAL SITE ALLOCATION - Land is allocated for residential development at the following location on Kelmarsh Road as shown in figure 2, subject to:

- a) The development will provide for up to 6 dwellings;
- b) At least half of the dwellings shall be for Affordable Housing as defined by the NPPF (2021) Annex 2;
- c) **The development of the site responds positively to the levels across the site and the existing vegetation**
- d) The design of the scheme shall meet the requirements of the design policy H6; and
- e) **The development of the site incorporates a children’s play area**

Figure 2 – Site Allocation



Village Confines

The parish is predominately rural in nature with the built-up area of Arthingworth surrounded by open and attractive, countryside.

In planning terms, land outside a defined Village Confines, including any small groups of buildings or small settlements, is treated as countryside.

The purpose of Village Confines is to ensure that sufficient housing and employment land is available in appropriate locations that can be supported by existing infrastructure and avoid impinging into the local countryside.

It is national and local planning policy that development in the countryside should be carefully managed. Supporting “the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside” is identified as a key element in the NPPF. This approach is also supported by this Plan, in particular, because it will help ensure that development is focused in more sustainable locations with a greater range of services and facilities and infrastructure that has capacity for expansion, as well as helping to maintain the special landscape character of the Parish and protecting the countryside for its own sake as an attractive, accessible and non-renewable natural resource.

Village Confines were established by Daventry District Council in order to clarify where new development activity is best located. Now that Daventry District Council has become part of the bigger West Northamptonshire Council, the Village Confines remain in the Local Plan Part 2, however the local planning authority has not defined Village Confines for Arthingworth.

The Neighbourhood Plan supports the creation of a Village Confine for the built-up part of Arthingworth. Within the defined Village Confine an appropriate amount of suitably designed and located development will be acceptable in principle, although all development will be required to take into account the policies within this Plan.

The drawing of the Village Confines follows the methodology outlined in the Daventry Part 2 Local Plan.

The following will be classified as being inside the confines:

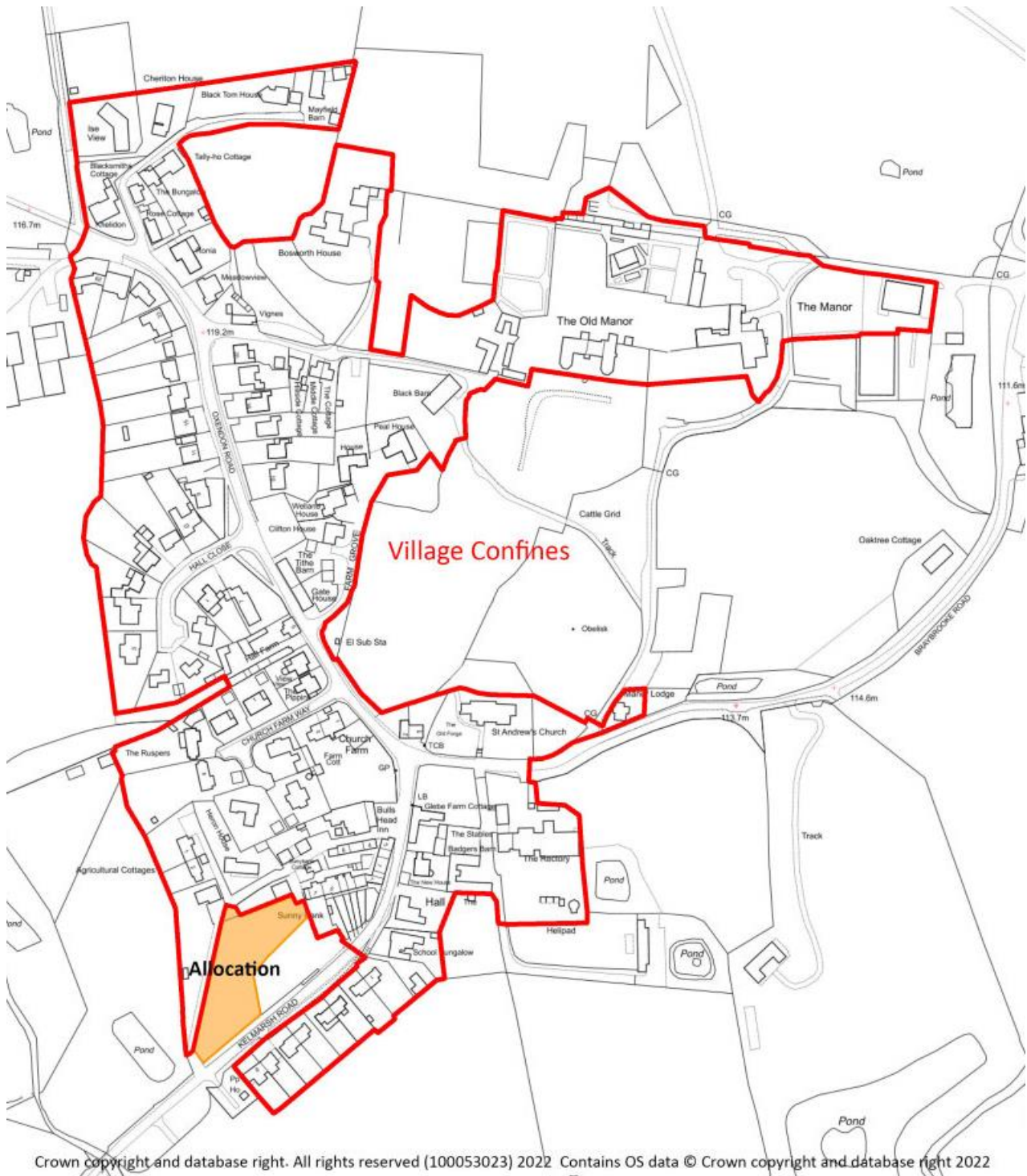
- A. Buildings and curtilages which are contained and visually separate from the open countryside that are clearly part of a coherent network of buildings that form the village
- B. Areas of land with planning permission for housing or community use that are directly adjacent to the village and are under construction

The following will be regarded as being outside the village confines;

- C. Gardens or areas of open space which relate to the open countryside taking into account the character and appearance of the garden and the surrounding area
- D. Individual and groups of dwellings and buildings that are detached or peripheral to the village and relate to the open countryside rather than the built form of the village
- E. Areas of employment or leisure use, including public open space, that is detached or peripheral to the village
- F. Land which would otherwise be outside the confines, even if it is between the edge of the village and a bypass
- G. Rural Exception Sites

POLICY H2: VILLAGE CONFINES – Development proposals on sites within the Village Confines as identified in Figure 3, will be supported where it complies with the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan. Development outside the defined Village Confines will be carefully managed in accordance with national and local planning policies

Fig. 3 – Village Confines for Arthingworth



Housing Mix

The mix of housing proposed within the Neighbourhood Plan is based on statistical data and the views of residents obtained through various consultation exercises including an open event and a community questionnaire.

Analysis of the 2011 Census shows that home ownership levels in the parish are very high with around 77% of households owning their homes outright or with a mortgage or loan. This is higher than the district (72%), regional (67%) and national (63%) rates. Around 16% of households live in private rented accommodation which is higher than the district (12%), region (15%) but just below the England (17%) averages. Just 2% of households live in social rented accommodation which is considerably lower than the district (14%), regional (16%) and national (18%) rates.

Data from the 2011 Census shows the majority (63%) of residential dwellings were detached which is higher than the district (43%), regional (32%) and national (22%) shares. Semi-detached housing accounted for 21% of the housing stock against 31% for the district, 35% for the region and 31% nationally. Terraced housing, flats and apartments provide just 16% of accommodation spaces which is lower than the district (26%), region (32%) and national (47%) shares.

Over two fifths (44%) of households live in houses with four or more bedrooms which is higher than the district (33%), regional (20%) and national (19%) averages. There is an under representation of housing for single people with just 5% of dwellings having one bedroom against 6% for the district, 8% for the region and 12% for England as a whole.

There is evidence of under occupancy in Arthingworth (having more bedrooms than the notional number recommended by the bedroom standard). Analysis of the 2011 Census shows that around 59% of all occupied households in Arthingworth have two or more spare bedrooms and around 25% have one spare bedroom. Under occupancy is higher than district, regional and national averages.

Under occupancy in the parish is particularly evident in larger properties with around 62% of households with 4 or more bedrooms occupied by just one or two people. This is higher than district (47%), regional (43%) and England (41%) rates.

Census data also suggests that older person households are more likely to under-occupy their dwellings. Data from the 2011 Census allows us to investigate this using the bedroom standard. In total, around 75% of pensioner households have an occupancy rating of +2 or more (meaning there are at least two more bedrooms that are technically required by the household) and is higher than the 54% non-pensioner household rate.

In the Community Questionnaire, there was significant support for smaller houses of 2-3 bedrooms with 69.35% of respondents identifying this size of house as being needed in Arthingworth – the highest response. A housing need report is available as Appendix B.

Policy H3 addresses this important matter. Proposals which include homes with four or more bedrooms should identify the way in which they delivery local housing needs or the way in which they would make the delivery of the overall development commercially-viable.

Policy H3: HOUSING MIX - Where practicable and viable, new housing development proposals should provide a mixture of housing types specifically to meet identified and evidenced local needs. In this context proposals which deliver smaller homes (three bedrooms or fewer) and homes suitable for older people (especially those who wish to downsize) will be particularly supported.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is defined in the NPPF (2021 - annex 2) as “housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market”.

The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Policy H2 requires 40% Affordable Housing to be provided on all individual sites subject to an assessment of viability on a site-by-site basis. Policy H3 considers the provision of Affordable Housing through rural exception sites. This is intended to address the issue of high average house prices.

The Part 2 Local Plan adds local detail to the Joint Core Strategy by requiring Rural Exception Sites to be located in settlements that are highest in the settlement hierarchy where they meet the needs of more than one community. This is effectively a sequential test. The Joint Core Strategy makes it clear that ‘Quality and affordable housing must be delivered to create balanced communities and to meet the current and future needs of our communities, taking into account mix, size and tenure and including the requirements for specialised accommodation. Housing should be sustainable, flexible and well designed’ (para 4.57)

According to the 2011 Census, just 2% of households in Arthingworth live in social rented accommodation which is considerably lower than the district (14%), regional (16%) and national (18%) rates. There was no affordable housing for sale products in Arthingworth in 2011.

In the Arthingworth Parish in 2016 a low to mid-priced property cost on average £220,000 which was higher than the national average. Assuming a 15% deposit, those entering the property market in the area would require a household income of £41,556 (£26,444 E&W average) and savings of £36,900 which is a challenge for many households.

With the average cost of an entry-level home in the area being £220,000 prospective buyers would require an estimated £2,000 for legal and moving costs, £1,900 stamp duty and £33,000 for a 15% deposit, coming to £36,900 in total.

More than two thirds of those responding to a question in the Community Questionnaire (2020) on housing need feel affordable housing for sale (66%) is needed. There was limited support for Affordable Housing for rent with 45.16% of respondents expressing support.

POLICY H4 AFFORDABLE HOUSING – Development proposals which include affordable housing should provide a mix of housing types and sizes to help meet the identified needs of the Parish. The provision of smaller homes, especially for young families and young people and for older people who wish to downsize, will be supported, as is the provision of affordable housing for people with a local connection. Affordable housing should be designed and delivered to be indistinguishable from market housing and, wherever practicable, should be distributed evenly throughout the development.

Windfall sites

A windfall site is defined in the NPPF as one which has not been specifically identified in the development plan. The sites usually comprise previously developed land or open spaces within the Settlement Boundary that has unexpectedly become available.

The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy refers to windfall in the context of 'Other Villages'. It says: 'The scope for development within these villages is likely to be limited to windfall infill development, although some housing to provide for local needs may be suitable'.

The Part 2 Local Plan references windfall development as follows: 'This Plan provides further policy guidance for each settlement according to its classification within the settlement hierarchy. This allows for appropriate levels of windfall development that will ensure services and facilities can be sustained or, where necessary, enhanced without undermining the overall spatial strategy'.

The Parish Council has agreed a policy on windfall development to add local detail to Local Plan Part 2 Policy RA3.

POLICY H5: WINDFALL SITES – Development proposals for infill and/or redevelopment sites comprising individual dwellings or small groups of dwellings within the Village Confines will be supported where they it:

- a) retain existing important natural boundaries such as trees, hedges and streams;
- b) provide for a safe vehicular and pedestrian access to the site; and
- c) does not reduce garden space to an extent where it unacceptably impacts on the character of the area, the amenity of neighbours and the occupiers of the dwelling or has an unacceptable heritage or environmental impact.

Design and the built environment

The Community of Arthingworth both reflects and is typical of similar villages in West Northamptonshire. Its present amenities comprise the parish church of St Andrews, Bulls Head public house (offering a pub shop) and Village Hall which provide the village with venues to worship, meet, celebrate and share in community-based events.

Consultation has showed that many people value the built environment and expressed concern that it should be protected from insensitively located or poorly designed development. The built form of Arthingworth boasts an interesting mix of architectural styles, much of it historic. This adds to the village's vibrancy and informs its distinctive character.

It is important that new building benefits from high-quality design so that it makes a positive contribution to enhancing this distinctive character. It should take inspiration from the rich heritage of Arthingworth. This includes ensuring that it would not lead to a significant adverse impact on key heritage assets (both nationally and locally designated).

The challenge facing the future of Arthingworth is to balance the desire to protect the character of the built-up area with the need for it to grow and evolve in a sensitive and proportionate manner in order to sustain the community and its facilities.

The Plan encourages the use of materials and design that promotes sustainable development that is in keeping with the character of the area. It is crucial for its future success that Arthingworth embraces the need for sustainability and that it becomes a prime consideration in design proposals, for its economic value to residents as well as environmental benefits.

To ensure this new development will be assessed against the criteria in Policy H6 and the accompanying Design Guide. This is in line with national planning policy which promotes good quality design.

The policy and design guide highlighted in this section seek to reflect the design principles which the community believes will help to achieve this aim. They reflect the outcome of work undertaken by a small group of people within the Housing Theme Group and later endorsed by the community at an open event. The overall aim is to protect the settlement of Arthingworth to retain its character within a unique and distinctive Parish.

New development proposals should be designed sensitively to sit within the distinctive settlement patterns of the Arthingworth village. Existing settlement patterns have grown incrementally over time. The buildings date from many different periods, providing a richness and variety of styles and materials. This traditional rural character should be enhanced by new development and schemes should be designed to ensure that new buildings sit comfortably within the existing settlement pattern and are respectful of their surroundings.

POLICY H6: DESIGN – Development proposals should demonstrate a high quality of design, layout and use of materials in order to make a positive contribution to the special character of the Parish and are encouraged to have regard to the building design principles and requirements as stated in the Design Guide in Appendix E and the Village Design Statement to a degree that is proportionate to the development.

The Natural, Historical and Social Environment

Introduction

This chapter of the Neighbourhood Plan deals mainly with the *environmental* agenda of *sustainable development*, together with open spaces of community value in the *social* agenda, as described in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2021), page 5. The chapter aims to balance the requirement for appropriate development in the Plan Area against the value of environmental and other features that are both *special* – appreciated, in their own right and as community assets, by local people – and *significant* for their wildlife and history. It also deals with broader environmental issues of concern to the community, including protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the Plan Area and planning for resilience to flood risk associated with climate change.

Care was taken during preparation of the Plan to ensure that the policies (and the sites and areas of environmental significance covered by them) were not unduly restrictive on development during the Plan’s lifetime. Less than 25% by area of all the open and currently undeveloped land in the parish is protected through the Neighbourhood Plan’s policies, and the planning system generally, from potential environmentally damaging development:

1. Total area of Neighbourhood Plan Area	c.704 ha
2. Open and undeveloped land	c.691 ha
3. Area designated or recognised in this Plan for <i>environmental</i> protection	c.170 ha

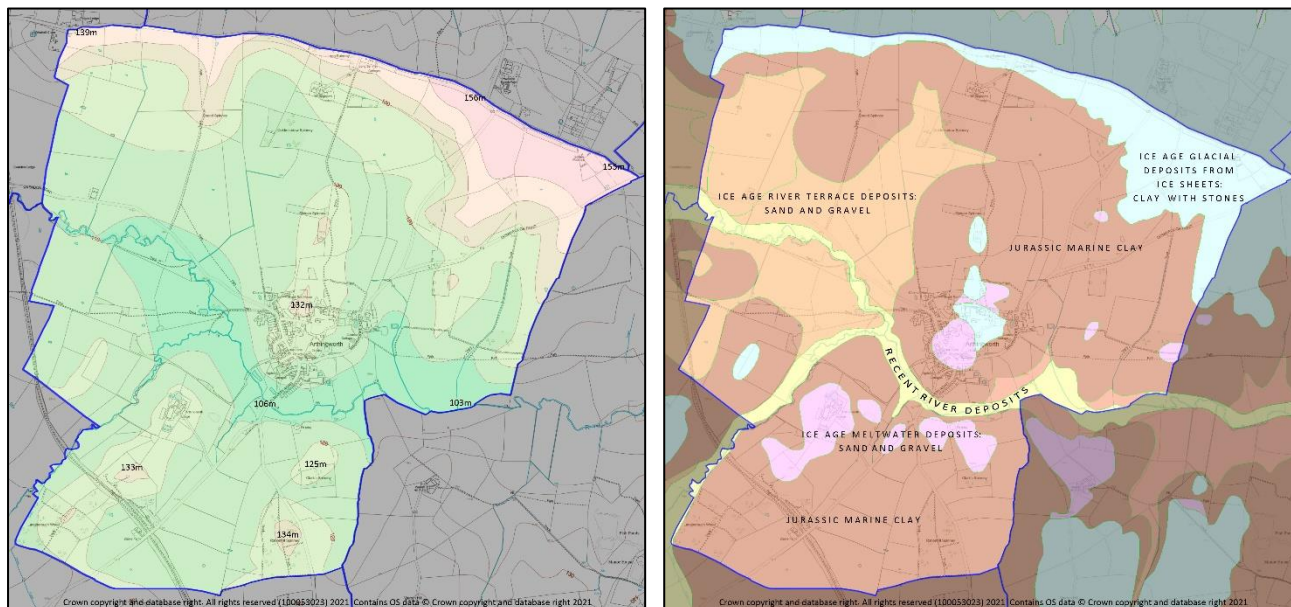
Landscape, geology and setting

The village of Arthingworth stands on the south- and west-facing sides of a prominent hill overlooking the valley of the River Ise (Figure 4.1). Arthingworth hill is an ‘outlier’ of high ground from which the land falls away in all directions. To its north, beyond a shallow dry valley, rises a broad, high ridge running west-east; this is part of the important watershed between the Welland and Nene catchments. Just west of the village, in an attractive area of flood-plain meadows and historic parkland, the Ise is joined by a tributary brook. It then flows around the south of the village and out of the parish eastwards. The profile and appearance of both watercourses remains relatively ‘natural’, with meanders, deeper pools and shallower, gravelly areas. To the south of the valley, the land rises gently up the somewhat dissected slopes of another ridge, whose crest lies beyond the Plan Area boundary but forms the horizon when viewed from Arthingworth. The difference in height between the bottom of the Ise valley (at 103m) and the top of Arthingworth village is 30m, while the highest point in the parish stands at 156m; these height differences (53m overall) and the topography gives the Plan Area several quite spectacular (for the East Midlands) expansive views.

The village itself was established (see below) on a patch of sand and gravel occupying the warm, south-facing hillside mentioned above. The site was well-chosen by the people who settled here, as it provided dry footings for houses and lanes and a nearby supply of fresh water in the river, while most of the surrounding area with its heavy but fertile clay, although less suitable for habitation, provided

land for farming. The clay, which underlays the whole Plan Area (Figure 4.2), is of Jurassic age (180 million years), while the 'superficial deposits' of sand and gravel (and a few patches of stony grey clay) are the result of erosion and deposition during the Ice Ages (between 2 million and 14 thousand years ago). It was also during the Ice Ages that the present landscape was sculpted by glaciers and water.

Figures 4.1 and 4.2: Topography (left) and Geology of the Plan Area



Historical environment

The features of historical environment significance in Arthingworth recognised by this Neighbourhood Plan are the visible evidence of at least two thousand years of habitation here. A Romano-British settlement (farm or villa) on the east side of the hill predated the village by perhaps 500 years. As demonstrated by its Old English name (recorded in Domesday Book) *Arniworð*, the village itself was established by Anglo-Saxon settlers, probably in the 8th century CE, and this early medieval settlement is still the basis of the layout of the historic core of the village.

History from the place-name

Arthingworth

Probably 'enclosure connected with Earn(a)'.

Elements and their meanings:

- **Earna** (Old English) personal name
- **-ing-** (Old English) connective particle, linking a first element to a final element.
- **worð** (Old English) an enclosure.

Source: Key to English place-names <http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/>

Arthingworth was at its largest (until recent times, at least) in the 14th century, after which Black Death (bubonic plague), colder climate and social upheaval led to the settlement's shrinking: earthworks in

fields around the modern village record the layout of some of the houses and streets of pre 14th-century Arthingworth (Policy E6).

Of particular historical significance are the surviving ridges and furrows of the medieval ploughlands, whose layout is known in Arthingworth from the surveys carried out by Northamptonshire CC and English Heritage (Policy E7). Buildings dating from the 17th and 18th centuries survive in the village and countryside, while the buildings and other structures from the 19th and 20th centuries provide most of the village's present built environment (Policies E6 and E8).

Natural environment

Like all rural parishes in the English east midlands, Arthingworth's two millennia of more or less continuous occupation means that there are no truly natural, wild places; every corner has been managed by someone, for something. But nature has adapted. Plants and animals suited to living alongside people, or in managed environments and structures, now make up the Plan Area's biodiversity. While Arthingworth has no recorded nationally important wildlife sites it does have a significant number of local features and habitat areas whose ecological value makes a vital contribution to English biodiversity (policies 3, 4 and 5). They include watercourses and wetlands, woodlands, hedgerows, managed parkland and trees, gardens and churchyards, arable field margins and other 're-wilded' places, and – of particular significance in Arthingworth – permanent pasture where a mix of grassland plant species still survives.

Existing environmental designations

The Plan Area is located in National Character Area (NCA) 89 *Northamptonshire Vales*. NCAs are landscape areas defined by Natural England for Planning purposes. It is also located in North Northamptonshire Landscape Character Area (LCA) *Northamptonshire Vales*. In the natural environment there are 37 areas of *Priority Habitat* and national *Forest Inventory* (as defined by Natural England), together with eight additional areas of *habitat of conservation concern* and nine validated and potential *Local Wildlife Sites* (LWS) in the Northamptonshire Environmental Records Centre database.

In the historical environment there are seven Listed Buildings and ten further extant sites and features of historical environment significance or with proven buried archaeology (Northamptonshire Historic Environment Records).

The Neighbourhood Plan adds *local detail* to these national and regional designations by identifying sites and features of local significance in the Plan Area.

Environmental inventory

An environmental inventory (Appendix F) of Arthingworth was compiled in support of the environmental designations and policies in this Plan between April and August 2021. The work comprised two elements:

- Review of all existing designations and other available information in the public domain and

- Fieldwork to identify and confirm environmentally significant (in the context of the Plan Area) sites and features.

The review compiled information from many sources, including DEFRA, Natural England, Historic England, Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record, Leicestershire Environmental Record Centre (habitats, species and designations), West Northamptonshire council (and its local predecessor, Daventry District Council), Environment Agency, British Geological Survey, old maps (Ordnance Survey, archive), local history and archaeology, publications and local knowledge.

Fieldwork was combined with local desk studies to review all open and currently undeveloped land in the Plan Area. Significant species, habitats, public open spaces, landscape characteristics, earthworks and other extant heritage features, views and viewpoints were checked and recorded.

These data, along with all relevant site-specific information from the existing information review, were mapped and tabulated, and every site of local environmental significance was evaluated using a system (see Appendix F) based on the seven criteria for Local Green Space selection in the *National Planning Policy Framework 2021*. The outcome was identification of locally significant sites and features and their allocation to policy-defined groups, as *Local Green Spaces*, *Important Open Spaces*, *sites of natural and historical environment significance*, *woodland*, *ridge and furrow* (as non-designated heritage assets) and *views*.

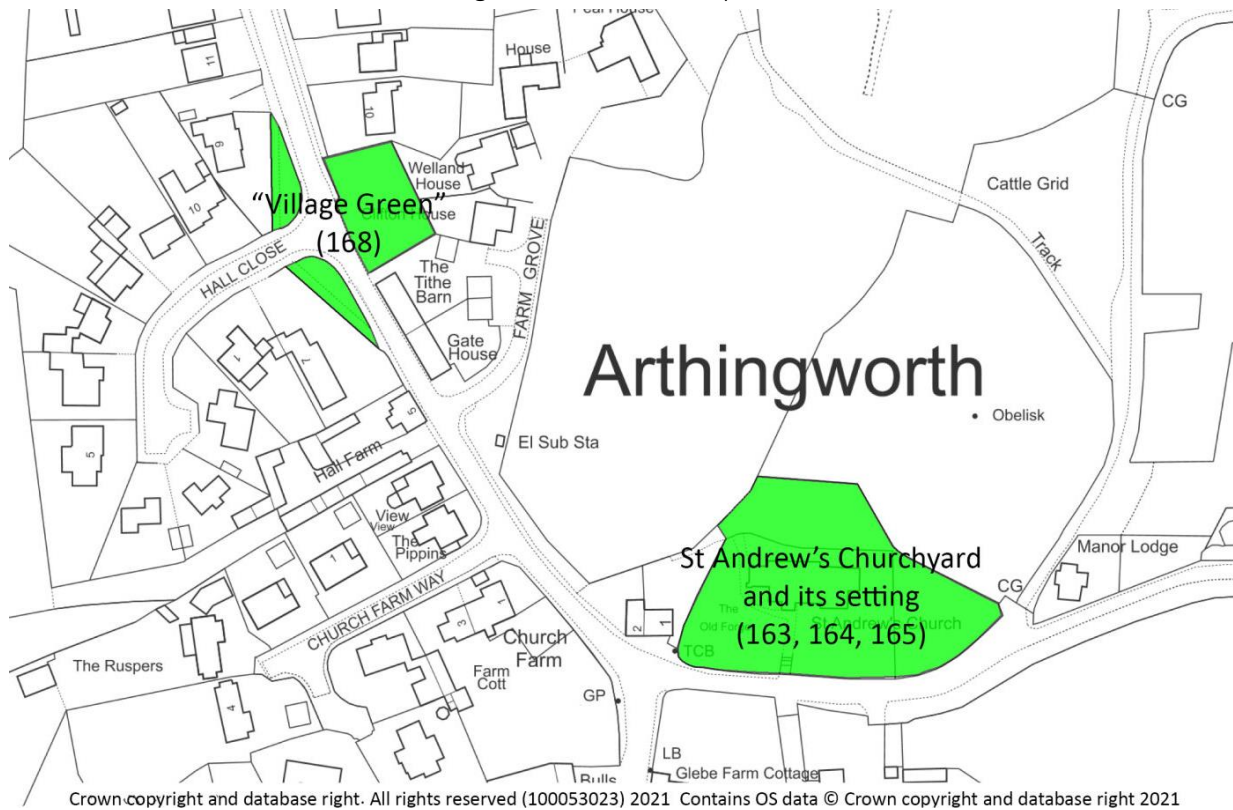
Local Green Spaces

Of the approximately 180 inventoried parcels of open land in the parish, some 80 were identified as having notable environmental (natural, historical and/or social) features. As described above, these sites were assessed, using the seven criteria for Local Green Space designation noted in the *National Planning Policy Framework 2021*.

Two sites (figure 5) scored highly under all relevant criteria in the inventory (Appendix F) and meet the essential requirements for designation as Local Green Space as outlined in National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 101-2. The statutory protection afforded by Policy E 1 will ensure their protection for future generations. The policy is in general conformity with Daventry Part 2 Local Plan (2011-2029) paragraph 11.1.04 and Policy PA1.

Policy E1 follows the matter-of-fact approach in the NPPF. If development proposals come forward on the local green spaces within the Plan period, they can be assessed on a case-by-case basis by West Northamptonshire Council. It will be able to make an informed judgement on the extent to which the proposal concerned demonstrates the 'very special circumstances' required by the policy.

Figure 5: Local Green Spaces



POLICY E1: LOCAL GREEN SPACES – Development proposals that would result in the loss of, or have an adverse effect on, the following Local Green Spaces (details Appendix G; location figure 5) will not be supported other than in very special circumstances.

St Andrew’s Churchyard and its setting (inventory sites 163-165)

“Village Green” (168)

Important Open Spaces

A group of sites scored highly in the inventory for their outstanding community value. They have been identified in fieldwork, community consultations and in Parish records; some have been recognised as Open Space, Sport & Recreation sites in the Daventry District Council Report *Planning the Future or Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire, 2017* (this document was prepared as supporting evidence for the adopted Daventry Part 2 Local Plan and the audit will inform West Northamptonshire Council planning strategy and policy implementation).

All these sites’ value as open space within and close to the built-up areas and/or their actual or potential value as community resources are recognised in Policy E2. The policy is in general conformity with, and adds local detail to, *Daventry Part 2 Local Plan Policy CW2* and *West Northants Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) Policy RC2*.

Figure 6.1: Important Open Spaces in village area.

The Local Green Spaces (Policy E1), shown for reference, are also Important Open Spaces

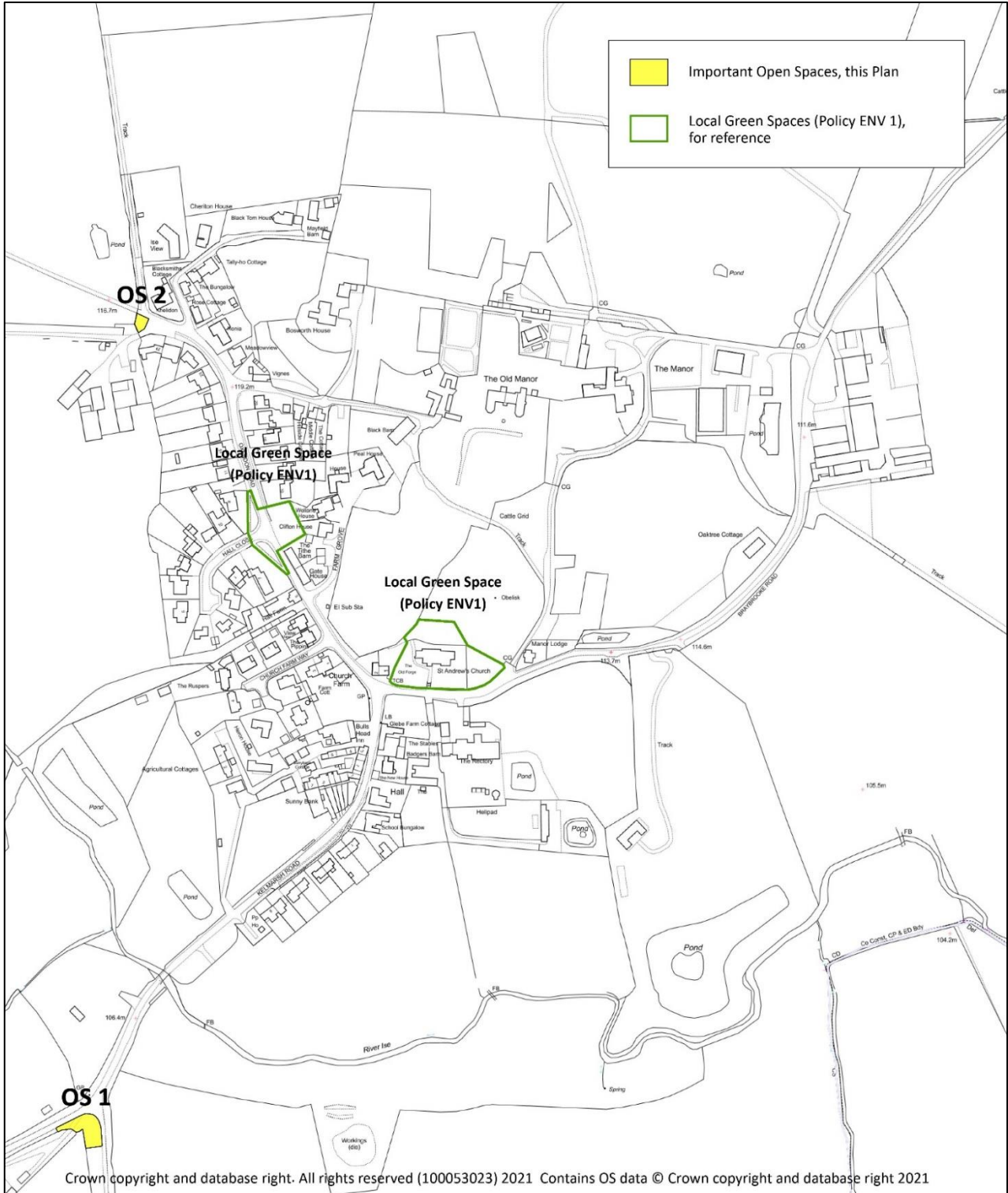
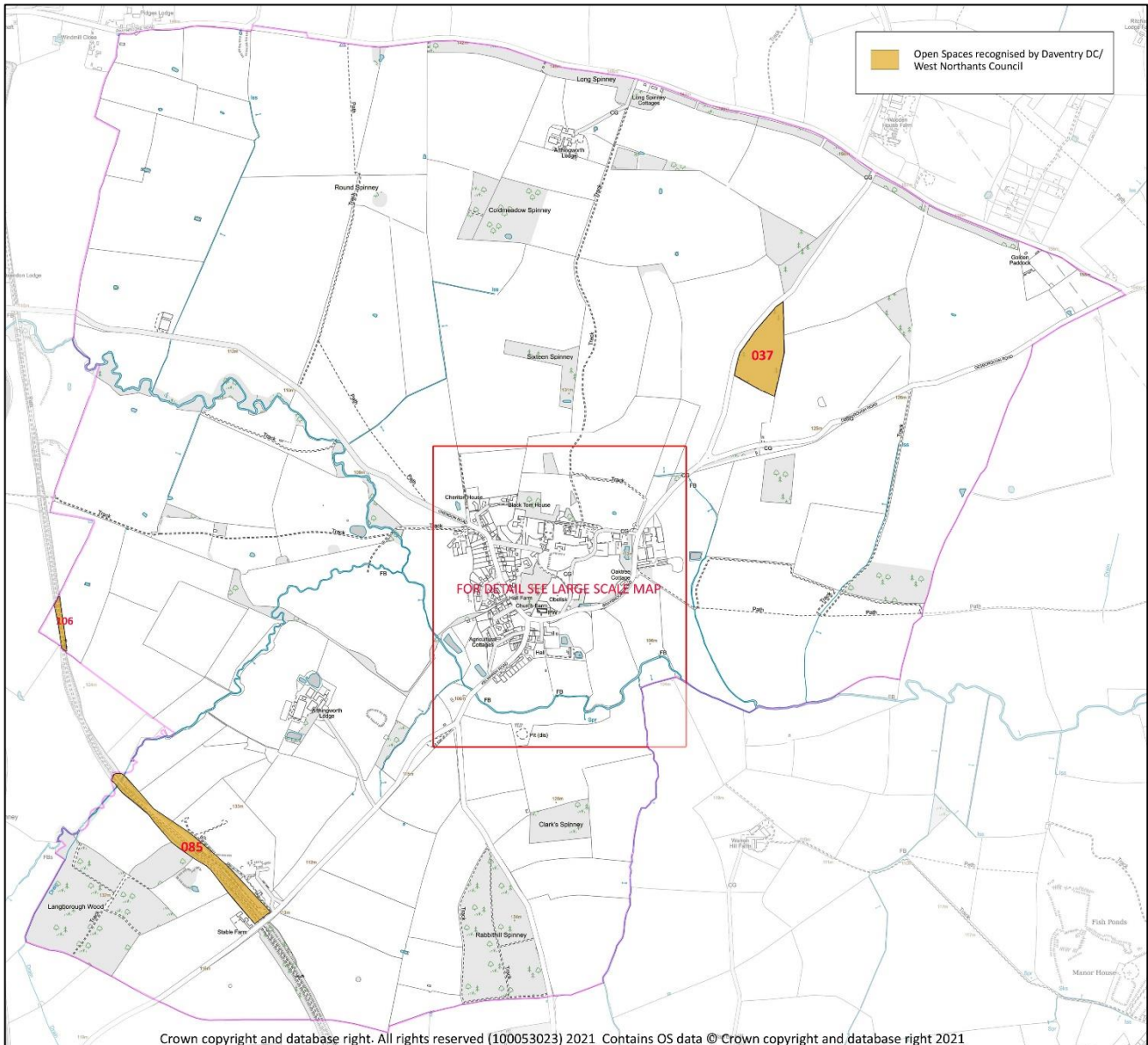


Figure 6.2: Important Open Spaces in open countryside



POLICY E2: IMPORTANT OPEN SPACES - The following open spaces (locations, figures 6.1, 6.2; details, Appendix F) are of high local value for recreation, beauty, amenity, or tranquillity, within or close to the built-up area. Development proposals that result in their loss, or have an unacceptable effect on them, will not be supported unless the open space is replaced by at least equivalent provision in an equally suitable location, or unless it can be demonstrated that the open space is no longer required by the community.

Open Spaces recognised by Daventry DC/West Northants Council

106 (inventory map reference) Brampton Valley Way green corridor (part) (DDC/West Northants open space *green corridor*)

085 Brampton Valley Way green corridor (part) (DDC/West Northants open space *green corridor*)

037 Eastwell Spinney (DDC/West Northants open space *semi-natural green space*)

Open Spaces designated in this Plan

OS 1 Open space and verges with bench, junction of Kelmarsh Road and Harrington Road. (*Amenity open space*)

OS 2 Oxendon Road sheep pens open space: amenity open space with celebration oak tree. (*Amenity open space*)

COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 1: MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF IMPORTANT OPEN SPACES – The Arthingworth community expects all public open spaces mapped in figure 6.1 and 6.2 to be managed effectively to maintain or enhance their amenities, features or biodiversity, and to comply with public liability standards for safety, for as long as they continue to function as publicly-accessible open spaces.

Sites and features of Natural Environment significance

A group of inventory sites scores highly for ‘wildlife’ (scoring at least 3/5 under this criterion). The features and designations for which the identified sites have been selected are identified in the environmental inventory (Appendix F). They comprise a) statutorily protected sites, if any, b) those where *priority habitats* and *National Forest Inventory* sites occur (Natural England mapping) or where *biodiversity action plan (BAP) species* have been recorded; c) sites identified as ecologically significant by Northamptonshire County Council, including Local Wildlife Sites, and d) sites identified during the inventory process as being of high biodiversity significance in the context of the Plan Area. The maps (figures 7.1 and 7.2) show their locations.

Policy E3 delivers site-specific compliance in the Plan Area with the relevant West Northants Council policies, the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017-2019 and the UK Environment Act 2021. It also refers to the DEFRA *Guidance* of July 7, 2021 in respect of the use of the *biodiversity metric* approach to assessing the value of a development site to wildlife.

‘Policy E3 seeks to safeguard these important features of the neighbourhood area. It balances the significance of the sites with the importance of the development proposed to the local community. The sites have been identified as being of local significance for their environmental features (natural and/or historic).

POLICY E3: SITES AND FEATURES OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE – The sites and features shown on figures 7.1 and 7.2 are identified as being of at least local significance for their natural environment significance. They are ecologically important in their own right, make a local contribution to carbon sequestration, and are locally valued. Development proposals that would have a detrimental impact on a site of historic environment significance will not be supported unless the need for and benefits arising from development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. Development is also required to achieve a 10% net gain in biodiversity, or the BNG metric in force at the time.

Figure 7.1: Sites and features of Natural Environment significance (detail in village area)

For key see figure 7.2

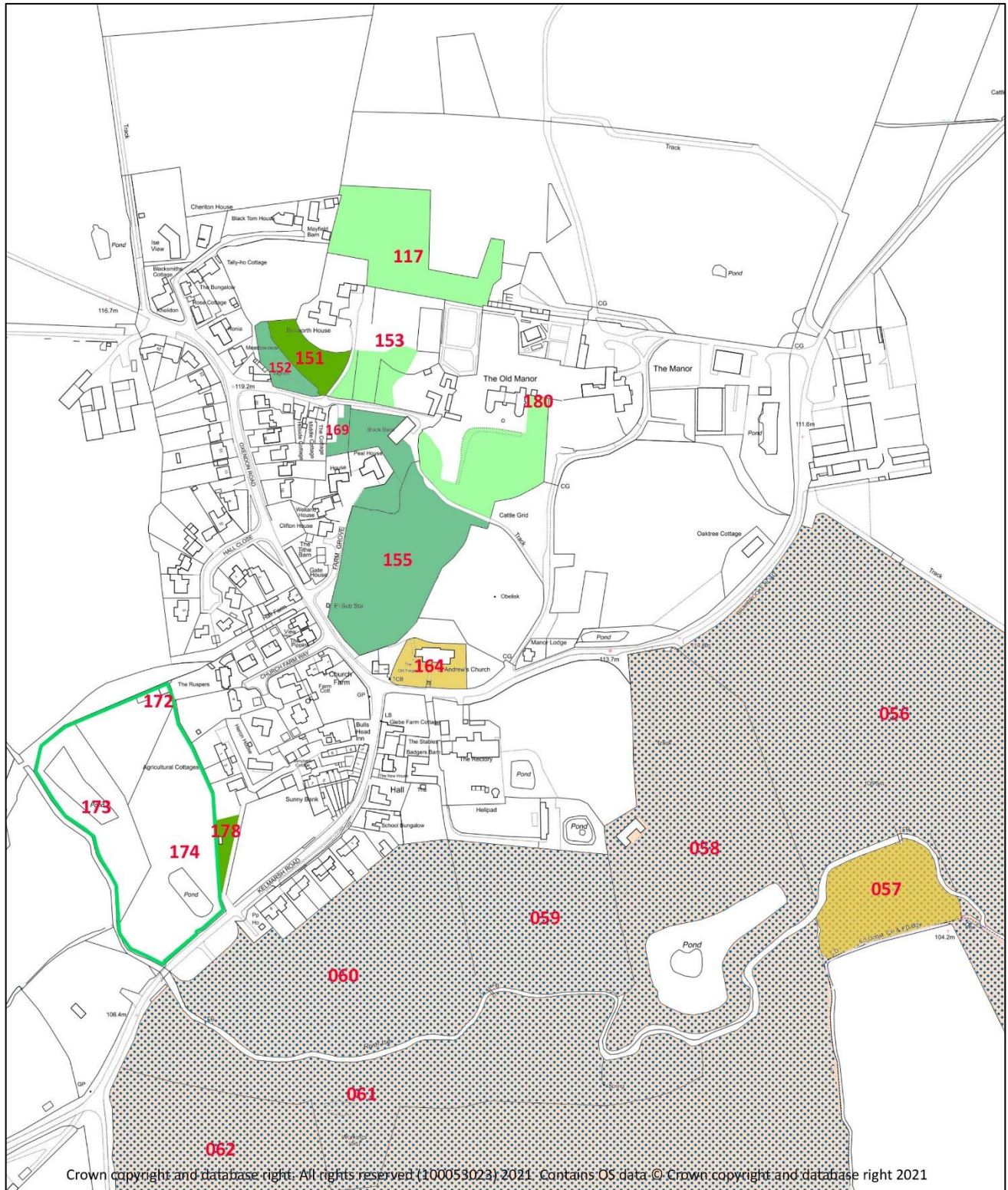
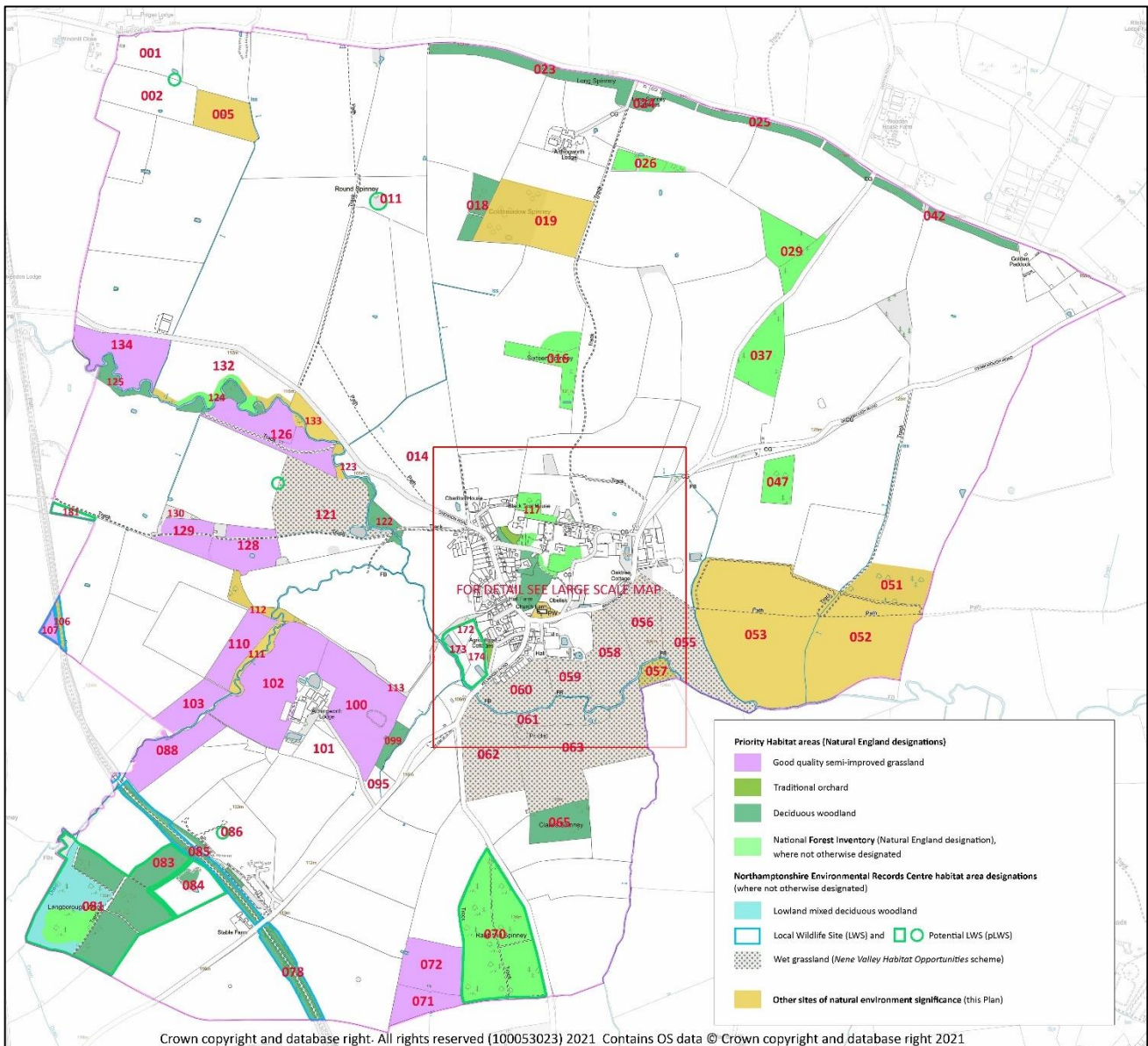


Figure 7.2: Sites and features of Natural Environment significance (Plan Area)

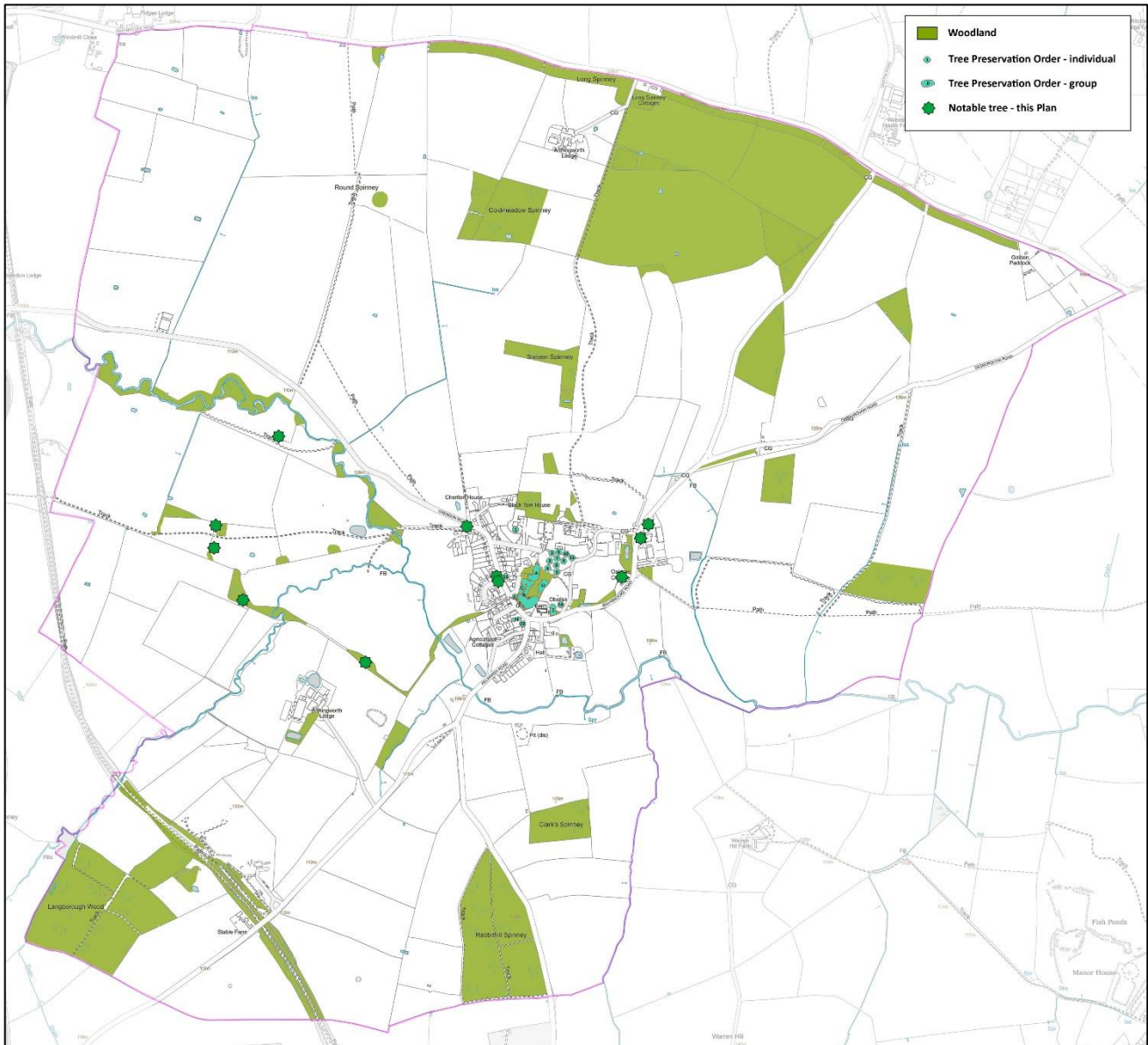


Woodland and notable trees

The hilltop village of Arthingworth has mature wooded gardens and small woods and a number of notable trees (some under TPOs), adding to its rural character and attractive appearance. For historical reasons the open farmed countryside beyond the settlement boundary has rather little woodland. Exceptions are some notable hedgerow trees, shelterbelts and copses and a number of mainly 19th and 20th century coverts, mixed (deciduous and coniferous) plantations and naturally regenerated woodland areas. The recognised importance of trees for carbon sequestration, and their biodiversity, landscape and amenity values, mean that new development will be required to result in no further loss and wherever possible to provide a net gain. In England there is a presumption against the loss of woodland and an acknowledged need to increase overall woodland cover (*England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024* and *The UK Forestry Standard 2017/2021*); both these HMG documents support this policy.

Policy E4 addresses this matter. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location development proposals should be accompanied by an arboricultural survey (BS5837:2012 standard or its equivalent) to establish the health and longevity of trees on the site. Biodiversity Metric 3.0 or the Small Sites metric should be used to calculate the wildlife value of development sites. Where damage or loss of trees is unavoidable, the developer should provide or arrange for replacement woodland, trees and/or hedges of at least equivalent type (habitat), quantity and/or scale to deliver a net gain in biodiversity and to protect amenity.

Figure 8: Woodland and notable trees



POLICY E 4: WOODLAND AND NOTABLE TREES – Development proposals should protect woodland and notable trees of arboricultural, biodiversity and landscape importance (as shown on Figure 8) from loss or damage and integrate them sensitively into the overall design.

Proposals which use trees and hedges to enhance the appearance, amenity and biodiversity value of the site will be supported.

Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity

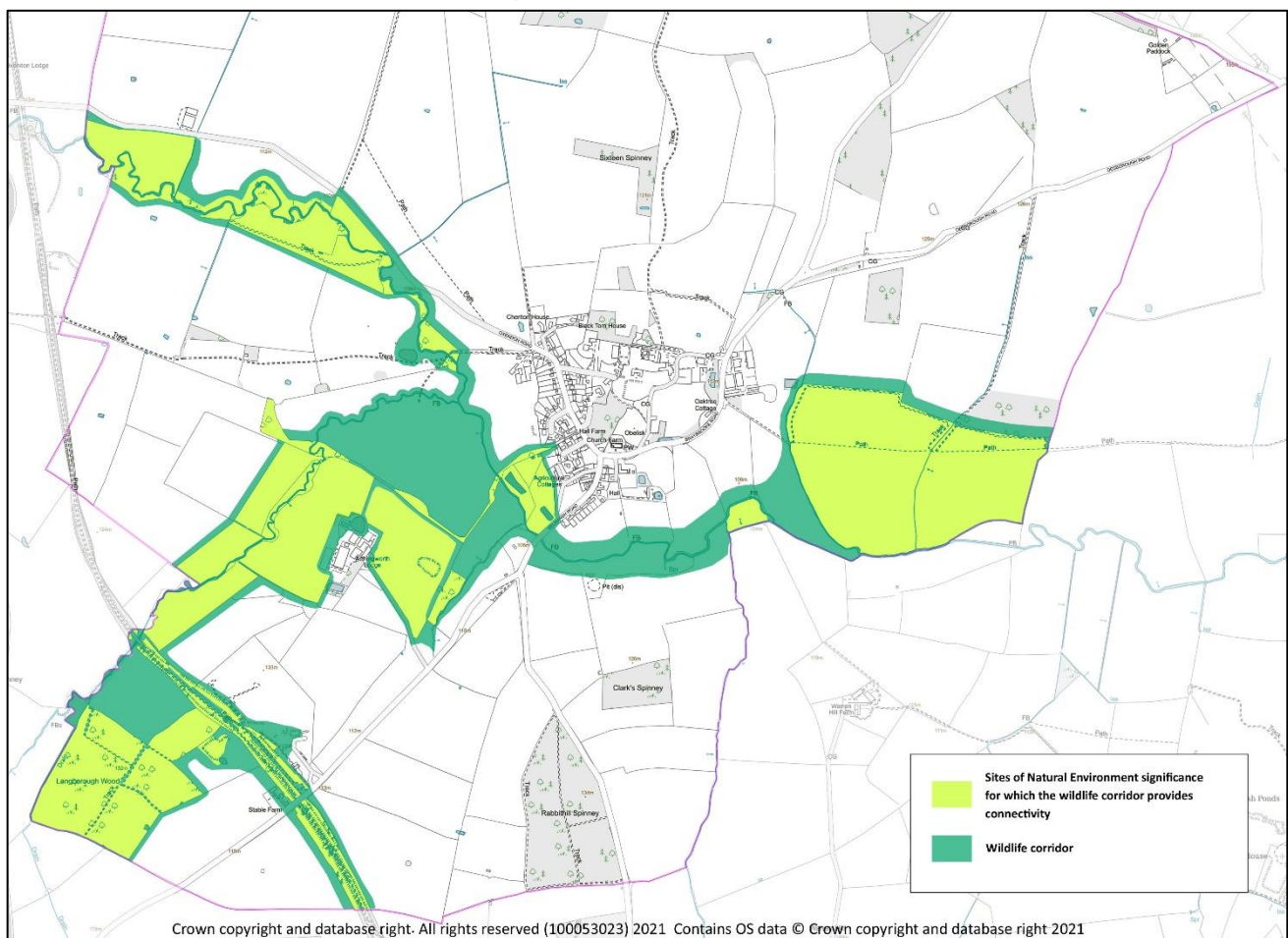
While policy E3 delivers site-specific compliance in the Plan Area with the relevant West Northants Council policies, the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017-2019 and the UK Environment Act 2021, this policy (E5) does the same for strategic planning and future development proposals across the Plan Area. It also refers to the DEFRA *Guidance* of July 7, 2021 in respect of the use of the *biodiversity metric* approach to assessing the value of a development site to wildlife. The policy is

explicitly supported by National Planning Policy Framework (2021) paragraphs 174 (a) and (d); 175; 179 and 180(a), on which this policy’s wording is partly based.

The community also expects all planning strategies, proposals and decisions affecting Arthingworth to comply with the requirements of the *Climate Change Act 2008*, to follow the spirit of the *Paris Agreement* (UK ratification 2017) and the UK’s *25 year environment plan (2018)*, and to plan for biodiversity net gain through the mechanisms described in the *Environment Act 2021*.

Policy E5 sets out the Plan’s approach to this important matter. If significant harm to biodiversity cannot be avoided (through relocating to an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or compensated, development proposals will not be supported in accordance with paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 and following the objectives of the biodiversity net gain (metric 3.0 and small sites) methodology.

Figure 9: Wildlife corridors



POLICY E5 BIODIVERSITY AND HABITAT CONNECTIVITY– ‘Development proposals should safeguard habitats and species, including those of local significance, by planning for biodiversity net gain. Where significant harm to biodiversity cannot be avoided, development proposals should incorporate their relocation to an alternative site with less harmful impacts, ensuring adequate mitigated, or appropriate compensated.

Development proposals should also achieve a 10% net gain in biodiversity, or the biodiversity net gain metric in force at the time.

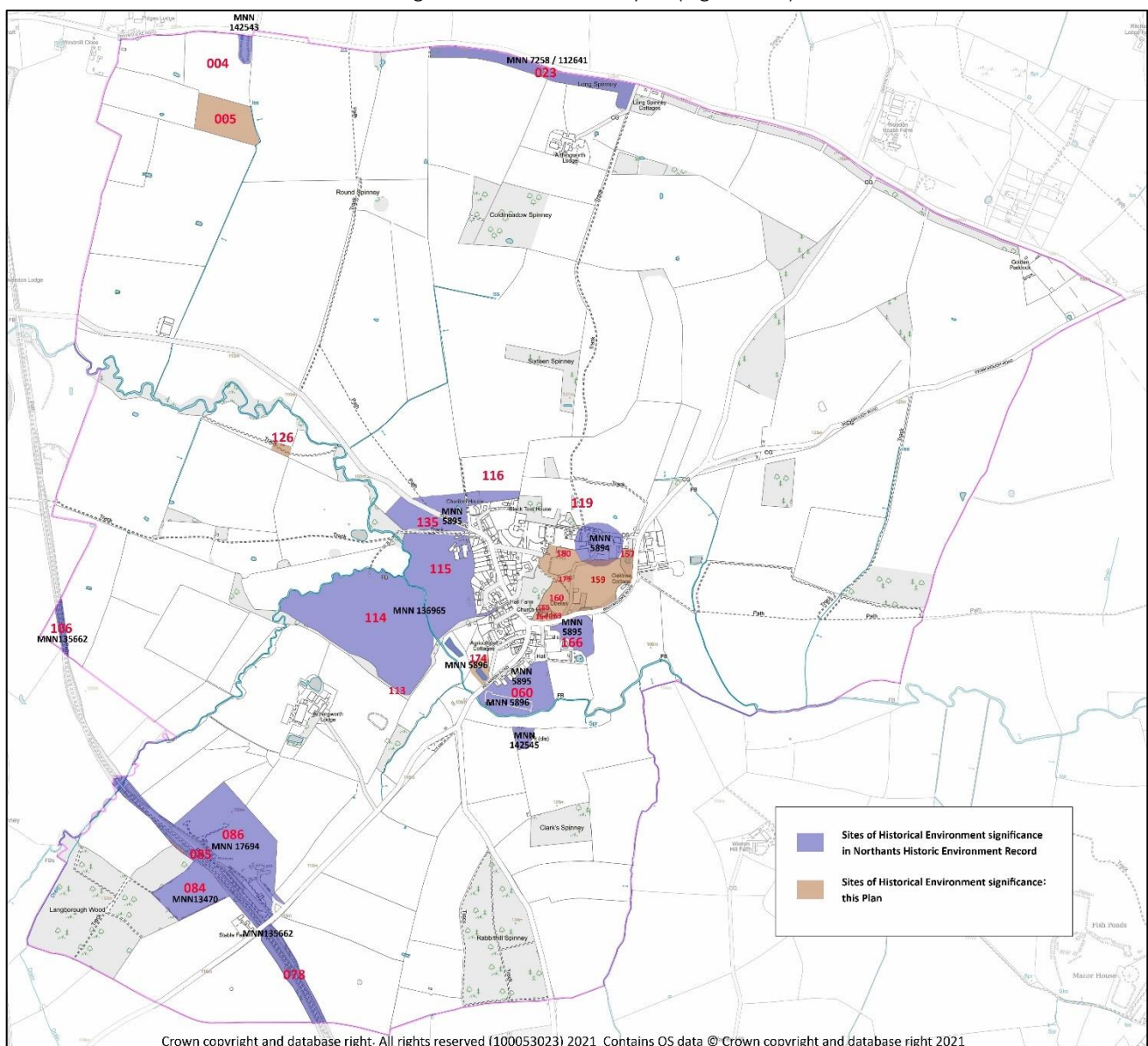
Development proposals should respond positively to the habitat connectivity provided by the wildlife corridors identified in Figure 9

Sites of Historical Environment significance

A group of inventory sites scores highly for 'history' (scoring at least 3/5 under this criterion). The features for which the identified sites have been selected and notified are listed in the environmental inventory (Appendix F). The map (figure 10) shows their locations.

Professional advice should be sought, and appropriate assessment undertaken to assess the extent and significance of any heritage assets which may be affected by proposals prior to development commencing

Figure 10: Sites of Historical Environment significance
For ridge and furrow see Policy E7 (Figure 11.2)



POLICY E6: SITES OF HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT SIGNIFICANCE - The sites mapped in figure 10 (details in Appendix F) are of at least local significance for their historical features. The features are extant and have visible expression or there is proven buried archaeology on the site, and they are locally valued. The significance of the features present should be balanced against the local benefit of any development that would affect or damage them.

Ridge and furrow

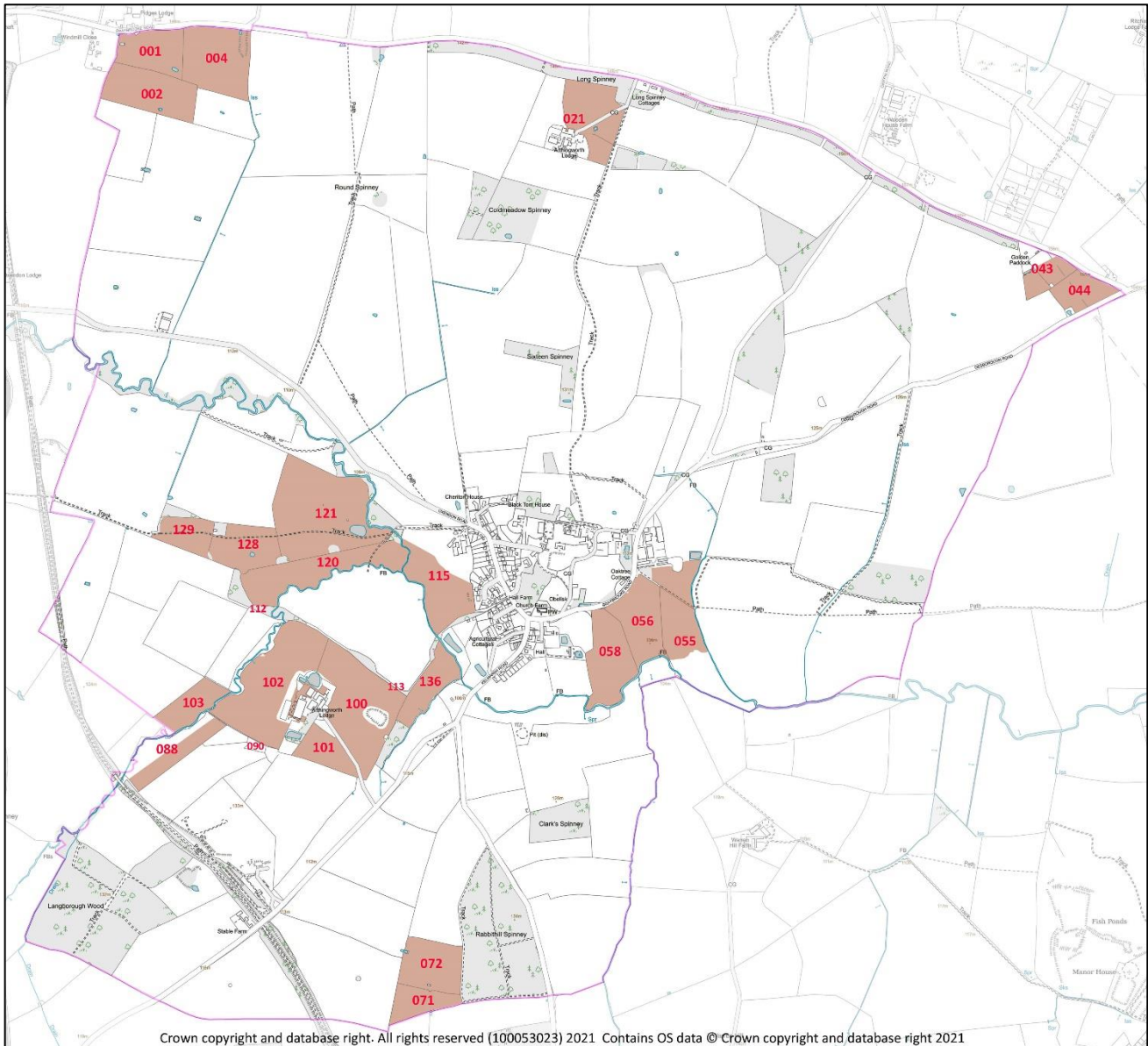
The medieval township of Arthingworth was primarily agricultural and, beginning in the 8th or 9th century AD, was farmed using the *Open Field* system. All the open land, other than small fields (closes) backing onto the houses, meadows in stream valleys and a few patches of woodland or waste, was worked in a seasonal and yearly rotation of arable crops (cereals, beans), grazing and fallow. Medieval ploughs were pulled by oxen and, because the ploughs were not reversible, the soil was always turned rightwards as the plough team progressed up and down the furlongs producing a corrugated pattern of ridges and furrows whose dimensions increased with every season.

The open field system was practised for most of the medieval period until changes in land ownership and use gave rise to a change from large communal open fields to enclosed, privately-owned smaller fields with hedged boundaries, and a change from arable to pastoral (livestock) farming. The land in the Plan Area was enclosed in this way in several phases, beginning in the Stuart and Commonwealth periods and ending with Arthingworth’s Parliamentary Enclosure in 1767. The result of the enclosures, as well as being socially disruptive, was to ‘fossilise’ the ridges and furrows under grass and hedgerows, and this situation persisted until the mid-20th century, when a second agricultural revolution after the Second World War effectively reversed the first one. British governments, later the European Union, encouraged farmers to plough the pastures and turn them over to intensive arable production. Wherever this happened, modern reversible ploughs quickly obliterated the ridge and furrow. In most English open field parishes, the loss of ridge and furrow since 1950 has been over 90%. In the late 1990s, English Heritage (now Historic England), realising the scale of this destruction, undertook the first of a series of surveys (*Turning the Plough*) across the Midlands, including Northamptonshire, and made recommendations for protection and management.

The extent of ridge and furrow in Arthingworth mapped in the late 1990s for the *Turning the Plough* (Historic England and Northamptonshire CC) survey (figure 13.1) provided the baseline for a new survey undertaken as part of the inventory for this Plan in 2021 (figure 13.2). The summary results show the decline since World War II (extent estimated from local history information and old maps) and since 1999; although the 2021 survey identified on the ground one area missed by the 1999 study, the situation is now as follows:

1947	[estimated] 450 ha (c.60% of agricultural land)
1999	80 ha
2021	52 ha

Figure 11.1: Ridge and furrow in Arthingworth c.1999
 (Northants Historic Environment Record (*Open Fields* project) for *Turning the Plough* survey, NCC/English Heritage)

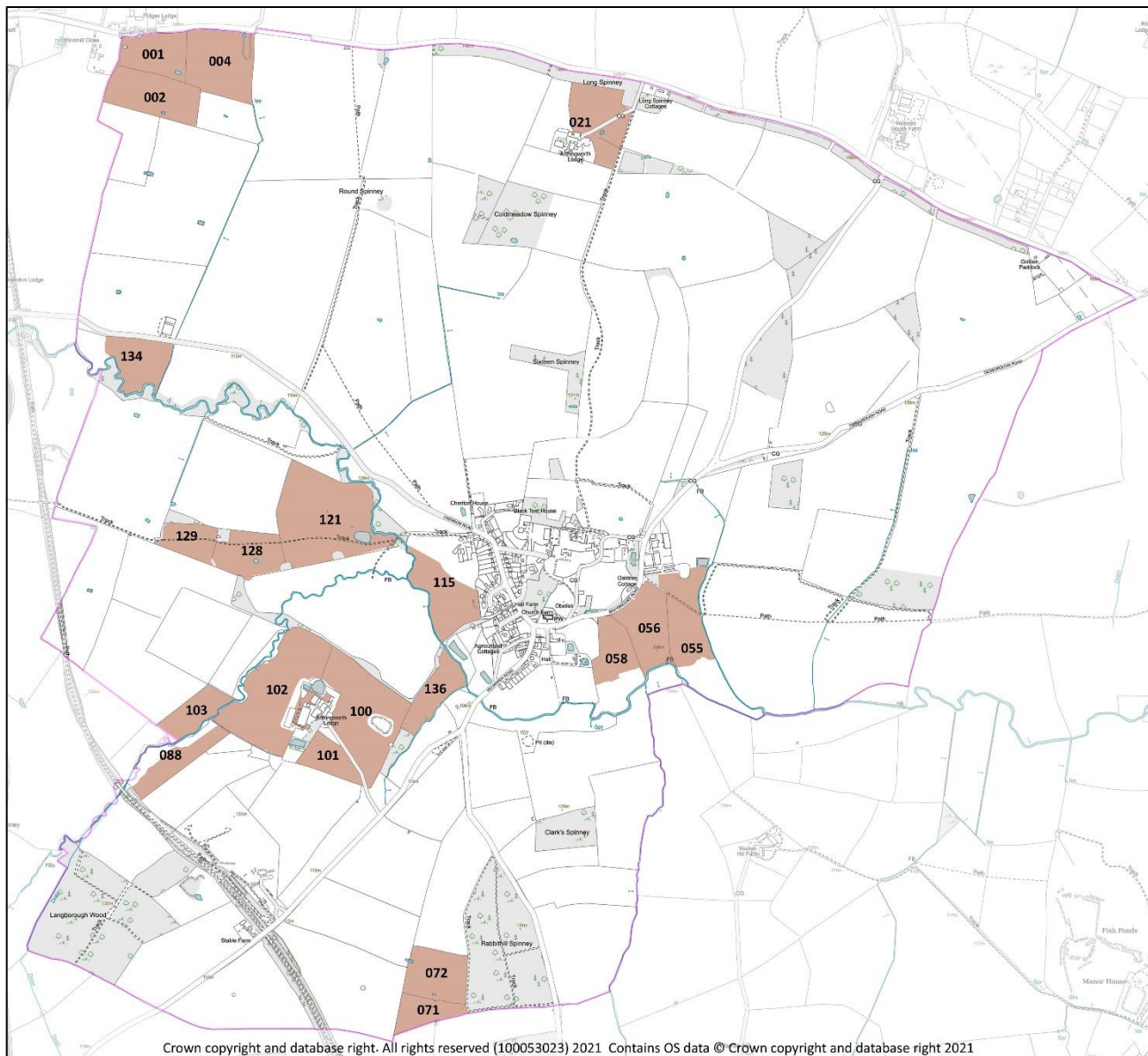


In English legislation ridge and furrow fields (except for the few that are Scheduled Monuments) are not statutorily protected, despite recognition that, in view of the level of loss since the mid-20th century, “as the open field system was once commonplace in NW Europe, these [surviving] sites take on an international importance” (English Heritage, 2001).

While the 20 individual fields with surviving ridge and furrow in Arthingworth are not claimed to be of international importance, their rarity across the Midlands and their relationship with other medieval heritage assets in the Plan Area means that any further, avoidable, loss would be irreversibly detrimental. In conformity with paragraph 203 of the National Planning Policy Framework (including footnote 68) and following the recommendation of Historic England, all surviving ridge and furrow in the Plan Area (figure 13.2) should now be regarded as a non-designated heritage asset and taken into account in the planning system as the visible evidence of a component of national heritage comparable in significance to that of surviving medieval buildings. In future, and whenever possible, increased local

housing need or new targets required at a higher level in the planning system should only be fulfilled by allocating development to available sites where there is no surviving ridge and furrow.

Figure 11.2: Ridge and furrow in Arthingworth 2021 (surveyed for this Plan)

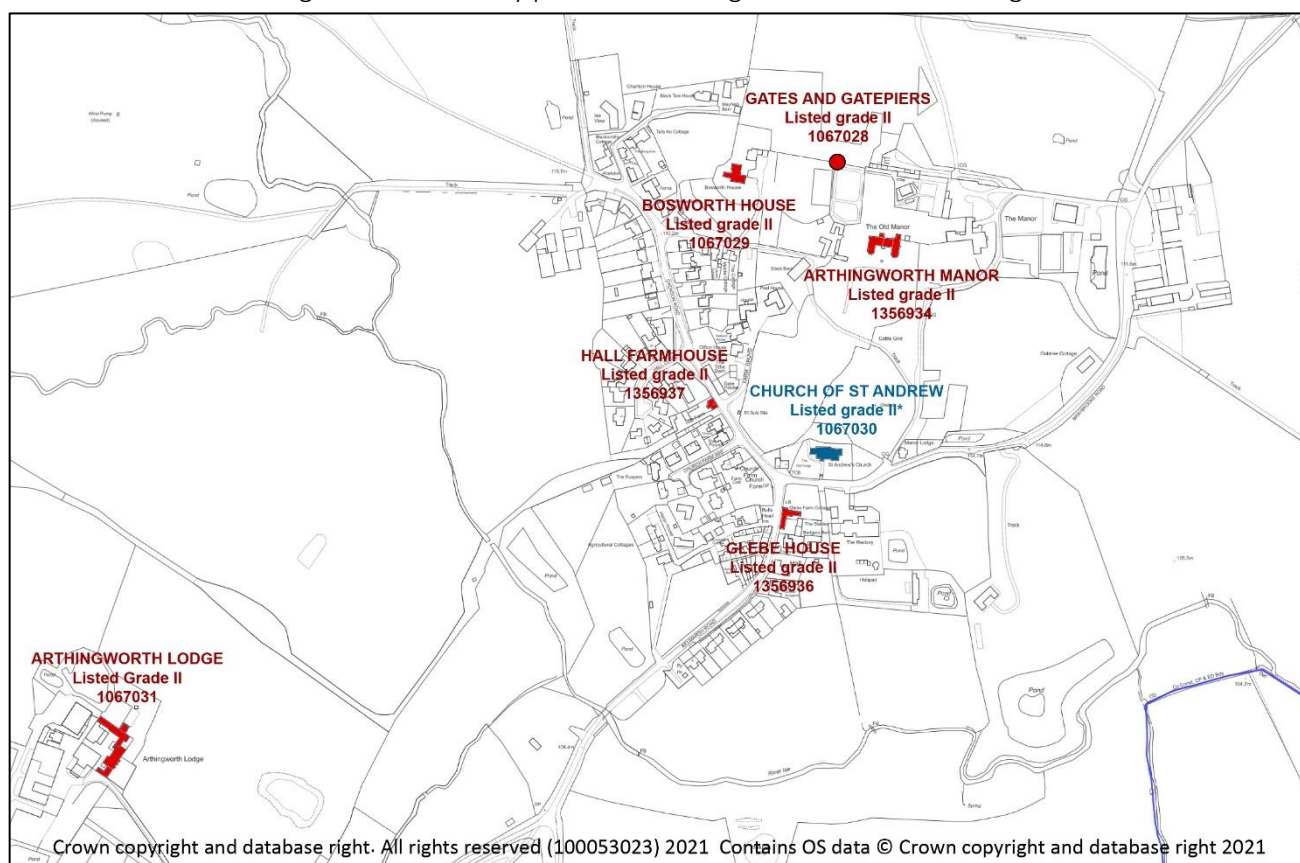


POLICY E 7: RIDGE AND FURROW – The areas of ridge and furrow earthworks shown in figure 11.2 are identified as non-designated heritage assets. In assessing development proposals which would involve any loss or damage to an identified area of ridge and furrow earthwork on Figure 11.2 the benefits of the development will be balanced against the significance of the feature concerned as a heritage asset.

Designated Heritage Assets

Seven buildings and structures in the Plan Area have statutory protection through Listing at Grade II* or II. The Neighbourhood Plan lists them here for reference, and to note that new development will be required to take into account their *settings*, as defined on a case-by-case basis by Historic England. More information about the setting of heritage assets can be found in Historic England's guidance The Setting of Heritage Assets (historicengland.org.uk)

Figure 12: Statutorily protected Heritage Assets: Listed Buildings



CHURCH OF ST ANDREW

List Entry Number: 1067030 Grade: II*

Location: CHURCH OF ST ANDREW,

ARTHINGWORTH MANOR

List Entry Number: 1356934 Grade: II

Location: ARTHINGWORTH MANOR,

ARTHINGWORTH LODGE

List Entry Number: 1067031 Grade: II

Location: ARTHINGWORTH LODGE, KELMARSH ROAD

GATES AND GATE PIERS APPROXIMATELY 50 METRES WEST OF ARTHINGWORTH MANOR

List Entry Number: 1067028 Grade: II

Location: GATES AND GATE PIERS APPROXIMATELY 50 METRES WEST, ARTHINGWORTH MANOR

GLEBE HOUSE

List Entry Number: 1356936 Grade: II

Location: GLEBE HOUSE, KELMARSH ROAD,

HALL FARMHOUSE

List Entry Number: 1356937 Grade: II

Location: HALL FARMHOUSE, OXENDON ROAD,

BOSWORTH HOUSE

List Entry Number: 1067029 Grade: II

Location: BOSWORTH HOUSE, Arthingworth, West Northamptonshire

Non Designated heritage assets

To add local detail to the above statutory designations, the Neighbourhood Plan identifies nine further buildings and structures in the built environment of the Plan Area that are considered to be of local significance for architectural, historical or social reasons (details in Appendix H). The list below (policy E8) uses Historic England criteria for evaluation and justification. Listing here records them in the Planning system as *non-designated heritage assets*.

POLICY E8: – NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS – The buildings and structures listed here (details Appendix H, location map Figure 13) are non-designated heritage assets. They are important for their contribution to the layout and characteristic mix of architectural styles in the village, and their features and settings will be protected wherever possible.

Development proposals that affect the identified buildings or their settings, should conserve the significant features which make them important. In considering planning applications that affect directly or indirectly a non-designated heritage asset and/or its setting, a balanced judgment will be required having regard to the significance of the building or structure and the scale of any harm or loss of the building or structure or its features

LL-1 Sunnybank

LL-2 Inn Yard Court

LL-3 Agricultural cottages

LL-4 Bulls Head PH

LL-5 Village Hall

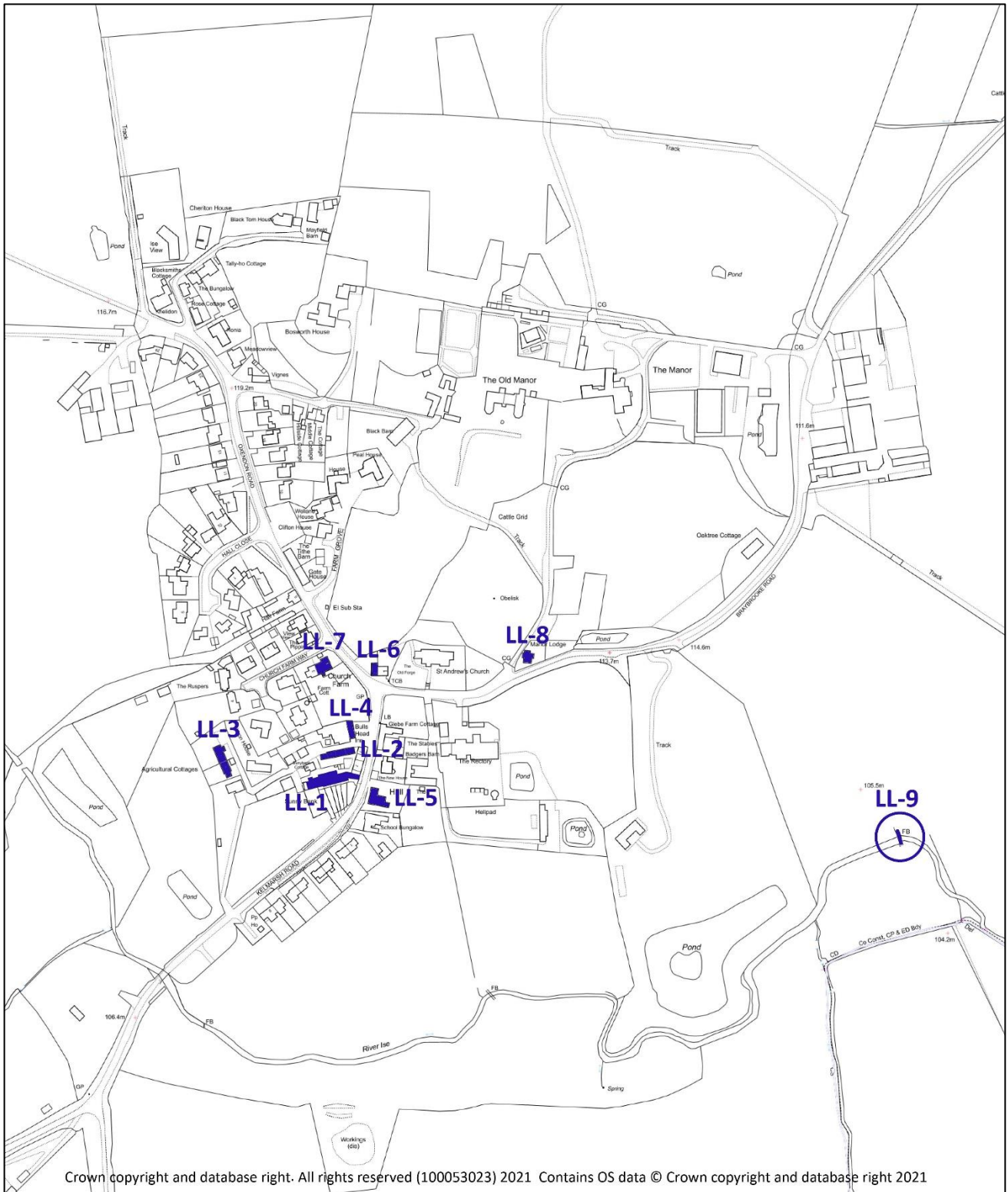
LL-6 Old School House

LL-7 Church Farm

LL-8 Manor Lodge

LL-9 Siddoms Bridge

Figure 13: Non-designated heritage assets



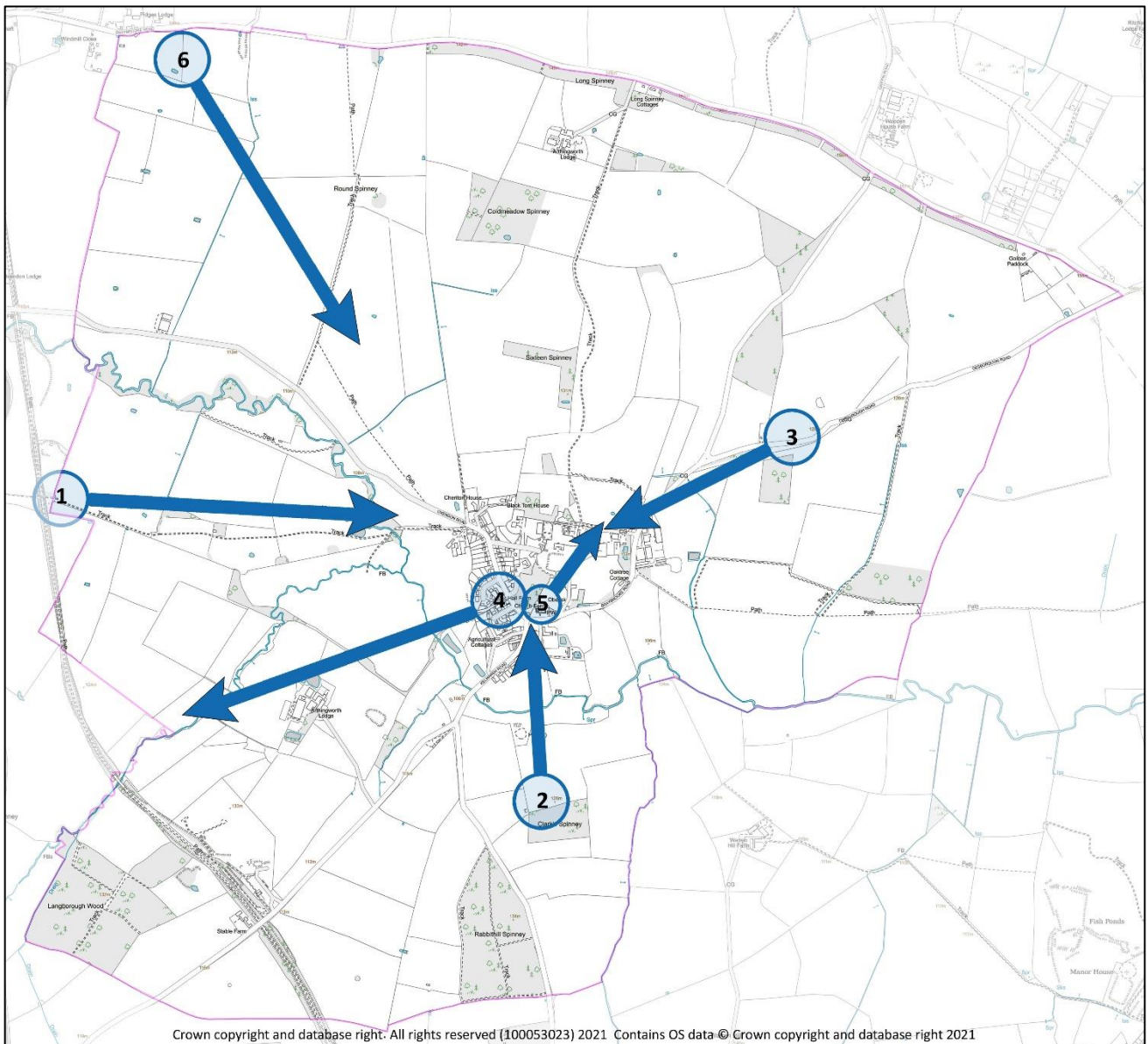
Important Views

Consultation during the Neighbourhood Plan's preparation identified a widely held wish to protect Arthingworth's rural setting, in particular its visual relationship with the surrounding landscape, including its location in the landscape of Natural England National Character Area 89 *Northamptonshire Vales*.

One of the main ways in which residents expressed this wish was by describing several highly valued views within and around the village and toward the surrounding countryside. These consultation findings were supported by the environmental inventory, which although principally aimed at identifying sites of environmental significance also confirmed the sightlines of the suggested views and mapped them (figure 14). The community's objective of protecting the best views is also supported by the adopted *Arthingworth Village Design Statement* (2016).

Policy E9 provides a context to ensure that new developments respect the identified views. It sits within the wider context set by Policy E2 (Special Landscape Areas) of the Local Plan Part 2. Where necessary, development proposals should include appropriate mitigation measures. Plainly they will vary on a case-by-case basis. However, they could include reduced or varied heights of buildings, the provision of gaps through development by sensitive layout planning, landscaping, or tree-planting to soften the impact of built structures in a rural landscape.

Figure 14: Important views



POLICY E9: IMPORTANT VIEWS – The Plan identifies the following important views (as shown on Figure 14)

1. From Brampton Way east along the bridleway to the village and its hilltop setting
2. From Clark's Spinney north across the valley to the village
3. From Desborough Road toward the village
4. From Half Farm buildings to the parish boundary in the direction of Naseby
5. From the churchyard northeast across the parkland to the old Manor House
6. From far northwest corner of the parish, southeast to the village

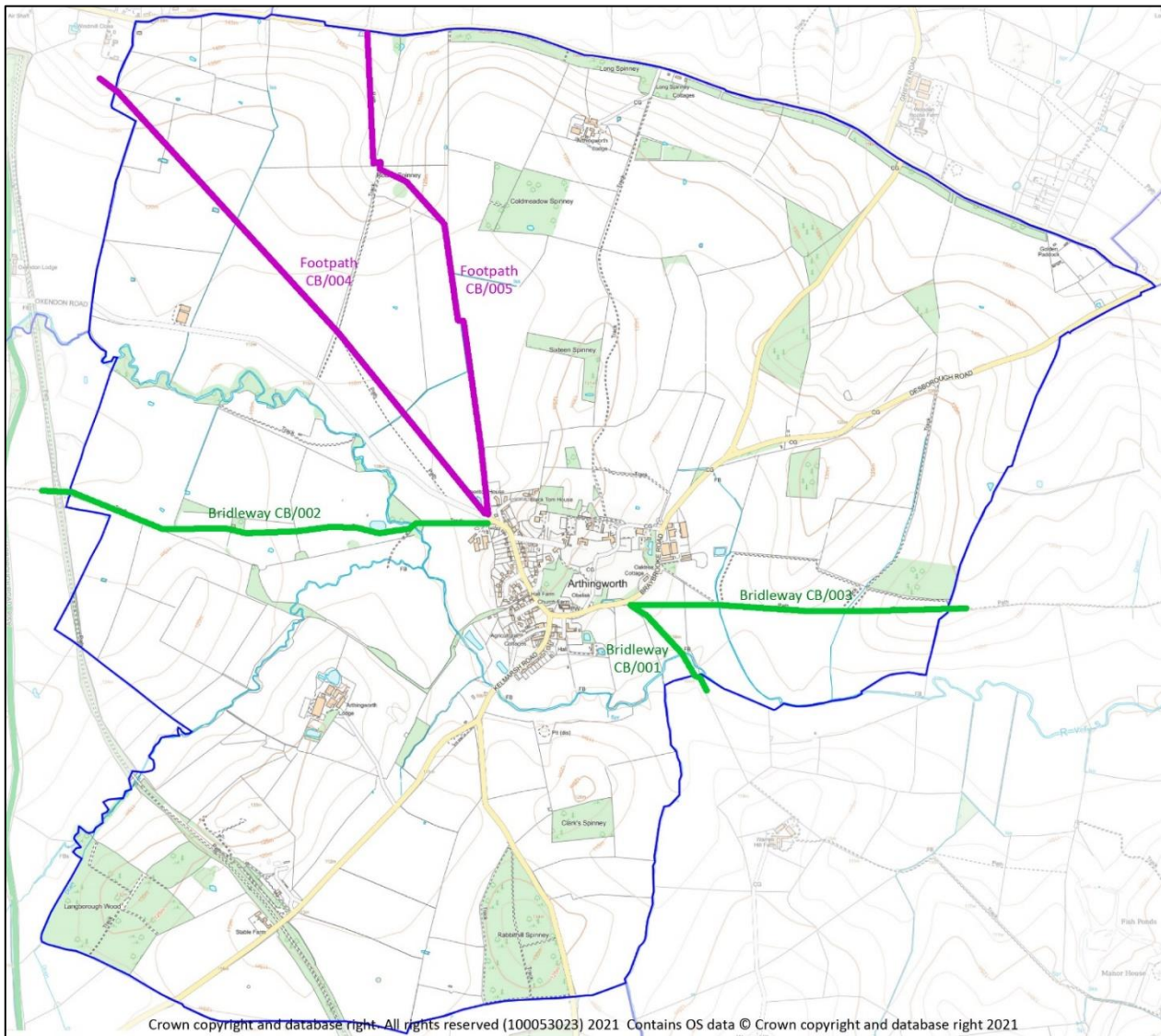
Development proposals which would affect the identified views should be designed to ensure that their layout, scale, and mass respect the significance and character of the views concerned. Where necessary, development proposals should include measures to mitigate the effects of the development on the important view concerned.

Development proposals which would have an unacceptable impact on an important view will not be supported.

Footpaths and other walking routes

The network of footpaths and other rights of way in the Plan Area is not extensive compared with other parishes in West Northamptonshire. Because walking routes everywhere tend to be survivors from around the time of the 18th century Enclosure of the farmed landscape and from before the development of paved motor roads, there are good historical reasons for this, including in the case of Arthingworth the manorial and agricultural history of the area. However, with modern recognition of the value of walking routes for health and wellbeing, the lack is unfortunate and any erosion of the network's extent and character will be resisted.

Figure 15: Footpaths and other walking routes (from Northants Council mapping)



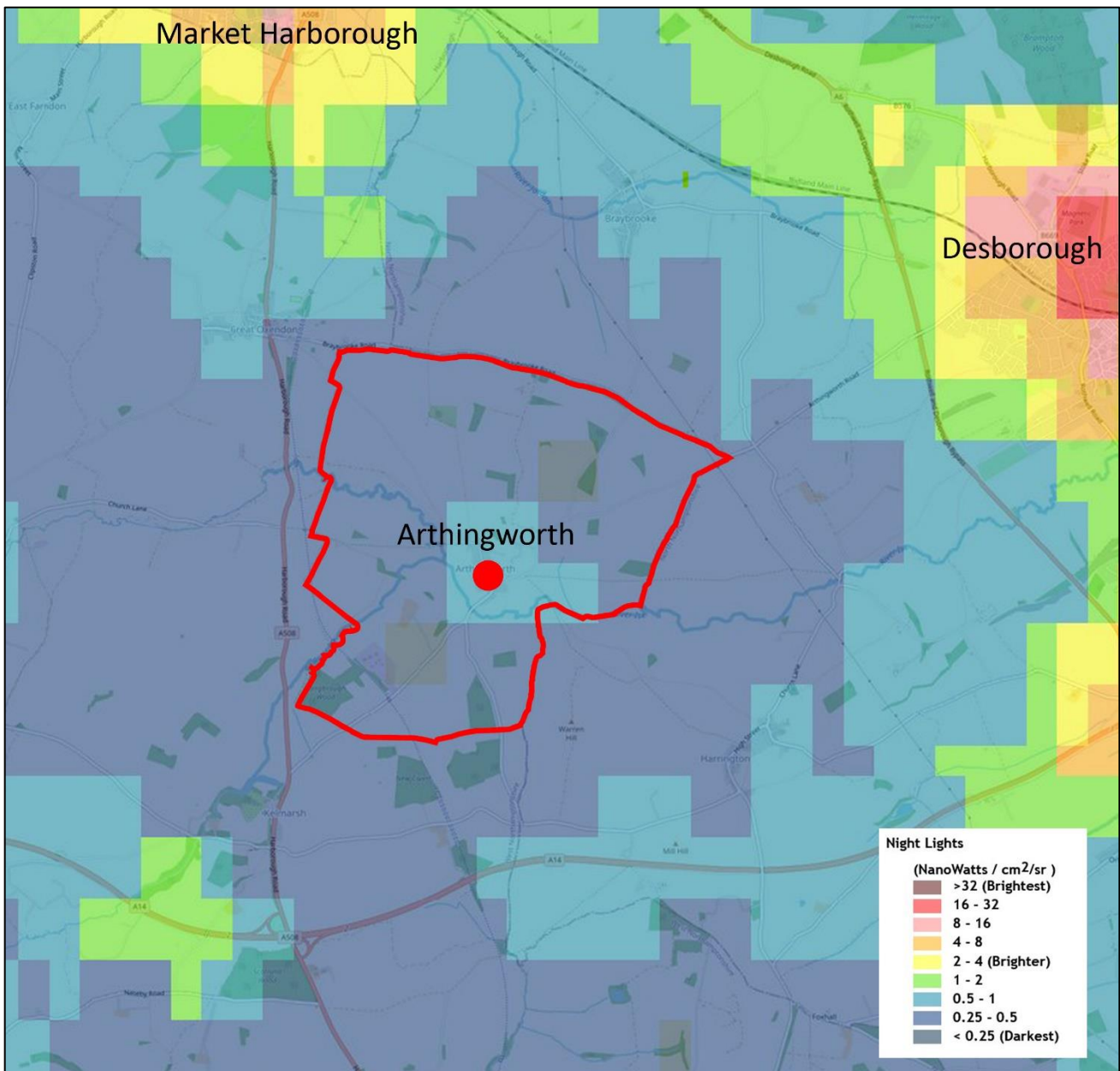
POLICY E10: FOOTPATHS AND OTHER WALKING ROUTES - Development proposals should respond positively to the existing network of footpaths (as shown on figure 15) will not be supported without appropriate mitigation.

Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have an unacceptable effect on, the existing network of footpaths will not be supported unless appropriate mitigation is included within the overall package.

Dark Sky

CPRE (previously the *Campaign to Protect Rural England*) has mapped areas of dark skies across the country. The Arthingworth Plan Area is demonstrably one of the relatively rare places in the East Midlands which fall in the lowest two categories of measured light pollution (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Dark Sky map of Arthingworth and surrounding areas: from CPRE *NightBlight* mapping



The topography of the Plan Area places the village in an ideal hilltop location, overlooking the wide Ise valley with no significant illumination and with uninterrupted southward views of the sky. To the north, the watershed of the Welland valley escarpment blocks most of the direct light from Market Harborough and Desborough.

There are some streetlights in Arthingworth village, and residents are content for this situation to remain unchanged; the relative darkness of the village is a cherished part of the rural character of the Plan Area.

While this Neighbourhood Plan cannot influence development proposals outside the Plan Area, Arthingworth's present status as a dark sky location makes it susceptible to the adverse effects of uncontrolled artificial light within the Plan Area; this policy aims to deal with this susceptibility. It has been guided by the DCLG and Dept. for Transport *Manual for Streets* (2007), the Institute of Lighting

Professionals' *Guidance note 1 for the reduction of obtrusive light* (2020) and is in general conformity with NPPF paragraph 180(c) and North Northants Joint Core Strategy Policy 4 (iii).

POLICY E11: DARK SKY – Development proposals should conserve and enhance the relative tranquillity in relation to light pollution and dark night skies.

Development proposals should also demonstrate that they meet or exceed the Institute of Lighting Professionals guidance and other relevant standards or guidance (such as the CIE 150:2003 Guide on the Limitation of the Effects of Obtrusive Light from Outdoor Lighting Installations), or any equivalent replacement/updated guidance for lighting within environmental zones.

Development proposals which include lighting should ensure that:

- the measured and observed sky quality in the surrounding area is not reduced;
- the lighting concerned is not unnecessarily visible in nearby designated and key habitats;
- the visibility of lighting from the surrounding landscape is avoided; and
- building designs should avoid large areas of glazing which would result in light spillage into rural and unlit areas.'

Flood risk resilience and climate change

Even if international cooperation and national strategies and policies eventually succeed in halting the human and industrial contributions towards climate change, the effects of recent and current warming on weather events will likely persist for decades. It is therefore desirable to plan for at least a medium-term future, in which weather events will continue to become more extreme, by putting in place measures that manage the effects of climate change on flooding for the lifetime of this Plan and beyond. This objective is explicitly supported by the Environment Agency (EA) draft *National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England* (2019), in which the strategic emphasis shifts from mitigation to resilience; in other words from requiring new development to reduce its adverse effects on flood risk and to avoiding creating or adding to flood risk at all.

In light of this, it is particularly important that the location and technical standards of all new development proposals in the Plan Area should in future be judged on their likely contribution to flooding in a climate change world. To complement this objective, the community will support proposals to improve the infrastructure within the built-up areas for managing flooding from the river and from surface water run-off events, providing this is not unduly detrimental to the historic built environment, the archaeological resource, biodiversity sites, or open and green spaces.

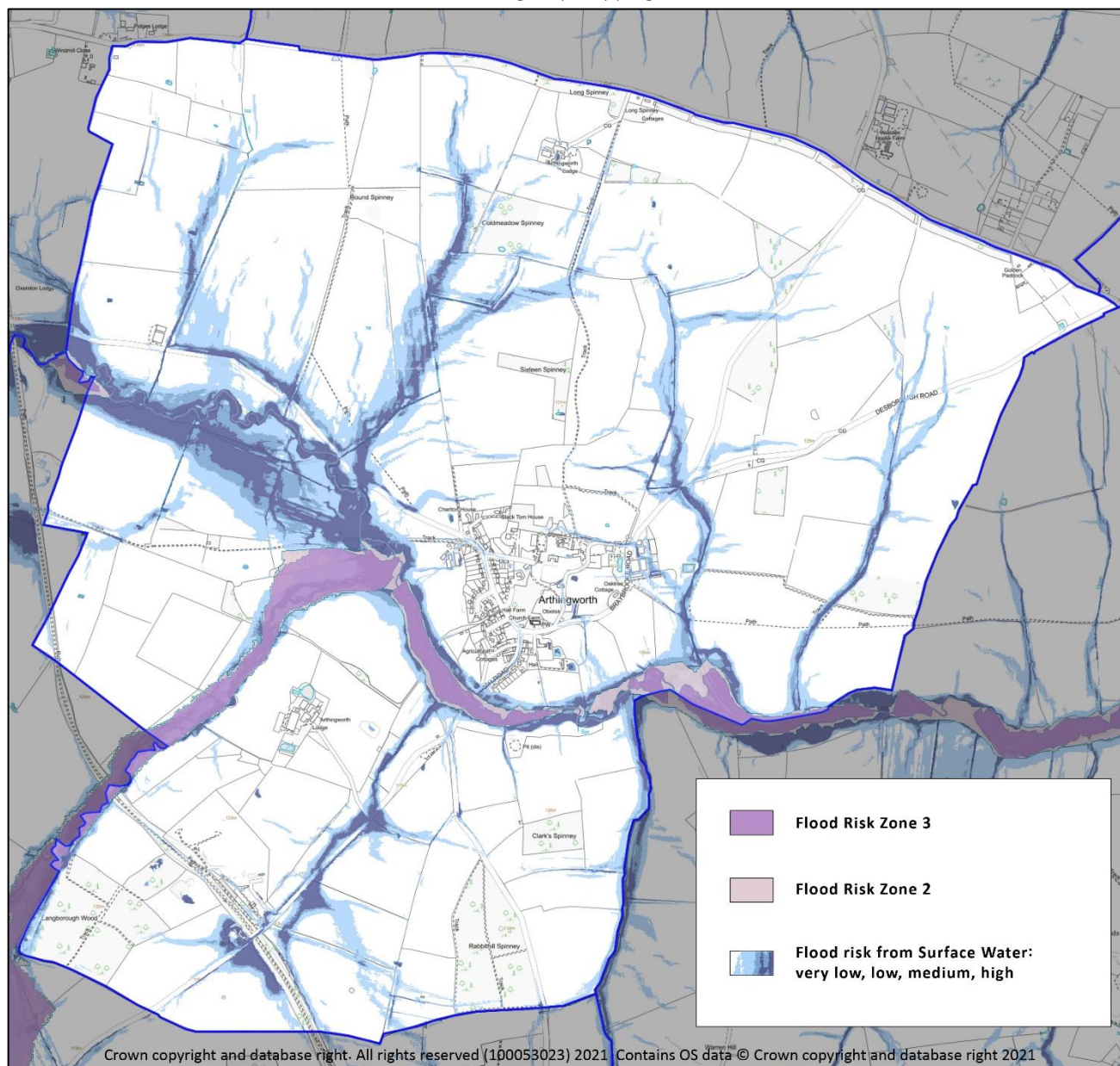
This policy is in general conformity with West Northants Joint Core Strategy 2014 Policy BN7 and Daventry Part 2 Local Plan Policy E11.

Development proposals of one or more dwellings and/or for employment or agricultural development should demonstrate that:

- if in a location susceptible to flooding from rivers or surface water, no alternative site to meet the local residential development need is available;

- its location and design respect the geology, flood risk and natural drainage characteristics of the immediate area and is accompanied by a hydrological study whose findings must be complied with in respect of design, groundworks and construction;
- it includes a Surface Water Drainage Strategy which demonstrates that the proposed drainage scheme, and site layout and design, will prevent properties from flooding from surface water, including allowing for climate change effects, and that flood risk elsewhere will not be exacerbated by increased levels of surface water runoff and that the development will not threaten other natural habitats and water systems;
- its design includes, as appropriate, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) with ongoing maintenance provision, other surface water management measures and permeable surfaces;
- proposed SuDs infrastructure includes, where practicable, habitat creation comprising e.g. landscaping, access and egress for aquatic and terrestrial animals, and native species planting;
- it does not increase the risk of flooding to third parties; and
- it takes the effects of climate change into account.

Figure 17: Risk of flooding from rivers and surface water
Environment Agency mapping combined



POLICY E12: FLOOD RISK RESILIENCE – Development proposals within the areas indicated in Figure 17 will be required, where appropriate, to demonstrate that the benefit of development outweighs the harm in relation to its adverse impact on climate change targets, and on the likelihood of it conflicting with locally applicable flood mitigation strategies and infrastructure.

Proposals to construct new (or modify existing) floodwater management infrastructure (ditches, roadside gullies, retention pools, etc.), including within or close to the built-up area, will be supported, provided they do not unacceptably affect sites and features of natural or historical environment significance.

Community Sustainability

Community Assets

Community assets are premises and activities, which make a significant contribution to the life of our Parish. They encourage social interaction, friendships, learning, and also facilitate new opportunities. It is essential to the ongoing wellbeing of the community that Arthingworth retains and continues to build on these assets.

Community Spirit

Arthingworth is a sustainable and vibrant parish with a strong sense of community. There are regular events and activities pre-Covid 19 that were well attended, and we fully expect their return as normal social activities resume. Examples of events that are regularly scheduled are the Village Fair, Bonfire and fireworks display, Open Gardens, Cinema, Pantomime, Welcome to the Village networking evenings, Pilates and Yoga in the village hall, and an Easter Egg hunt for children. In addition, we have a gardening group and a W.I. group. Within the Church we have a Christmas Carol service and a Harvest Festival service. Within the Pub, we have a monthly pub quiz, a monthly book club, a knitting club, and darts and skittles team playing during the seasons.

A strong parish community enables social links to be made, which strengthens our community spirit and given the village age profile, helps to reduce loneliness and isolation improving mental health and wellbeing. Good facilities and the people that help provide them make the services more locally accessible.

The Village Church

St Andrew's Church is the parish church of Arthingworth, this Anglican Church is a grade II* listed building standing on the north side of the Braybrooke Road. The main part of the Church was built in the 12th and 14th century, with restoration being carried out in the 19th century. The building is listed under the planning act of 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.



Arthingworth is part of a United Benefice along with East Farndon, Harrington and Oxendon with each parish retaining its own church building. Baptisms, Weddings, funerals, and Services of worship including Harvest Festival and Christmas Carols are regularly held at the church with church flowers and cleaning including brasses being carried out by a number of local villagers.

The church itself consists of a nave and south aisle, chancel and its most distinctive feature, the west tower being of 4 stages with setback buttresses. The tower houses the 5-church bells and the village still has an active bell ringing team. Historically, income from Glebe land (a 5-acre field) known as Bell field used to go to the upkeep of the church bells and the income still goes into church funds.

A detailed description of St Andrew's Church, Arthingworth can be found on the Historic England website.

The Village Hall

The village hall is very much a central part of village life and is used by many groups from within and outside the parish community. The village hall was formerly the village school and is a charitable trust, the landlord being Peterborough Diocese; the managing trustees are the Rector and Church Wardens of St Andrew's Church. It is leased to Arthingworth Parish Council (the custodian trustee) under a 28-year lease. The rent is £5 a year.

The village hall is managed as a registered charity whose trustees are the Village Hall Committee.

The village hall has a spacious main hall area that is used for a variety of events ranging from the annual Christmas Pantomime to the regular weekly pilates classes. It has a well fitted kitchen facility and has good access and parking for visitors.

The Village Pub

The Bull's Head has been at the centre of our village community for many years. It is believed it first became a Drover's Inn in the mid-1800's. In recent times, through the previous ownership, and the current owner and Landlord, the village pub provides essential food, beverage and hospitality events for both residents and visitors alike.



Built upon the original village green, it has undergone numerous improvements over the years, notably the addition of a bed & breakfast property at the rear during previous ownership. Since the current owner took over the stewardship in 2019, and particularly during the recent lockdowns, much has been done internally and externally to keep this valuable community asset as relevant and popular as possible.

Numerous events are held here regularly, including Darts, Dominoes and Skittles for the competitive amongst us, the pub quiz for those that like to be regularly intellectually challenged, and the book / knitting clubs for those that like to socialise with shared passions.

In the recent parish survey, 81% of those responding feel that the pub is an important amenity – more than any other amenity in the parish.

The Village Green

The village green is a small focal point of the village, which is used for a variety of village activities including the village's queen's golden jubilee street party, whilst being a regular rest spot for groups of passing visitors.

Flanked by houses on three sides, it encompasses a bench to the front and a large, picturesque willow tree in the centre, which benefits from a tree preservation order. The green is used by the village's younger generation for recreational activities (ball sports etc.)

The village green has over the many years of village surveys been highlighted as a very important area of green open space and as such should be preserved for future generations.

The Nursery

Arthingworth has its own family run day nursery – Daffodils, which offers a friendly, home from home environment for children in an amazing outdoor environment where children are given the freedom to explore and investigate the natural world around them. Daffodils is open 48 weeks of the year and offers its facilities to families in Arthingworth, the surrounding villages and Market Harborough.

Disability issues

Like many rural villages, access for disabled residents or visitors would be considered as requiring improvements. The existing infrastructure - pavements and access roads would be difficult and expensive to improve to a high standard. In particular, access to the church would be described as difficult, the village hall good, and the pub average, with assistance provided by the staff on request. Consideration for improving disabled access to these particular community assets would be beneficial to both the residents and visitors of the village. However, such improvements, in old buildings especially, are not always easy to achieve.

POLICY CF1: RETENTION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AMENITIES AND ASSETS - Development proposals which would result in the loss of an existing community facility will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a) There is no longer any need or demand for the existing community facility; or
- b) The existing community facility is, demonstrably, not economically viable or able to be supported by the community – such viability and support includes fundraising and volunteering by parishioners and others and subject to a marketing campaign for 12 months; or
- c) The proposal makes alternative provision for the relocation of the existing community facility to an equally or more appropriate and accessible location within the parish which complies with the other policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

New or Improved Community Facilities and Amenities

The parish encourages the provision of new and improved facilities so long as they serve to enhance Arthingworth as a place to live for all. For example, we support a focal point for younger generations in the form of a small recreation park located on the edge of the village - as identified in the community survey. This is particularly appropriate at present as there is an increasing number of young people in the parish.

Such facilities encourage social interaction, friendships and learning, and also facilitate new opportunities. It is essential to the ongoing wellbeing of the community that Arthingworth retains and continues to build on these assets.

POLICY CF2: NEW OR IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES - Proposals that improve the quality and/or range of community facilities, will be supported provided that the development:

- a) Meets the design criteria stated in Policy H6;
- b) Will not result in unacceptable traffic movements or other disturbance to residential properties;
- c) Provides appropriate levels of car parking;
- d) Is of a scale appropriate to the needs of the locality and conveniently accessible for residents of the village wishing to walk or cycle; and
- e) Takes into full account the needs of people with disabilities.

Parish Communications

Broadband and mobile infrastructure

The modern economy increasingly depends on high-quality communications infrastructure to reap maximum benefit from technological advances. High-speed internet connectivity drives business innovation and growth and creates business and employment opportunities as well as reducing social exclusion. Online searching and transactions facilitate access to information and services, also providing new and easier opportunities for education and learning. The standard of broadband and mobile infrastructure is particularly important in rural settings such as Arthingworth. Equally, good mobile signal availability is crucial to achieve good communication for each of the above reasons.

BT Open Reach has completed their installation of 'fibre to the cabinet'. From the cabinet to houses there is only the old system necessitating households purchasing Wi-Fi boosters to ensure an adequate signal.

The mobile telephone signal in the parish is variable and is poor in some parts of the parish.

The national demographic trend for increased numbers of people home working has increased focus on the issues of connectivity as has its acceleration created by Covid-19 working requirements. We must ensure that we maintain and improve our service going forward.

POLICY PC1: BROADBAND AND MOBILE INFRASTRUCTURE – Insofar as planning permission is required proposals to provide improved access to faster broadband for all businesses and households in Arthingworth Parish will be supported. This includes suitable connectivity for future generations of mobile technology.

Insofar as planning permission is required Improvements to the mobile telecommunication network that serves all businesses and households within the parish will be supported. If a new mast is installed, this should be shared, where possible, by more than one provider.

Any infrastructure improvements requiring above ground network installations, should be sympathetically located and designed to integrate into the local area.

Transport and Road Safety

Arthingworth is a predominantly rural and agricultural parish close to several employment centres such as Market Harborough, Kettering, Northampton, and Leicester. The closest train stations are in Market Harborough and Kettering. There is a linear bus service between Northampton and Leicester. However, there is no regular bus service running through or from Arthingworth.

Transport issues within the parish will be considered in the context of environmental sustainability. The parish is therefore very keen to:

- integrate and extend public transport to all local villages.
- improve local safe cycling facilities with separate cycle paths.
- integrate with the national network in adjacent communities.
- have buses that accommodate cycles.
- improve local footpaths.
- improve local roadside pavements.
- work on traffic calming measures.
- ensure the provision of off-road parking for all new developments and consider road safety.
- work to support initiatives for zero emission vehicles, and consider the practicalities of car charging points in less-than-ideal locations on main roads within the village.

Traffic flow

Whilst the village is not on a main thoroughfare there is significant traffic flow either to the Nursery or to and from Braybrooke and Desborough as well as other local sites. The Braybrooke and Desborough roads are “gated” and as such not conducive to medium or heavy traffic. In particular, the road leading to the Nursery and onwards is at best described as a one lane road and as such would not support any further housing developments in the area of the Old Dairy opposite the Nursery.

Traffic flow becomes a particular issue when the A14 has a closure, creating significant pressure and indeed wear and tear of the minor roads.

There are certain sections of the roads that would benefit from traffic calming measures where excess speed and reduced visibility are a danger to residents and motorists.

Nursery parking

Currently the Nursery has on-site parking and does not create many specific traffic issues other than at peak times of the school run which could become a greater problem if numbers of nursery places increase - in which case traffic calming may become appropriate.

General parking

Arthingworth does not have a general public car park other than that which is the property of the Bull's Head pub. Ideally this would need to be larger as the trade grows. Whilst the majority of private dwellings have off road parking, a number of properties have to use on road parking, notably on the Kelmarsh Road. This causes some issues regarding passing of vehicles and also for walkers who regularly come through the village when walking along the Brampton Valley Way. On road parking also causes issues for farm vehicles when parking is congested on certain roads and junctions – measures to prevent this, especially at peak farming periods, would benefit both residents and the farming community.

POLICY T1: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT -As appropriate to its scale, nature and location, new housing and commercial development should: :

- a) **Be designed to minimize additional traffic generation and movement through the village;**
- b) **Incorporate sufficient off-road parking;**
- c) **Not remove or compromise the use of any existing off-road parking areas unless a suitable equivalent alternative is provided;**
- d) **Provide any necessary improvements to site access, communal parking and the highway network either directly or by financial contributions;**
- e) **incorporate appropriate traffic calming and the improvement of footpaths and cycle ways networks in the immediate locality and**

COMMUNITY ACTION T1: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - The Parish Council will develop a coherent action plan to address traffic and parking issues that have been identified through the Neighbourhood Plan including:

- a) **Undertake an ongoing awareness exercise to make explicit the negative impact on residents of inconsiderate parking**
- b) **Work to achieve improvement of car parking provision for the Parish for residents and visitors.**
- c) **Develop appropriate traffic management/calming measures for the Parish**
- d) **Introduce community speed reduction actions**
- e) **Work with the nursery to resolve traffic and safety issues at drop off and pick up times, including implementing a longer-term plan.**

COMMUNITY ACTION T2: ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING - The Parish Council will actively seek solutions to the issue of communal vehicle charging points within the Parish.

Bus service

Arthingworth does not currently have a bus service, yet it remains a desire for many residents. Previously an on-call service was available and used by residents. To support the reduction in car usage as well as for those who do not own a car, a public or community bus service would be of significant benefit to residents.

Given the rural location the use of cars will continue unless something public transport becomes one of the choices. Better coordination of public transport systems would also enable commuters to have greater confidence when planning journeys without a car.

COMMUNITY ACTION T3: PUBLIC TRANSPORT - The Parish Council will lobby for more integrated public transport to gain basic access to the local town, Market Harborough so that public transport better meets the needs of parishioners.

The Parish Council will also lobby for a bus shelter and for raised kerbs for ease of access to the bus.

Cycling

The parish and surrounding areas are very popular with cyclists. However, there are no designated cycle lanes in the parish so certain roads can cause safety issues for both residents' and cyclists - Kelmarsh Road in particular where there are no pavements or on road parking for residents.

Footpaths

There are many paved areas within the boundary of the parish, which facilitates pedestrian access. Some roads have restricted paving, particularly Kelmarsh Road and the road leading to the gated roads to Braybrooke and Desborough - this can cause issues for pedestrians, road transport users and cyclists.

The footpath and parking at the junction of Kelmarsh Road and Oxendon Road can often be compromised by inappropriate parking which current signage does not always deter.

Local walks with footpath access provided through fields are generally very good, accessible and walker friendly.

POLICY T2: PEDESTRIAN FOOTPATHS, PAVEMENTS AND CYCLE WAYS - Proposals for the extension of the footpath and cycle network in the parish will be supported.

Business and Employment

There is limited but growing employment within the parish and it felt important that the community supports the employment opportunities that are currently available. This includes the growth in home working, which has recently been made more viable by the installation of fibre broadband – however there is no fibre broadband to the home, so connectivity issues do remain.

Economic activity within our rural parish includes our working farms, The Bull's Head pub, Daffodils children's Nursery, limited bed and breakfast tourist accommodation and small office facilities. Other employment includes small mainly home-based companies working within, for example, the consultancy and finance industries.

In recent years there has been an overall increase in the number of parishioners employed in the parish, particularly in education, business, service industries and other professions. This range of

economic activity remains; however, the majority of working parishioners are employed outside the parish and generally travel to and from work by car.

In the parish survey, 59% of respondents stated that they regularly work from home, 18 stated that they are self-employed or employed by a local business within the parish with farming remaining a key employment opportunity.

POLICY BE1: SUPPORT FOR EXISTING BUSINESSES & EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - There will be a presumption against the loss of commercial premises or land that provides employment opportunities. Development proposals for a change of use or the redevelopment of a business or commercial use to an activity which does not provide employment opportunities will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that:

- a) The commercial premises or land in question has not been in active use for at least 12 months; and
- b) The commercial premises or land in question has no potential for either reoccupation or redevelopment for employment generating uses and as demonstrated through the results both of a full valuation report and a marketing campaign lasting for a continuous period of at least 6 months.

Support for new businesses and employment - use of existing buildings

In the parish survey three parish-based businesses stated that they are expecting to expand the business in the next 5 years.

Existing factors that can enable and support new business and more homeworking include local meeting facilities in the pub and village hall, the introduction of broadband and the attractive rural location of the parish.

In the parish survey, 58% of respondents said that they would welcome more business in the parish. However, many were clear that any new employment initiatives should be small scale and sensitive to the character of the parish. Many would welcome a small shop, artisan type businesses and small start-ups.

Businesses will be more readily encouraged that would foster a sense of community and work towards a carbon neutral environment by reducing travel outside the parish.

Future employment proposals would only be supported if they serve the community, avoid harmful impacts on locally important issues such as increased traffic flows, parking, residential amenity, the preservation of historic/heritage assets and the local environment.

Parish survey respondents identified improvements to the infrastructure that would help support local business, which included: reduction in the flooding of the river and faster broadband.

POLICY BE2: SUPPORT FOR NEW BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT - Proposals for new employment development will be supported where they comply with the following criteria :

- a) They fall within the village confines, unless it relates to small scale leisure or tourism activities, or other forms of commercial/employment related development appropriate to a countryside location;
- b) Where practicable be sited in existing buildings or on areas of previously developed land;
- c) They are of a size and scale not adversely affecting the character, infrastructure and environment of the village itself and the Plan area, including the countryside;
- d) They would not involve the loss of dwellings;
- e) They would not increase noise levels or light pollution or introduce any pollution to an extent that they would unacceptably disturb occupants of nearby residential property;
- f) They would not generate unacceptable levels of traffic movement and on-road parking, and provide sufficient off-road parking spaces;
- g) They would contribute to the character, the design of the local built environment and the vitality of the local area; and
- h) They would be well integrated into and complement existing businesses.

Home working

Accelerated by the Covid 19 pandemic, the national trend towards greater homeworking has become the norm for most working parishioners in the village - whether that be part-time or full-time, self-employed or in employment. Almost 60% of all respondents in the parish survey stated that they work from home

Internet connectivity within the village can be problematic at times in relation to both download and upload speeds. This can cause issues for home workers engaged in virtual meetings. The mobile phone signal can be intermittent around the village too, which can make communication poor or unreliable for business activity.

There are currently no shops within Arthingworth the nearest being Desborough, which is not within walking distance. Arthingworth would benefit from a small shop/café/delicatessen to buy essentials as well as a hub or meeting space with Internet access/free Wi-Fi – potentially in the village hall or the village pub if the owner was receptive to the suggestion. Although the size of the village may not support such a business, it may be that greater numbers working from home could make it more viable.

Space and facilities within parishioner's homes may not fully support homeworking. This may detrimentally affect work-life balance. Consequently, any new housing within the parish should, where possible, include an office/workstation. Additionally, there may be a need for homeworkers to create additional space within their home or grounds.

POLICY BE3: HOME WORKING – Where planning permission is required, proposals for the use of part of a dwelling for office, and for small-scale free-standing buildings within its boundaries, extensions to the dwelling or conversion of outbuildings for those uses, will be supported where:

- a) Such development will not result in unacceptable traffic movements and that appropriate parking provision is made;

- b) No unacceptable impact arises to nearby residents or other sensitive land uses from noise, fumes, light pollution, or other nuisance associated with the work activity; and
- c) Any extension or free-standing building are designed having regard to policies in this Plan and should not detract from the quality and character of the building to which they are subservient by reason of height, scale, massing, location or the facing materials used in their construction.

Farming

Agriculture has played an important role in the parish for many decades. The agricultural land around the village also provides access to the countryside and enhances the environment.

From the early 1950s to the early 1970s there were six holdings in the parish employing over a dozen farm workers; there were three dairy herds. By the end of the 1990s only 2 holdings remained as family farms and no dairy herds. The remaining holdings have been merged and rented to non-local farmers. There are now only 3 families reliant on a living from agriculture, with none of the rest of the parish population reliant on farming for a living.

The predominant crop on the existing holdings is arable. This typically uses heavy machinery. Over the last few years this has been an inconvenience for a lot of local people with large tractors (many being nearly 3 meters wide and weighing up to 30 tonnes). This has caused a significant damage to the road surface and verges as well as presenting a potential danger to pedestrians and other road users.

POLICY BE4: FARM DIVERSIFICATION - Proposals for the conversion of existing agricultural buildings to employment-related uses will be supported subject to:

- a) The use proposed is appropriate to the rural location;
- b) The conversion/adaptation works respect the local character of the surrounding area;
- c) The development will not have an unacceptable impact on any archaeological, architectural, historic or environmental features;
- d) The local road system is capable of accommodating the traffic generated by the proposed new use and adequate parking can be accommodated within the site; and
- e) The development will not have an unacceptable impact on the amenity of residential properties in the immediate locality. .

Tourism

Arthingworth has many connecting footpaths, bridleways, and vehicular access, which attract an array of passing visitor's during the weekends and school holidays. The village has the local Brampton Valley Way passing by the outskirts, which is very popular for walkers and cyclists alike.

The Parish is keen to extend a welcome to visitors whilst ensuring that their visit does not have a negative impact on parishioners. The village has many wonderful sights throughout however, with the exception of The Bulls Head pub at the centre, which does attract visitors from far and wide, there are no other local business or activity centres for visitors to spend time and money, which would enhance the parish economy.

POLICY BE5: TOURISM - Development proposals to enhance and/or manage tourism facilities will be supported subject to the following criteria :

- a) Are on a scale appropriate to the settlement;
- b) Do not have an unacceptable effect on the distinctive rural character of the Parish;
- c) They do not have an unacceptable effect on the surrounding infrastructure, particularly local road networks;
- d) they provide appropriate levels of off-road car parking;
- e) Benefit the local community, through for instance, provision of local employment opportunities and improvements to local service provision, and is proportionate to the size of settlement in which it is located; and
- f) Where practicable, involve the re-use of existing buildings.

COMMUNITY ACTION BE1: TOURISM - The Parish Council will work to resolve parking issues caused by visitors to the parish. This could include the provision of additional parking places and signage.

9. Monitoring and review

The Neighbourhood Plan will last for a period up to 2029. During this time, the circumstances which it seeks to address could change.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be monitored by Arthingworth Parish Council with the support of West Northamptonshire Council on an at least annual basis. The policies and measures contained in the Neighbourhood Plan will form the core of the monitoring activity, but other data collected and reported at the Parish level relevant to the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan will also be included.

The Parish Council proposes to formally review the Neighbourhood Plan on a five-year cycle or to coincide with the review of the West Northamptonshire Local Plan if this cycle is different.