

Proposed Local Green Space

Designations for Renhold



**This report is an assessment of sites identified, by the local community,
in the Renhold Green Infrastructure Plan to be considered for
Local Green Space Designation within the Renhold Neighbourhood Plan**



March 2022 (with revisions in May 2025)

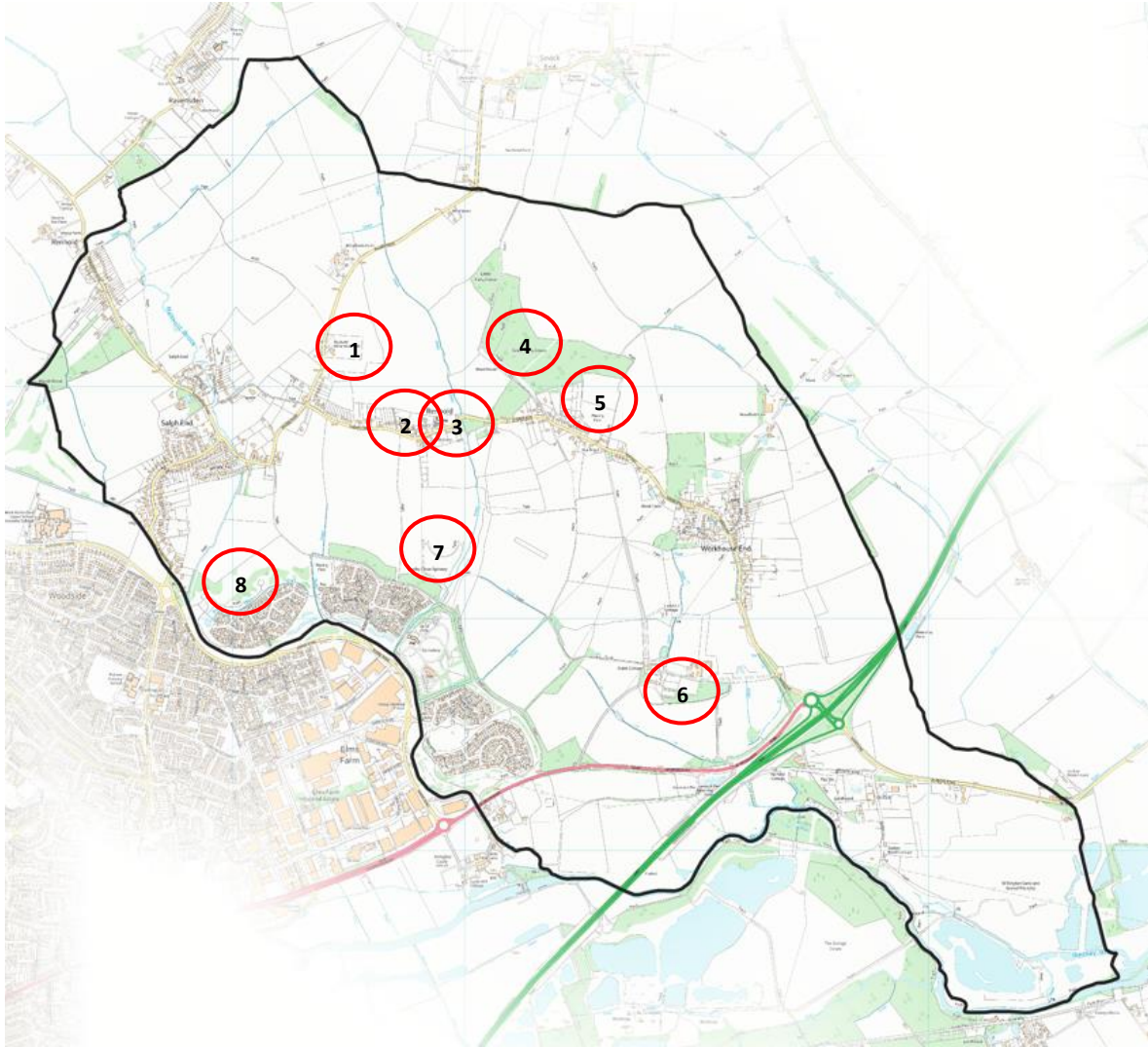
RENHOLD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – LGS ASSESSMENT

Stage 1 Assessment

The stage 1 assessment is designed to filter out which sites - proposed for LGS Designation by the 2022 Renhold Green Infrastructure Plan - do not meet the basic NPPF LGS eligibility criteria. Sites which have current planning permission, or have been allocated for development, or have an existing designation giving the same level of protection as a LGS designation, do not meet the criteria and are not carried forward to the stage 2 assessment.

Site name and reference number	Current Planning Permission?	Allocated for Development?	Already Designated?	Pass to Stage 2?
1 Village Hall grounds	N	N	N	Y
2 Renhold Primary School playing field	N	N	N	Y
3 All Saints Church	N	N	N	Y
4 Little Early Grove & Great Early Grove	N	N	CWS	Y
5 Sports field (including rough grassland area to north)	N	N	N	Y
6 Howbury Hall Parkland	N	N	N	Y
7 Northern extension of cemetery	N	Being developed as cemetery	Burial ground	Y
8 Pedleys Field (Norse Road Greenspace)	N	N	N	Y

Map of sites to be assessed for LGS designation



Stage 2 Assessment – Overall Summary

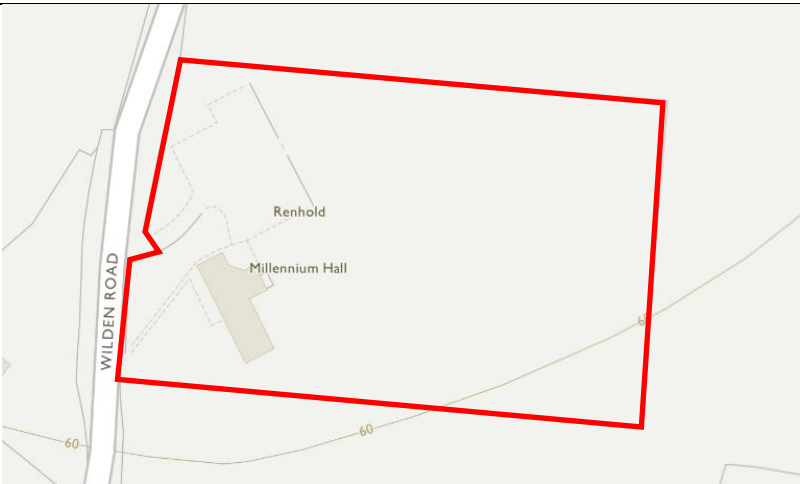
See individual site assessments for detailed locations/ boundaries.


Stage 2 Assessment


Site	Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
1 Village Hall grounds	Y	Y	Y	Y
2 Renhold Primary School playing field	Y	Y	Y	Y
3 All Saints Church	Y	Y	Y	Y
4 Little Early Grove & Great Early Grove	Y	Y	Y	Y
5 Sports field (including rough grassland area to north)	Y	Y	Y	Y
6 Howbury Hall Parkland	N	Y	Y	N [1]
7 Northern extension of cemetery	Y	Y	Y	Y
8 Pedleys Field (Norse Road Greenspace)	Y	Y	Y	Y


[1] Typically, within LGS designations, a site greater than 10 hectares is considered to be an extensive tract of land and as such ineligible to be designated. In some extreme cases, sites of up to 20 hectares have been designated due to not being considered in their local context. At approximately 35 hectares, Howbury Hall Parkland far exceeds this upper maximum. Given that this site clearly fails on this criteria, a detailed site assessment has not been undertaken at Stage 2. However, given its importance to the community, it is recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan includes a policy to protect the parkland and its setting.


Stage 2 Assessment – Individual Site Assessments


Site Name	Village Hall grounds
Map Number	1
Site Map	 <p style="text-align: center;">Not to scale</p>
Site Area	1.52 ha (1.34ha excluding Hall and car park)
Site Location	The Village Hall and its grounds are situated on the Wilden Road, north west of the village.
Site Description	<p>The part of the site closest to the hall and car park consists of managed lawns and shrubs, though the majority of the grounds is rough grass with a few small trees.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The beauty of the site lies predominantly in the views of fields and woodlands outside of its boundaries, though it also has a countryside feel of its own.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>None known</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Although close to a road, the site is quiet - bird song was noted.</p>

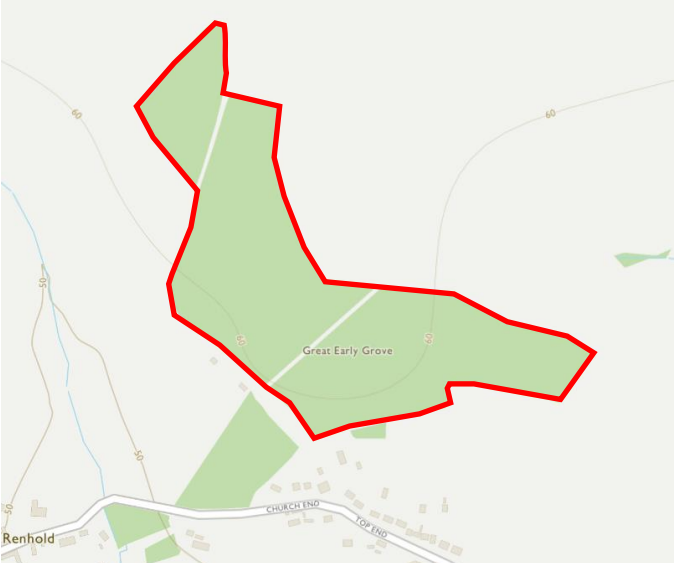
	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>There is unrestricted public access on foot to the grounds for recreational activities, but vehicular access is restricted by a barrier unless to organized events. There is a fenced section set out and used for dog agility training.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>Much of the site is rough grass and there is a managed boundary hedge. These habitats provide a good habitat for a range of species, especially birds and small mammals. There a few trees in the grassland area, with an owl box in one mature tree.</p> <p>The area closest to the hall is of less wildlife value.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>The land was purchased in 2001 for the village as part of the planning gain related to the building of Cranbourne Gardens.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation	Y


Site Name	Primary School playing field
Map Number	2
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p>
Site Area	0.27 ha
Site Location	The Primary School site is in Church End, with the playing field behind the school buildings.
Site Description	<p>The playing field consists of mown grass with a surfaced running track. There are a small number of mature trees – some forming a small woodland area in the north-west corner of the site – and the area is partially surrounded by hedgerows.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site's trees and hedgerows help to create an attractive area for the school's pupils, especially in the north-west corner of the site.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>None known</p>


	<p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site is away from the road, and is very peaceful - when not in use by the schoolchildren for sports and play.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is used by the pupils for sports and recreation, and the small wooded area is used for 'forest school' type activities.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The trees and hedgerows provide shelter and food for wildlife along the boundaries of the playing field which links directly to open countryside to the north.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>No</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation	Y


Site Name	Church of All Saints and graveyard
Map Number	3
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p>
Site Area	0.43 ha (0.39 ha excluding church)
Site Location	The site is situated in Church End
Site Description	<p>The graveyard is predominantly set out to the east of the Parish Church, which is the oldest building in the village and overlooks the valley of the River Great Ouse to the south. The entrance to the site is through a yew arch hedge and past managed yew and box shrubs. The site is well maintained, with cut grassland around the graves, and mature trees and surrounding hedgerows.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site has intrinsic beauty as well as attractive countryside views of the countryside and woodlands to the north and east.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The oldest part of the church (the Reaper Chapel) dates from the 12th Century, with much of the remainder built in the 14th and 15th Centuries.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>Although close to the road, the site itself feels peaceful and calm.</p>

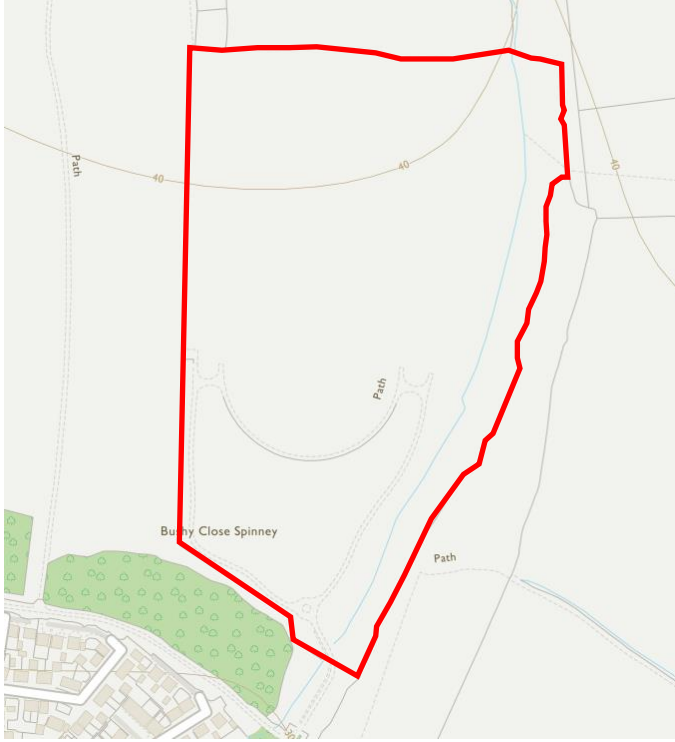
	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>There are a small number of benches for visitors to the site. These are used primarily for rest and quiet reflection.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The grassland around the graves, and the trees and hedges provide both shelter and food for a variety of animals and birds, and link to further hedgerows outside the site itself.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>There are a number of Commonwealth War Graves in the graveyard, as well as memorial benches and trees. The area is also used by the community on commemorative days such as Palm Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, the Queen's Jubilees and the Merchant Navy Day, when flags are raised on the flagpole.</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Historical	Y


Site Name	Great Early Grove and Little Early Grove
Map Number	4
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p>
Site Area	16.38 ha (1.87 Little and 14.51 Great)
Site Location	North and north-west of Wood Lane, Renhold
Site Description	<p>Two private woodlands with no public access, separated by a public bridleway. There is a mix of mature tree and shrub species, which include ash, birch, elder and hawthorn.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>Like most woodlands, this site has a natural beauty; both views within the wood and as a landscape feature.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The woodland is set within open fields which contain extensive areas of ridge and furrow strips, and there are a number of well-preserved medieval enclosure boundary ditches and a possible medieval moat.</p> <p>The woodlands are classed as Ancient Woodland, having existed since before AD1600.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The woodland is situated away from roads and provides a great sense of peace and tranquillity.</p>

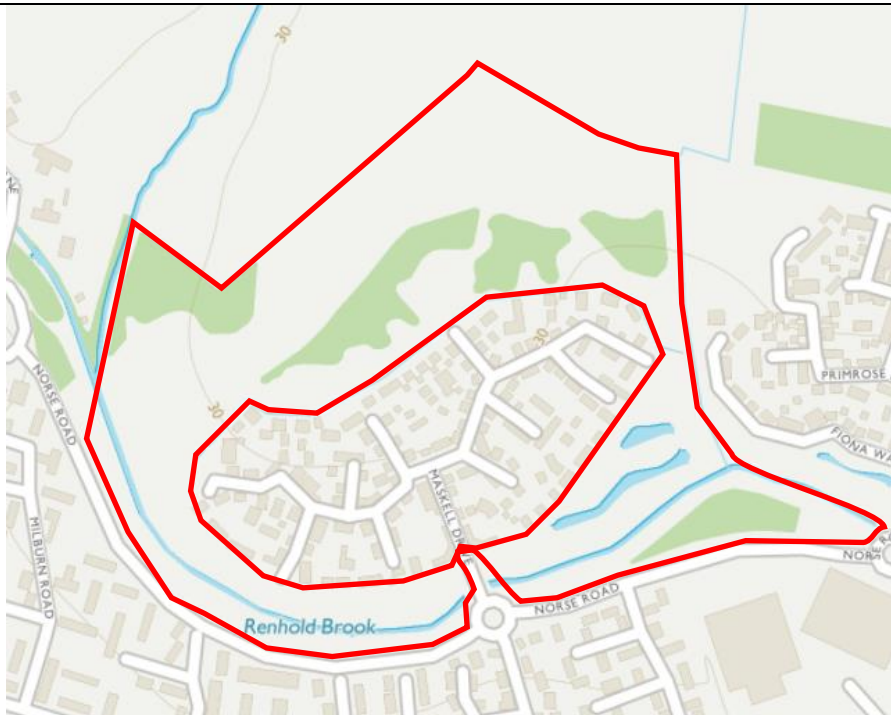
	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>Although the woodlands themselves are private, there is a bridleway running alongside and between them, providing views into the woods and along the woodland edges.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The two ancient woodlands are designated as a County Wildlife Site (CWS) and are home to a range of animals, birds and invertebrates which use them for food and shelter. The sites hold a variety of tree and shrub species, including maiden and coppiced ash, Field Maple and scattered Pedunculate Oak, Horse Chestnut and Apple (<i>Malus pumila</i>). There appears to be a good amount of dead and dying wood within the site – an important resource for wildlife. There is also a species-rich hedgerow extending along the western side of Wood Lane.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>No</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Beauty, Wildlife, Tranquillity	Y


Site Name	Sports field and associated grassland
Map Number	5
Site Map	 <p style="text-align: center;">Not to scale</p>
Site Area	3.71 ha approximately
Site Location	The site is located between Top End and Great Early Grove.
Site Description	<p>The site comprises two parcels of land in separate ownership within the indicated red boundary. The boundary between the two is indicated by the line bisecting it. The southern area is a playing field with clubhouse operated by Renhold Sports Club. The northern plot is a rough grassland/paddock area where in the past a previous owner allowed it to be temporarily used as a football pitch but has long since been reverted to grassland/paddock.</p> <p>The sports field is privately owned and managed by the Trustees of Renhold Sports Club.</p> <p>A public footpath runs north–south along the eastern boundary of both fields.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site is not unattractive, but its main beauty lies in its views of the woodlands and trees that border it.</p>

	<p>Historical Significance</p> <p>Historically the two sites were owned by the brewers, Wells and Winch Limited until 1958, when the northern site was sold to a local farmer and in 1959, when the southern plot was sold to Renhold Sports Club. Prior to this sale, the current sports club area had been used on an ad hoc basis for a variety of village sports, social and community activities.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site is removed from the road of Top End and has a tranquil feel when not in use for football.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The provision of team sports (football) is the main function of the site, though the formal pitch is not open to the general public. A public footpath, which is well used, runs along its eastern boundary.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The surrounding trees, hedgerows and woodland all help to attract a range of animals and birds to the site.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>The site was formerly used for village flower shows and the school's sports day, but the current use of the southern part of the site is mainly limited to the football club.</p>		
<p>Site Photos</p>			
<p>Not Extensive</p>	<p>Close Proximity</p>	<p>Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant</p>	<p>Recommend for Designation?</p>
<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Y Recreation</p>	<p>Y</p>

Site Name	Norse Road Cemetery extension
Map Number	7
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p>
Site Area	9.61 ha
Site Location	Off Norse Road, the cemetery extension is situated to the north of the crematorium buildings.
Site Description	<p>The extension to the cemetery grounds is an open area with a surfaced roadway, landscaped hedges and grassland, and is in part use at present.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site has an intrinsic beauty as well as countryside and woodland views.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>This is a relatively new site and its significance will become apparent over time.</p> <p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The site has a peaceful, calm feel, in keeping with its role.</p>

	<p>Recreational Value</p> <p>The site is open to the general public. Its value is in providing an area, with benches, for visitors to have the opportunity to undertake quiet reflection of loved ones.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The area is mainly grassland with hedges and young trees There are also mature trees and rougher grass areas along its boundary, which provide food and shelter for wildlife, especially small mammals and birds.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>The village's churchyard is very nearly full, so additional grave space is needed for residents. As much of the Norse Road cemetery is within the parish of Renhold the site is viewed as significant for this Plan.</p>		
<p>Site Photos</p>			
<p>Not Extensive</p>	<p>Close Proximity</p>	<p>Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant</p>	<p>Recommend for Designation?</p>
<p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>Y Tranquillity</p>	<p>Y</p>

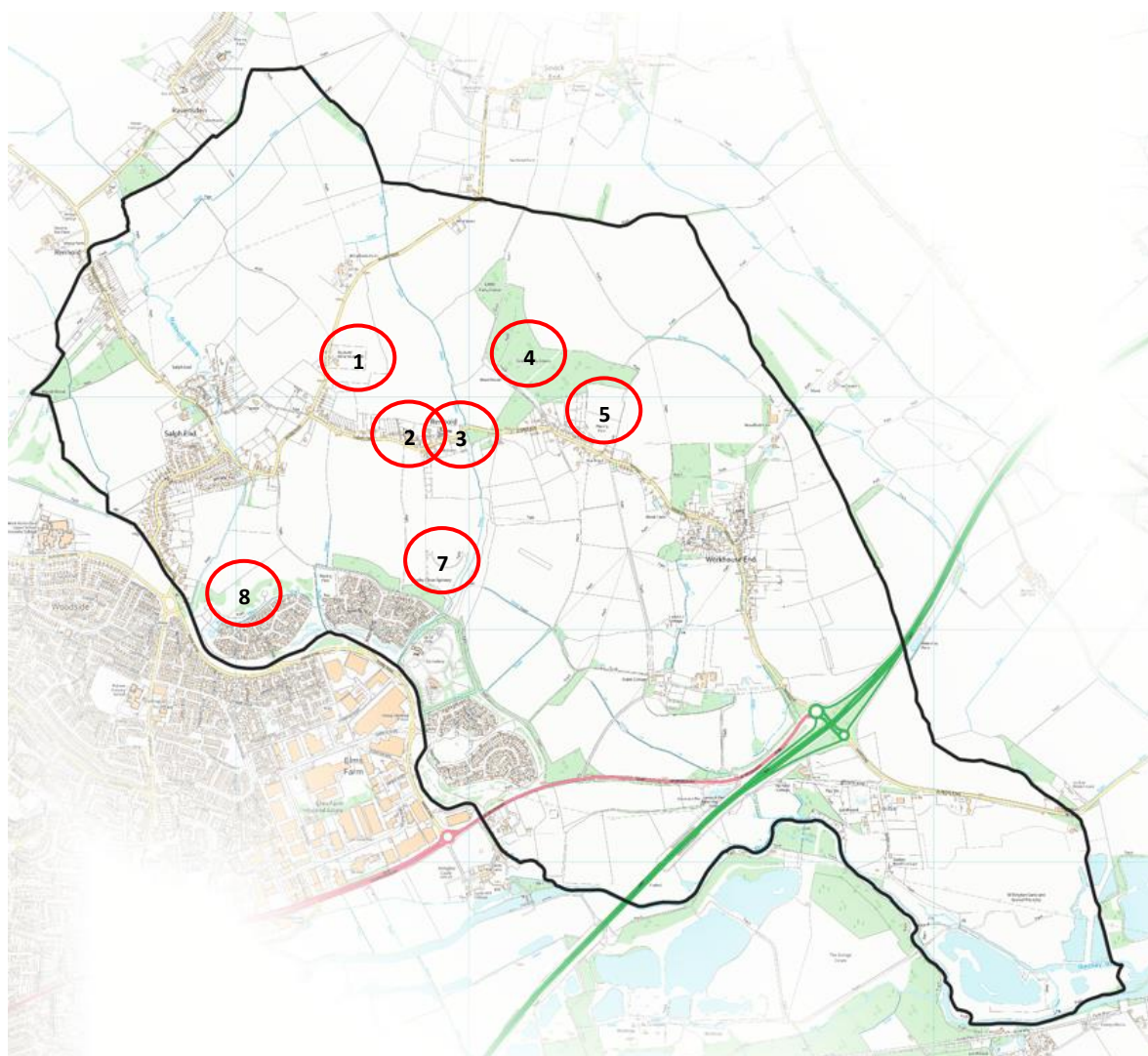
Site Name	Pedleys Field (Norse Road greenspace)
Map Number	8
Site Map	 <p>Not to scale</p>
Site Area	14.8 ha
Site Location	The site, known locally as Pedleys Field, is located to the north of Norse Road, surrounding a new housing estate.
Site Description	<p>Open grassland with areas of young woodland, with Renhold Brook at its southern boundary and open views north to Renhold Church. There are some surfaced paths, two play areas and a MUGA.</p> <p>Beauty</p> <p>The site has a natural looking - though managed - beauty, which will increase as it matures. There are also lovely countryside views from the site in a northerly direction.</p> <p>Historical Significance</p> <p>The site was retained as green open space when it was sold for the Spires development. No other history known.</p>

	<p>Tranquillity</p> <p>The area becomes quieter as you move away from the road. The eastern tree belts also reduce the views and sounds from the residential area, providing a countryside feel to the site.</p> <p>Recreational Value</p> <p>There are two play areas and a MUGA. The site is also popular with dog walkers as it provides a feel of countryside close to the urban setting.</p> <p>Wildlife</p> <p>The site's rough grassland, ponds and woodlands (which include fruit and berried trees) provide food and shelter for a range of wildlife, including muntjac deer and green woodpeckers. Kingfishers can be seen along Renhold Brook.</p> <p>Significant for another reason</p> <p>No</p>		
Site Photos			
Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/ Locally Significant	Recommend for Designation?
Y	Y	Y Recreation, Wildlife	Y

Final Proposed Local Green Space Designations

Sites assessed and proposed for LGS Designation within the Renhold Neighbourhood Plan	
1	Village Hall grounds
2	Renhold Primary School playing field
3	All Saints Church
4	Little Early Grove & Great Early Grove
5	Sports field (including rough grassland area to north)
7	Northern extension of Norse Road Cemetery
8	Pedleys Field (Norse Road Greenspace)
Sites assessed and considered to not meet LGS criteria	
6	Howbury Hall Parkland

The above proposed LGS sites are shown on the following map:



This assessment has been undertaken by Cliff Andrews, BRCC's Deputy Chief Executive and Mike Fayers, BRCC's Community & Environment Officer; with support from Richard Lawrence, BRCC Ecologist.

Site visits were undertaken during January 2022.

Cliff Andrews
BedsRCC Deputy Chief Exec.

March 2022