



WILSDEN NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2020-2038

Supporting evidence Local Green Spaces



**Wilsden Parish Council
October 2022**

Table of Contents

ABBREVIATIONS.....	2
INTRODUCTION	2
Policy Context	3
Process for Designation.....	3
Local Green Space Site Assessment Forms.....	6
Fields to the East /Northeast of St Matthews Church, Wilsden.	6
Cricket Pitch and adjacent field (formerly football field).	9
Closed graveyard, old St Matthew’s churchyard.	12
Wilsden Primary School field.	15
Wilsden Allotments.....	18
Royd House Park and Play Area	21
Wilsden Recreation ground	24

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used within this Neighbourhood Plan

CBMDC	City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
LGS	Local Green Space
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
RUDP	Bradford Revised Unitary Development Plan
SHLAA	Bradford Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document

INTRODUCTION

A Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared for Wilsden Parish.

This supporting paper details the evidence base used in the designation of Local Green Spaces in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out the background to Local Green Spaces and explains the methodology used.

Policy Context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ introduced the concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designation. LGS designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.

Section 8 of the NPPF (paragraphs 98-103 Open Space and Recreation) provides the following information on Local Green Space designations: *“The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.”*

Adding *“The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:*

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land”.*

Additional guidance is provided in the National Planning Practice Guidance² section on “open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space”. Of particular relevance to the Wilsden Neighbourhood Plan is paragraph 10 *“If land is already protected by Green Belt policy ... then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space.*

One potential benefit in areas where protection from development is the norm (eg villages included in the green belt) but where there could be exceptions is that the Local Green Space designation could help to identify areas that are of particular importance to the local community.”

Process for Designation

Whilst the NPPF establishes the concept of LGS designation and provides some guiding principles, it gives local communities preparing a Neighbourhood Plan some discretion to determine how to implement this at the local level.

A four-stage approach was adopted by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Step 1: Identification of potential sites.

A total of 68 potential sites were derived from local knowledge, including the outcomes from the community consultation events.

Step 2: Assessment against the NPPF criteria

The sites were then assessed to consider their suitability for LGS designation. To allow comparative assessment of the sites, a form was created based on the criteria in the NPPF. These are that the sites are:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves

¹ National Planning Policy Framework February 2021

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space#Local-Green-Space-designation>

- demonstrably special to a local community
- holds a particular local significance, for example, because of its
 - beauty,
 - historic significance,
 - recreational value (including as a playing field),
 - tranquility or
 - richness of its wildlife
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

These criteria were used to create a LGS evaluation form. This enabled a consistent and transparent methodology for identifying LGSs in the Parish. Each potential site was assessed.

The Group, like most groups undertaking LGS analysis, faced challenges. In particular, the sheer number of potential local green spaces in the Parish of some significance. National planning policy enables a local plan to protect those of local significance. In addition, the absence of a statutory or commonly used definition of these terms, particularly what constitutes, 'special' or comprises an 'extensive tract of land'. A common-sense approach was taken, while at the same time having regard to good practice and the experiences of LGS designations in approved neighbourhood plans.

A site had to score four or more against the agreed criterion to be considered for inclusion in the Plan as a Local Green Space.

Step 3: Further review

All the proposed sites were then reviewed for their appropriateness for designation as LGS by the independent consultant helping prepare the Plan, acting in a 'critical friend' role.

These criteria were used to create a LGS evaluation table. This enabled a consistent and transparent methodology for identifying LGSs in the Parish.

Step 4: Consultation

Satisfied that the sites met in principle, the criteria for LGS designation and should be formally proposed for designation in the Neighbourhood Plan, they were then "tested" through the Plan process. The sites were set out for comment at the community drop-in event held in November 2016. This was followed by further consultation in 2017. In February 2022 the owners of all the sites were contacted to notify them of the intention to designate as Local Green Spaces. As a result of this consultation two sites were removed from the list of designated Local Green Spaces. One of these sites is wholly in the Green Belt and the other because it was designated as a village green space in the Bradford RUDP.

The size of the individual sites is given in Table 1 and Fig 1 shows their locations.

		Area (ha)
A	Fields to the East /Northeast of St Matthews Church	0.244
B	Cricket Pitch and adjacent field (formerly football field).	2.239
C	Closed graveyard, old St Matthew's churchyard.	0.459
D	Wilsden Primary School field.	0.178
E	Wilsden Allotments	0.518
F	Royd House Park and Play Area	0.817
G	Wilsden Recreation ground	1.486

Table 1

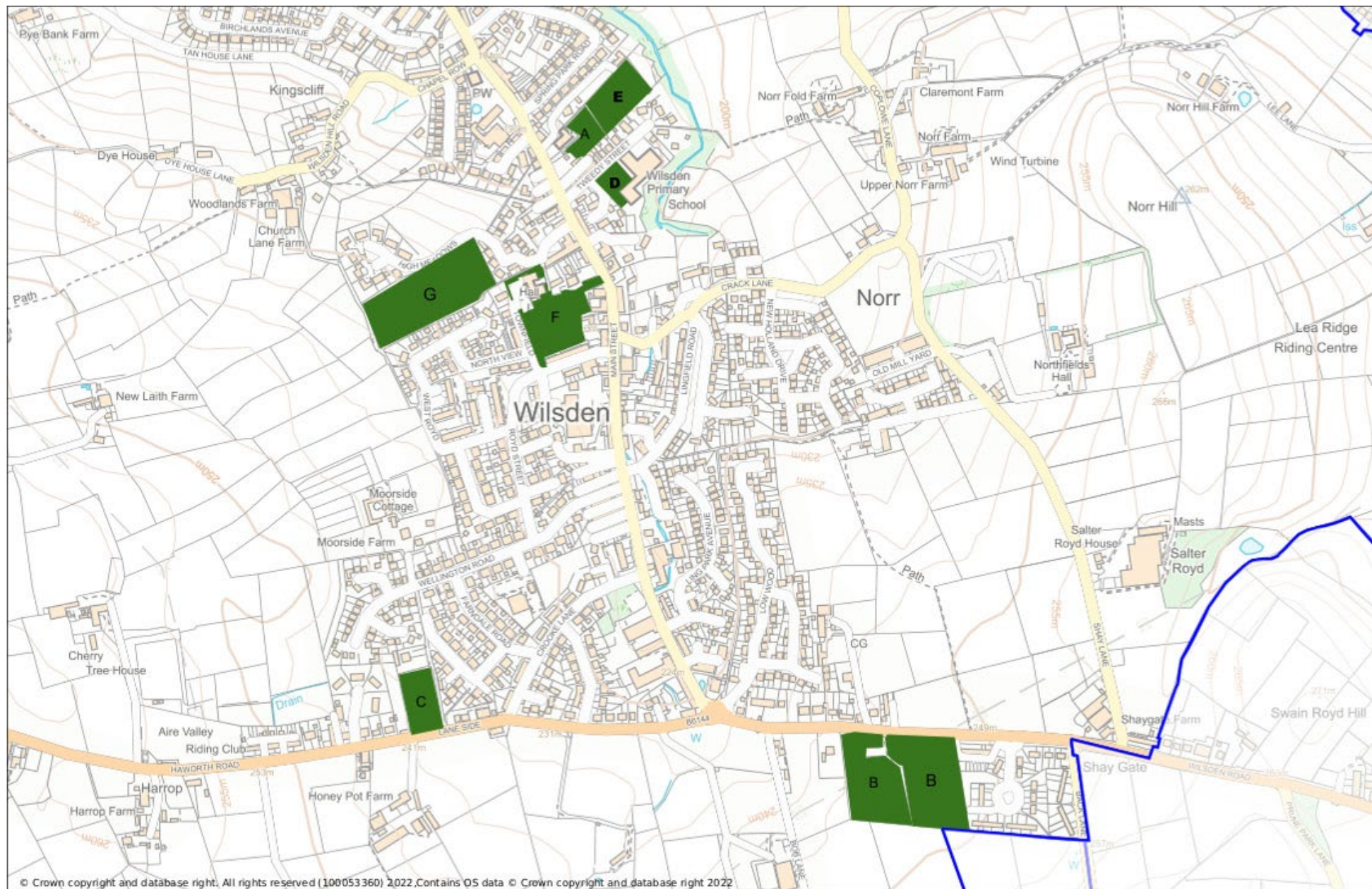


Figure 1

Local Green Space Site Assessment Forms

Site Reference	A
Site	Fields to the East /Northeast of St Matthews Church, Wilsden.
Address/Location	Off Main Street, Wilsden.
Description	An area of land used for grazing purposes.
How it meets the National Planning Policy Framework Criteria for Local Green Space Designation	
Public Access	The path on the periphery of the field leading to the allotments is accessible to the public. The land is in public ownership.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 400m	Yes.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes, put forward by the community. It is important to the character of the Conservation Area and the wider village as well as to the local character and amenity. It offers pleasant views both into and away from the village. Its prominent location next to the main road through the village adds importance and sense of place.
Is it beautiful?	Of limited beauty.
Does it have historic significance?	Its importance was identified in the Wilsden Conservation Area Assessment undertaken by CBMDC in 2004, which stated, " <i>The field by St Matthew's Church is another important open space which contrasts with the built-up nature of the village and provides another link with its agricultural function which has all but ceased</i> ³ ". The field is the only one abutting onto Main Street that has remained as a green space for at least 200 years. This area and the barns within it are clearly identified as undeveloped land in Fox's Map of Wilsden for 1818 and has remained undeveloped since. It is the only remaining link on Main Street to the pre-Industrial Revolution agricultural hamlets that were subsequently subsumed into the village of Wilsden.
Does it have recreation value? Including playing fields, in/formal	No.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	It is a visual amenity space for locals.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	A wildflower survey on the edge of the path to the allotments identified 27 native species. This is evidence that as a result of the historic management of the grassland there is significant inherent biodiversity.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	

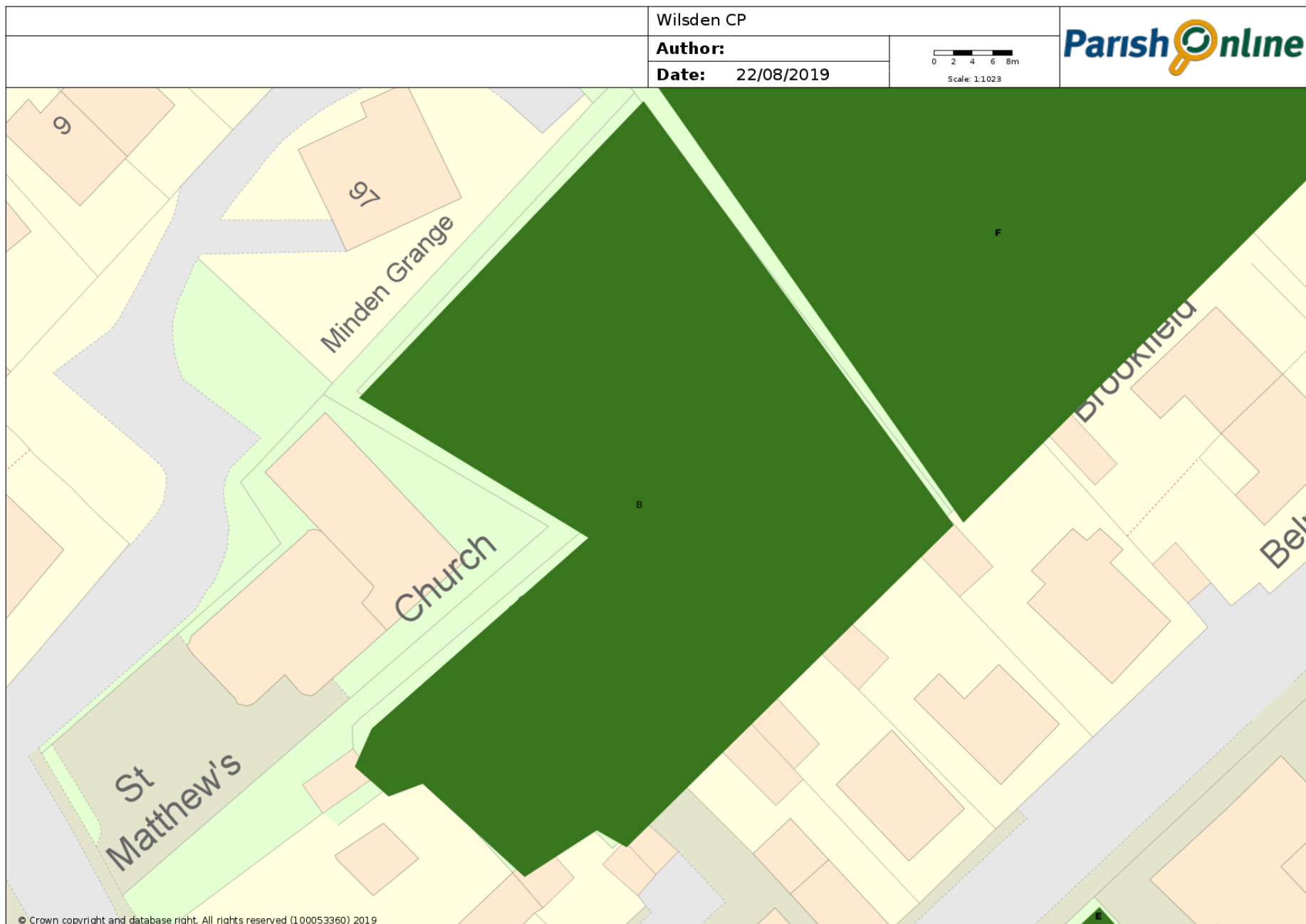
³ <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/environment/conservation-areas/wilsden-conservation-area/>



View of field from Main Street



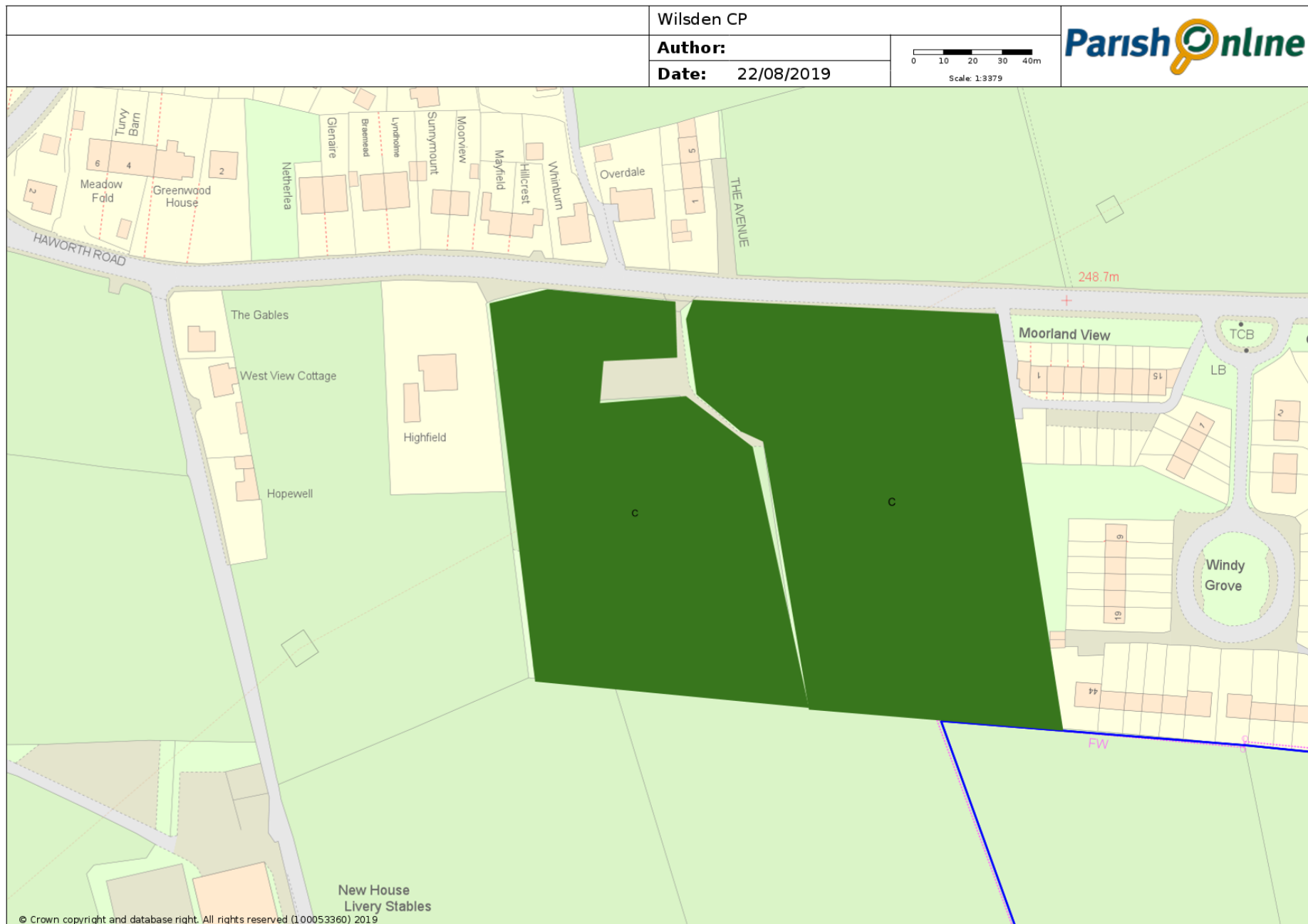
View of field from the Allotments with St Matthew's Church in the background



Site Reference	B
Site	Cricket Pitch and adjacent field (formerly football field).
Address/Location	Haworth Rd, Wilsden.
Description	Cricket pitch and field.
Public Access	Yes.
How it meets the National Planning Policy Framework Criteria for Local Green Space Designation	
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 400m	Yes, situated on the edge of the Village.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes, contains a cricket pitch. It is well used and can be accessed from several points. The adjacent field has been the location of Wilsden Gala for a number of years. Put forward by the community.
Is it beautiful?	Yes, to some degree. A pleasant place to sit and enjoy the picturesque surroundings and views.
Does it have historic significance?	No.
Does it have recreation value? Including playing fields, in/formal	Yes. both formal and informal (walking etc.).
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes. A pleasant place to sit and enjoy the picturesque surroundings or watch sport. It offers attractive views of the countryside beyond.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	No.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	Although in the Green Belt there is long established housing to the east and the area would be perceived by many as being within the existing settlement.

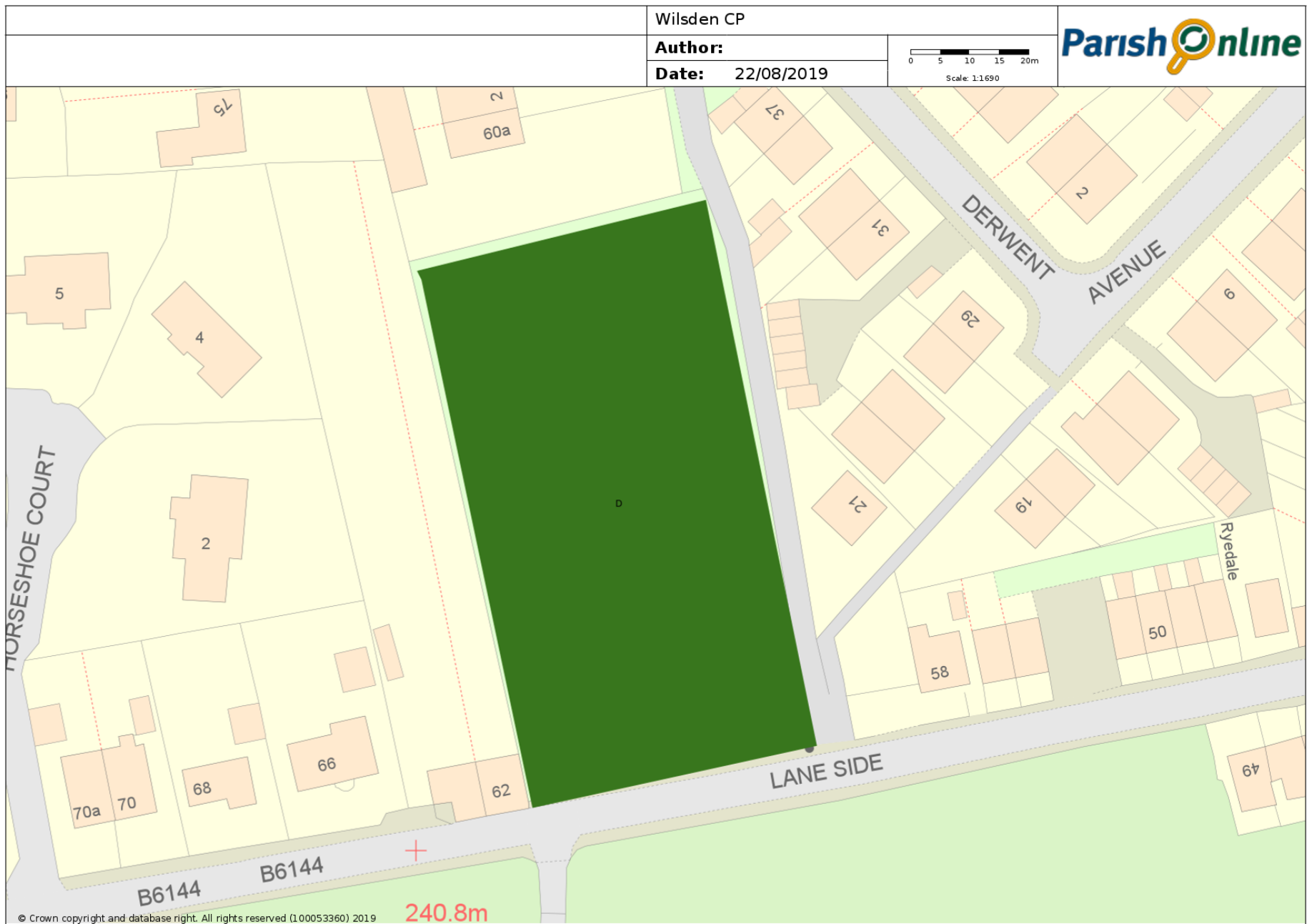


Supporting evidence for Local Green Spaces



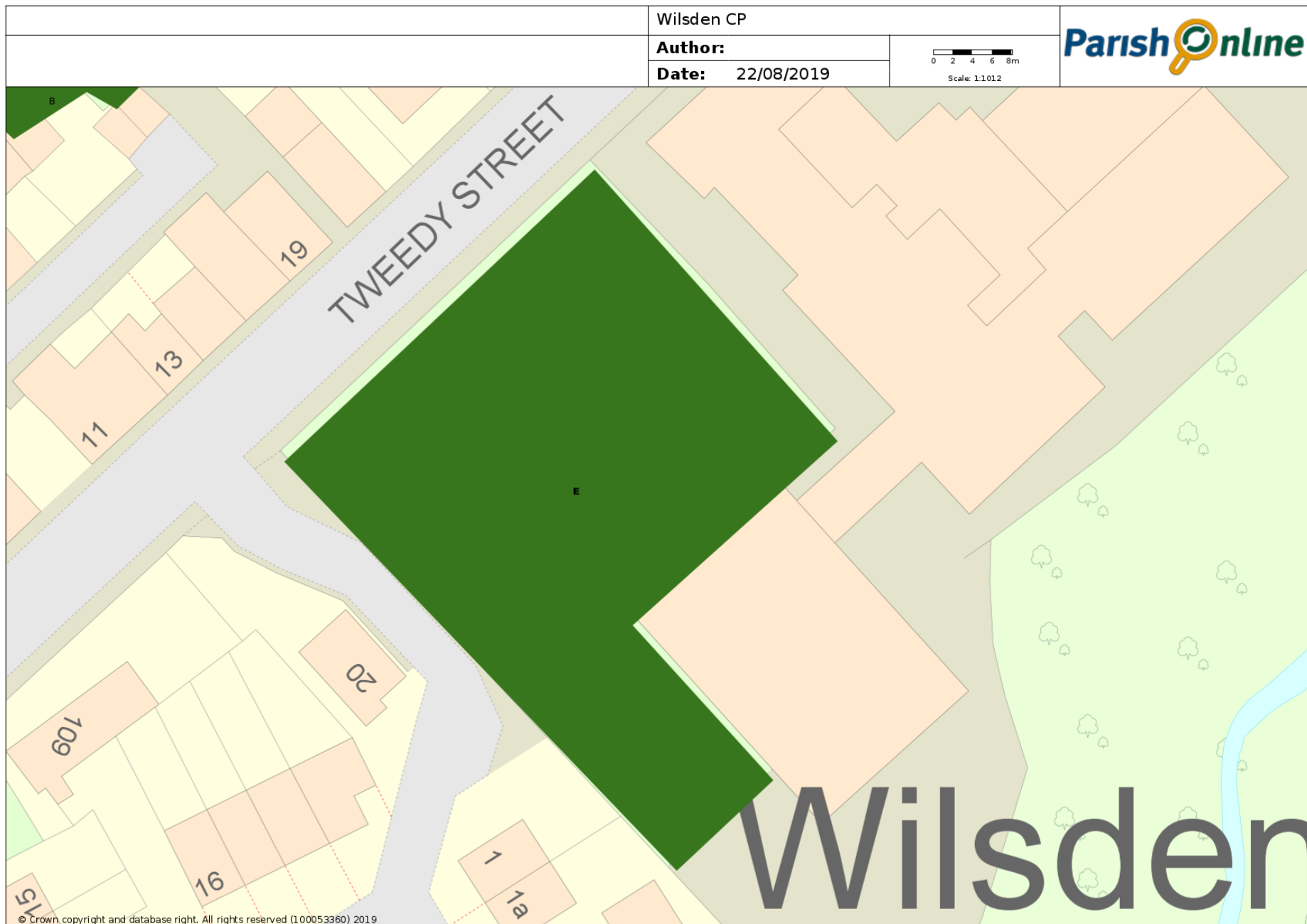
Site Reference	C
Site	Closed graveyard, old St Matthew's churchyard.
Address/Location	Laneside, Wilsden.
Description	Graveyard with mature trees.
How it meets the National Planning Policy Framework Criteria for Local Green Space Designation	
Public Access	Yes.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 400m	Yes.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes. Burials took place in the churchyard between 1827 and 1974 with many local people being buried there. It is also the former site of the parish church. Been a churchyard for many years and is accessible from the village. It provides green space within an area of residential development that is rather denser than some parts of the village.
Is it beautiful?	Yes.
Does it have historic significance?	Yes. The original St Matthew's Church was established in 1826 and this was the site of the Parish Church until 1957. The church building was demolished in 1962 but the churchyard continued in regular use until 1974 with one final burial taking place in 1985
Does it have recreation value? Including playing fields, in/formal	Of limited value, mainly walking and sitting.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes. It is an attractive and tranquil area offering views of the surrounding countryside. It offers a space to think and contemplate.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Yes, both for wildlife and wildflowers.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	Owned by the Hewenden Benefice comprising the parishes of Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth and Denholme. The area would need to be deconsecrated prior to any development





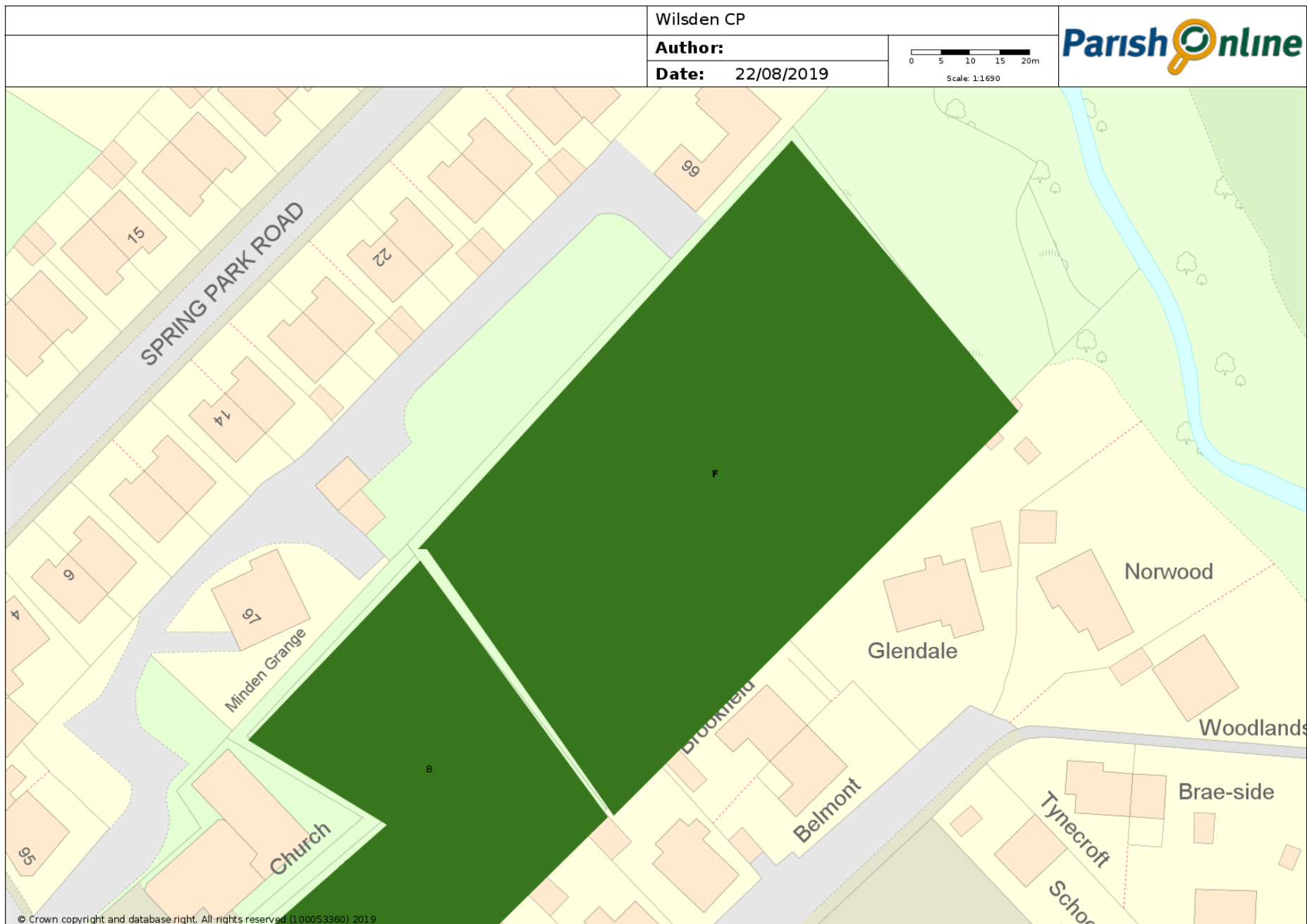
Site Reference	D
Site	Wilsden Primary School field.
Address/Location	Tweedy Street, Wilsden.
Description	Fields within grounds of school.
How it meets the National Planning Policy Framework Criteria for Local Green Space Designation	
Public Access	To some degree – school use limits access.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 400m	Yes.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes. Well used school playing field, put forward by the community.
Is it beautiful?	Of some beauty. Important to the character and setting of the local area. It provides green space within an area of residential development that is rather denser than most of the village and has relatively less green space.
Does it have historic significance?	Of some historic value, long established school playing field.
Does it have recreation value? Including playing fields, in/formal	Yes.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes, generally tranquil. Less so in school times.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Yes, of some value, it supports trees, flowers and small shrubs that attract birds etc.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	No.





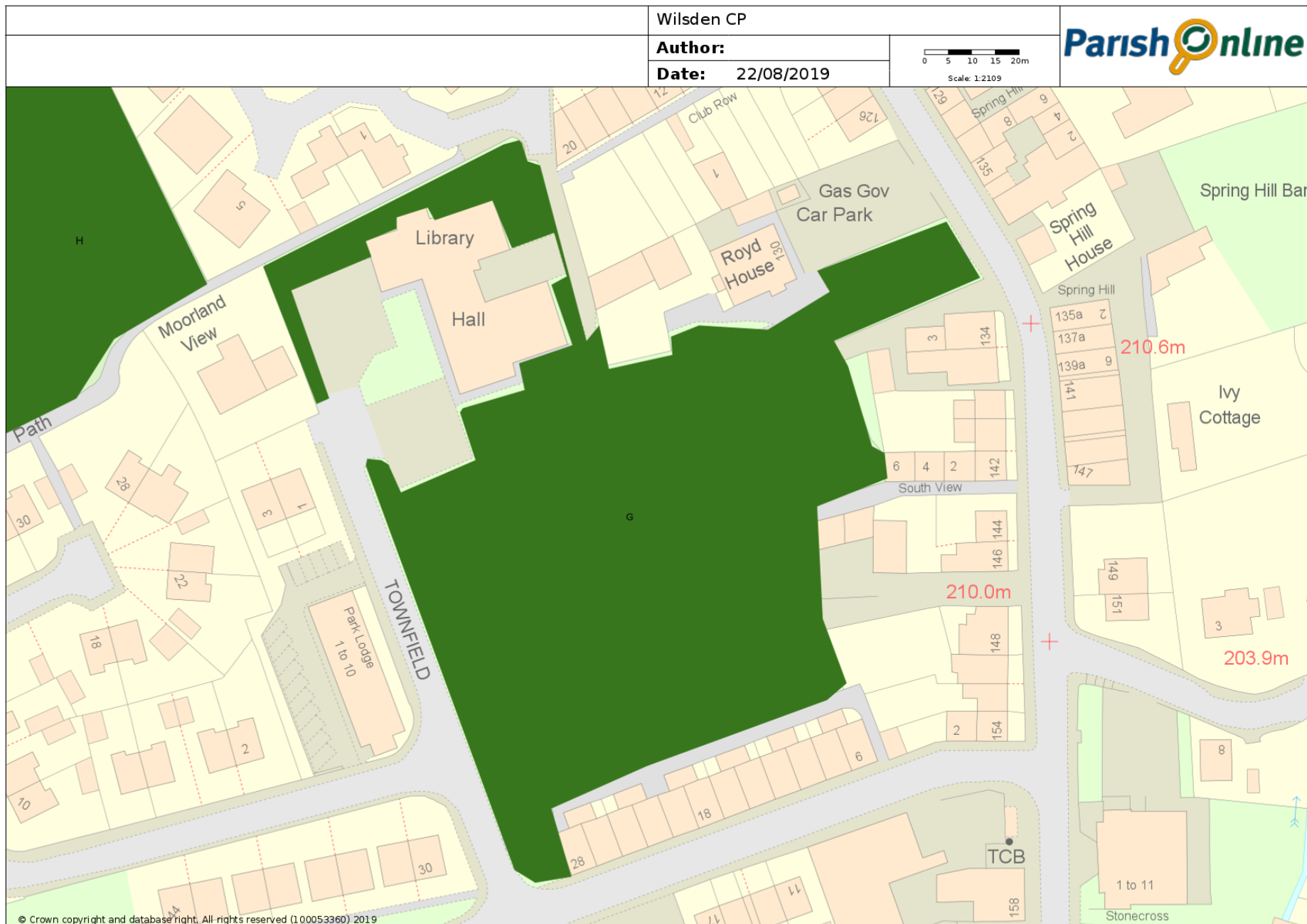
Site Reference	E
Site	Wilsden Allotments
Address/Location	Between St Matthews Church and Wilsden Beck.
Description	Cultivated land. Allotments.
How it meets the National Planning Policy Framework Criteria for Local Green Space Designation	
Public Access	Yes.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 400m	Yes.
Does the site have local significance?	Popular and well used, it provides benefits associated with growing veg/plants for those lacking garden space.
Is it beautiful?	Yes.
Does it have historic significance?	Yes. Was a market garden prior to being allotments.
Does it have recreation value? Including playing fields, in/formal	Yes, well used allotment site.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Yes, supports some wildlife and wildflowers, plus the crops grown on the site.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	No.





Site Reference	F
Site	Royd House Park and Play Area
Address/Location	Between Main Street and Townfield.
Description	Formal park, bowling green and children's play area.
How it meets the National Planning Policy Framework Criteria for Local Green Space Designation	
Public Access	Yes.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 400m	Yes.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes, given by the Ambler family for use of people of Wilsden. Put forward by the community. It is bordered by mature trees and provides an important green lung as well as a green space for the community. Located in the heart of the village.
Is it beautiful?	Yes. Attractive green space.
Does it have historic significance?	Yes, used as a park and play areas for many years.
Does it have recreation value? Including playing fields, in/formal	Yes, provides a valuable amenity space, put forward by the community
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Yes, of some value - supports birds, small animals and flowers.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	When Wilsden Village Hall was built in 1976 to provide many of the community services previously provided from Royd House it was positioned in the north west corner of the area.





Site Reference	G
Site	Wilsden Recreation ground
Address/Location	To west of Brigglands.
Description	Recreation Ground.
How it meets the National Planning Policy Framework Criteria for Local Green Space Designation	
Public Access	Yes.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? i.e. within 400m	Yes.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes, given for people of Wilsden to use in perpetuity. Is a very attractive amenity space used as a recreation ground. It offers attractive views to the surrounding countryside.
Is it beautiful?	Yes, green space within settlement with far-reaching views over the village.
Does it have historic significance?	Yes, given in 1928 for the people of Wilsden to be used as playing fields in perpetuity
Does it have recreation value? Including playing fields, in/formal	Yes, both formal and informal.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Yes.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Yes, of some value - supports birds, small animals and flowers.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	Land held in trust, in perpetuity, as playing field.



