

APPENDIX E: EB17



STEBBING NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019-2033

LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION: POLICY STEB3

ASSESSMENT

Introduction

The Parish of Stebbing has a number of green spaces that are considered of great importance to its historic and landscape setting and character, and additionally enjoy biodiversity significance in the respects described below. The special characteristics and qualities of these spaces would be destroyed, or unacceptably prejudiced, if development in conflict with Policy **STEB3** were permitted within them; accordingly, development proposals which conflict with the purpose of LGS designation will be resisted in those areas.

The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (“NPPF”) at paragraphs 99 – 101 provides for the designation of land as Local Green Space through Local and Neighbourhood Plans, allowing communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. As part of the Neighbourhood Plan process, a Parish can designate areas of Local Green Space (“LGS”). The Steering Group has considered and paid full regard to the NPPF and the relevant NPPG Paragraphs (005, 007, 009, 011, 014 - 021) in undertaking this Assessment.

The Steering Group has identified eight spaces within the Parish as eligible for consideration as Local Green Spaces and after detailed review has concluded that they satisfy the necessary NPPF criteria and that it would be appropriate to designate them as such and to include a Policy to that effect in the Stebbing Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Accompanying Descriptions (in way of a matrix), Photographs and Plans are submitted in support of the proposed designation of the eight sites (I.D. : **A – H** inclusive) and are annexed hereto as supporting evidence for Policy **STEB3** (Plan p 41).

They are sites:

- A:** Mill Lane Recreation Ground and Cricket Field;
- B:** Alcott Field (Recreation Area and Football Field);
- C:** Pulford Field (Recreation Area and Football Field);
- D:** Village Allotments (The Potton Memorial Allotment);
- E:** Field opposite Stebbing Primary School;
- F:** Field opposite The Downs;
- G:** The Wild Flower Meadow (Daphne Rogowski Bequest), Stebbing Green; and
- H:** Field at Bran End.

Four potential LGS lie within the core of Stebbing village, two at Bran End, one off Warehouse Road and one in the hamlet of Stebbing Green.

1. Criteria

A LGS is required, pursuant to paragraphs 99 and 100 of NPPF, to satisfy or otherwise meet the following criteria or characteristics:

- It must be “in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves”
- It must be “demonstrably special to a local community”
- It must “hold a particular local significance” because of at least one of the following:
 - o Beauty
 - o Historic significance
 - o Recreational value (including as a playing field)
 - o Tranquillity

o Richness of its wildlife or ecological status

- It must be “local in character”
- It must not be an “extensive tract of land”

The Accompanying Descriptions set out the criteria and characteristics present or applicable to the proposed LGS which, in the opinion of the NPWG, justify the designation of each space as a LGS in the emerging Stebbing Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2. Analysis

Eight greenfield sites, identified as suitable for consideration as LGS, meet the criteria/characteristics set out above (“Candidate Spaces”). The NPWG undertook a review of these Candidate Spaces to assess the degree to which they meet the LGS criteria/characteristics set out above.

During December 2017/January 2018, consultation (by way of exhibition, paper and electronic questionnaires) with the Residents of Stebbing and interested other parties was undertaken as to whether or not the Candidate Spaces were regarded as suitable subjects for their prospective selection as LGS. Over 90% of Residents either agreed or definitely agreed that each of the spaces should be designated as LGS.

Guidance Notes as to the relevance of LGS and the applicable criteria for designation were prepared by the NPWG and included on the NP website, in order to accompany and inform the consultation and response exercise.

3. Consideration and Assessment

All eight Candidate Spaces described in the Accompanying Descriptions and Plans have been assessed against the above criteria/characteristics and each individually has been considered as meeting them, and additionally, four Candidate Spaces (Sites **A**, **E**, **F** and **H**) are also considered worthy of inclusion as a composite whole. The Accompanying Descriptions, Photographs and Plans provide a description of each of the Candidate Spaces, together with a discussion as to the “local significance” and the “demonstrably special” quality of each space. All are local in character to the village of Stebbing in the respects described.

The landscape and historic significance of the Candidate Spaces may be objectively viewed against the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Appraisal (March 2017) prepared by The Landscape Partnership (**EB6**) and the Heritage Assessment (August 2017) prepared by Grover Lewis and Associates (**EB7**).

Twenty other potential areas and locations were considered by the NPWG as potential LGS candidates, but they were determined not to be suitable or eligible for inclusion as LGS for various reasons, including: their extensive sizes; being adequately protected by other statutory designations; having conservation area status; or by the terms of their trust status/ownership.

None of the eight Candidate Spaces are the subject of planning permissions nor UDC site specific policies. They all lie outside the Development Limits as shown on the UDC Proposals Map – Adopted Local Plan 2005. Three sites (Sites E, F and H) now considered by the NPWG as eligible for designation as LGS, were promoted on behalf of their Owners as available for development during the UDC Call for Sites/emerging Local Plan 2019 process, but were rejected in its 2018 SLAA since they were “considered unsuitable as development would not contribute to sustainable patterns of development”.

There is very considerable bird life (some of which is at risk) present at several of the LGS, as more particularly recorded by Mr Howard Joliffe, a “birder” who is a member of Essex Birdwatching Society (and several others), Essex Wildlife Trust and a Stebbing resident. His assessment is set out appended hereto as an Annexe.

There are extensive descriptions given in the individual site Assessments as to the abundance of biodiversity within them, contributed by Mrs Margaret Rufus, B.Sc. (Hort.), a Stebbing resident, naturalist and member of Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex Botanical Society and the Butterfly Conservation Trust.

Both bird life and biodiversity within the LGS need to be protected and enhanced to the extent that they are among the “rarest and most threatened species” and are listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (“S41 NERC Priority Species”), consistent with the Government’s Biodiversity 2020 Strategy.

Regard has been had to paragraph 99 of NPPF and, given the proposed allocation of housing contemplated by the Policies included in this Neighbourhood Plan, there is no reason why the proposed designations as LGS of any of the Candidate Spaces are not capable of enduring beyond the plan period contemplated by it.

Paragraph 92 of NPPF requires positive planning to provide social, recreational and cultural facilities and services that the community needs. The designation as LGS of the Candidate Spaces, all of which have public access, will support and enhance those local facilities and services and in the opinion of the NPSG, supported by the outcome of the Residents’ Questionnaires, will continue to support and promote the vitality of the historic and rural community of Stebbing and furthermore, add value to the other policy designations provided for in this Plan.

As to public access, it is appropriate to emphasise in the context of the LGS Assessment, the impressive Parish network of 50 PROWs which extend to a total distance of 15.29 miles. They are actively managed by the P3 Group of volunteer residents, with material/equipment support from Essex County Council. Since COVID-19 lockdown, these have been even more intensively used than previously. PROWs traverse the majority of the

Candidate Spaces, often directly connecting one space with another, reflecting their historic origins as footpaths, or horse and cart/agricultural access means, connecting fields and farm yards with each other and of course with the dwellings of agricultural workers who predominantly lived in cottages within the core of the Village or at their separate “Ends”.

Spaces **A, E, F** and **H** should be seen in their manorial context too, which sets the scene for their historical significance, with the first three being part historically of the adjacent manorial holding of Stebbing Hall, including part of the mediaeval deer park of Stebbing Park, while the latter was part of the manorial holding of Porter’s Hall.

Consideration should be given to the contiguity of Spaces **A, E, F** and **H** which, when appreciated as a whole, should be seen as an unbroken belt, having and satisfying the necessary regulatory qualities while forming the natural undeveloped boundary to the eastern valley flank of the Village. A strong sense of this is gained by walking through the spaces along PROW 46-10 and PROW 46-21 from Mill Lane to Bran End and PROW 46-8. A visual impression of this can also be gained from the aerial photographs included below.

Paragraphs 015 and 016 of NPPG advise that there are no hard and fast rules about how big or small a LGS might be. When looked at in this light, neither their individual nor collective areas disqualify any of the Spaces on the grounds of size, whether individually or as a whole. They do not amount to “an extensive tract of land”; they look and feel to be local in character, area and scale sitting well within the wider context of the Neighbourhood Plan Character Areas, with clearly defined edges, the fields themselves being contained by historic hedgerows. Accordingly, in addition to their individual qualifying LGS designations, Spaces **A, E, F** and **H** also qualify for designation as one entire LGS and the Assessments in relation to them are put forward for designation both as individual LGS for each space and also together as one composite LGS.

Acknowledgements:

Mr Howard Joliffe (bird life)

Mrs Margaret Rufus (plant and butterfly assessments)



Aerial View of Stebbing Village Core: Sites A - upper centre – and E – lower centre - (view to South)

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Aerial View of Stebbing Brook and Valley: Sites F – lower centre - and H - upper centre - (view to North)

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INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENTS: (SITES I.D. : A - H)

Site I.D.	LOCAL GREEN SPACE (as shown on the accompanying Plans). Grid References are taken from <i>MAGIC Maps</i> at a point lying approximately in the centre of the space)	PROXIMITY TO THE COMMUNITY	DEMONSTRATION OF SPECIAL VALUE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY	LOCAL CHARACTER DESCRIPTION	PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE - RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY
A	<p>Mill Lane Recreation Ground and Cricket Field, Stebbing</p> <p>GR: TL65982425</p>	<p>Located off Mill Lane, in the heart of the Historic Village and within the Conservation Area.</p>	<p>Long established recreational space for organised sport and events with (i) Children’s Play Area, (ii) Cricket Ground and (iii) adult gym equipment i.e. two-man ski trainer. It provides a green lung in the centre of the village.</p> <p>Contains cricket ground with large Pavilion. The area has mature tree/hedge field boundaries on two perimeters and housing on the other two, part incorporating a redundant burial ground. Vehicular access may be obtained from Mill Lane, opposite the Village Hall and also by foot via the same entrance. PROW 46-21 then traverses the Field in a NW/SE direction, continuing as the PROW adjacent to The Mount (a Scheduled Ancient Monument). Seating is provided in the all-weather safety area of the children’s play and adult exercise equipment, refurbished in recent years by the Parish Council, where families meet</p>	<p>Area: 2 ha</p> <p>Area of mown grass in centre, meadow grass surrounding and with very many quality established mature trees on boundaries. Generally important to the setting of the village and making an important contribution to the character of its Conservation Area, linking the historic built core with the wooded area of Stebbing Park and fields to the west and north (see also proposed LGS Space E below). A public footpath (PROW 46-21) proceeds to and through LGS Space E below to join PROW 46-10 and PROW 46-12. In the Tithe Award c 1840, the field was called “Coney Fare”, giving a clue as to its former history and purpose. In</p>	<p>No habitat protection designations apply to Mill Lane Playing Field. The site was visited on 28/07/20. Details as to findings are set out below.</p>

			<p>after gentle strolls. The Space has for many years been used for local events including the Stebbing Village Summer Fete (with BBQ, vintage vehicle rally and village club/society stalls). The Cricket Field is managed/maintained by the Cricket Club members and is in use throughout the season with numerous visiting teams. The outer field is maintained by the Parish Council. Identified as an important open space with important trees in the Stebbing Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Proposals (UDC) 2010. There are key views westwards to part wooded and part open countryside. The Space is now owned by Stebbing Parish Council having been purchased by it in 2019 from local farming interests (who formerly also owned adjacent sites E and F to the North), after many years of occupation as licensee, with the assistance of a loan from PWLB</p>	<p>1423, it is referred to as “The Lord’s Rabbit Warren”, the Lord being the owner of the adjacent Stebbing Hall (Park). Rabbits were luxury food destined only for the tables of the wealthy and privileged in that period and not being then as hardy as today, needed to be kept in especially constructed and protected warrens to survive. By 1580, it was identified as pasture. The boundary embankment to the mediaeval deer park runs through the woodland abutting the northern boundary of the field and is among the best preserved remaining sections thereof.</p>	
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Site A: Mill Lane Recreation Ground and Cricket Field



Site A: Mill Lane Recreation Ground and Cricket Field

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Site I.D.	LOCAL GREEN SPACE (as shown on the accompanying Plans). Grid References are taken from <i>MAGIC Maps</i> at a point approximately in the centre of the site)	PROXIMITY TO THE COMMUNITY	DEMONSTRATION OF SPECIAL VALUE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY	LOCAL CHARACTER DESCRIPTION	PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE - RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY
B	<p>Alcott Field (Recreation Area and Football Field), Stebbing</p> <p>GR: TL67332363</p>	<p>Located off Warehouse Road, to the rear of Collops Villas and also a short walking distance from Church End and the centre of the village</p>	<p>Alcott Field is approached from the road by a wide gravelled access. It is an enclosed area of land, approximately triangular in shape, situated to the rear and south of Collops Villas. Its other boundaries abut farmland. Public games amenity since 1937 with a further piece of land added by gifted to the Parish Council in 2012. It is now laid out with (i) children's Play Area; (ii) two Football Pitches (one full size and one junior); and (iii) Adult gym equipment i.e. rowing machine. Home to Flitch United FC and Flitch Youth Football Club and served by a modern Pavilion, with purpose designed changing /shower facilities, construction being financed in 2010 by the Parish Council, the Sports Council and the Football Association. The pitches are maintained/managed by the Football Club and the outfield by the Parish Council. It is owned by the Parish Council.</p>	<p>Area: 1.4 ha</p> <p>The Field is an important open area for the residents of the southern part of the village. It is conveniently located for use by the sizeable population of children and young adults living at Collops Villas and Oakfield for recreational leisure and also by home and visiting football teams. It is served by ample on site off street parking.</p>	<p>No habitat protection designations apply to the site which was visited on 21/07/20. A mix of elder, dogwood, maple, hazel and cultivated shrubs line the access track. One solitary plant growing in the gravel of the track was later identified by Dr. Ken Adams, Botanical Recorder for Essex, as Jersey cudweed (<i>Gnaphalium luteoalbum</i>) that has as a result been recorded on the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland database being listed as a critically endangered species</p>

					(IUCN, 1994) and included in Schedule 8 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, according to its particular protections. Further details are set out below
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The field is surrounded by hedges and trees. On its northern boundary along the fence-line of Collops Villas, the “hedge” comprises various cultivated woody plants, such as plum, spiraea, conifers, lilac, barberry, privet and flowering currant with occasional native plants such as bramble, blackthorn and ash. The species composition of the eastern boundary hedge indicates that it is likely to be an old or possibly an ancient hedgerow (as defined by the Hedgerows Act). It contains a single smooth elm (*Ulmus minor* ssp. *minor*), English elm (*Ulmus procera*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*), dog-rose (*Rosa canina*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*).

Trees of the species English oak (*Quercus robur*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), field maple (*Acer campestre*), sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), aspen (*Populus tremula*) and Wych elm (*Ulmus glabra*), grow along the old hedge-line to the southeast and southwest of the field. These are continued as hedge to the rear of the playground equipment including elm (*Ulmus procera*), old man’s beard (*Clematis vitalba*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*) and field maple (*Acer campestre*).

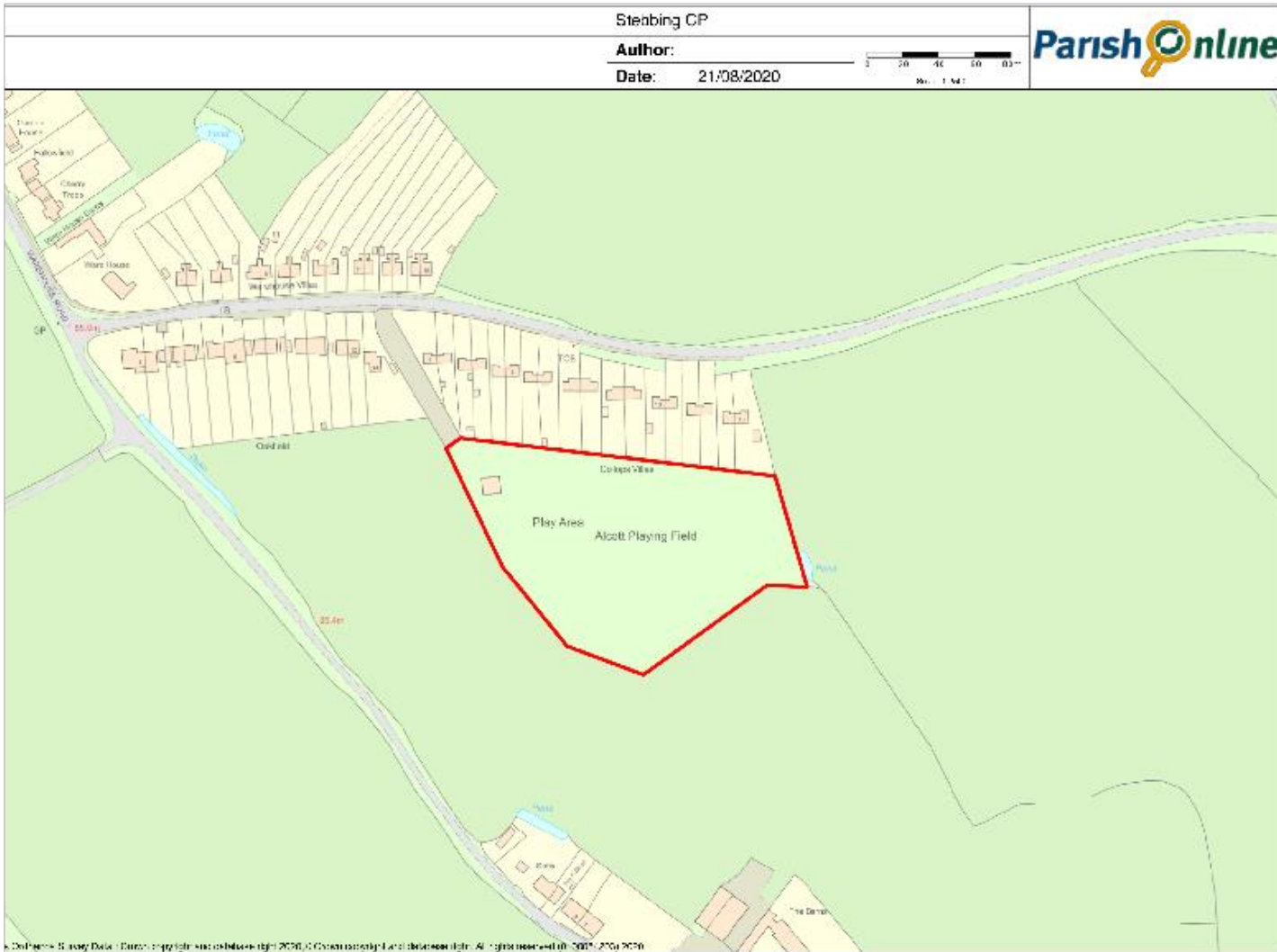
The field had recently been cut, but despite its long-term use as a recreation ground and football field, there is considerable species diversity within the grass sward including creeping cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*), self-heal (*Prunella vulgaris*), common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), greater plantain (*Plantago major*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), bird’s-foot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), common mallow (*Malva sylvestris*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).

A surprising number of butterfly species were observed, flying in from surrounding farmland: meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*), speckled wood (*Pararge aegeria*) seen along the eastern hedge), large white (*Pieris brassicae*), small white (*Pieris rapae*) gatekeeper (*Pyronia tithonus*) and brown argus (*Aricia agestis*).



Site B: Alcott Field: Recreation Area and Football Field

Jersey cudweed (*Gnaphalium luteoalbum*), close-up of flowers



Site B: Alcott Field: Recreation Area and Football Field

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Site I.D.	LOCAL GREEN SPACE (as shown on the accompanying Plans).Grid References are taken from <i>MAGIC MAPS</i> at a point approximately in the centre of the site)	PROXIMITY TO THE COMMUNITY	DEMONSTRATION OF SPECIAL VALUE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY	LOCAL CHARACTER DESCRIPTION	PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE - RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY
C	<p>Pulford Field (Recreation Area and Football Field)</p> <p>GR: TL 65542542</p>	<p>Located at Bran End on B1257, the road leading north east to Duck End, adjacent on both sides to housing, one side abutting Hornsea Villas and lying to the rear of Bran End Fields.</p>	<p>Open grassed area. Public games amenity now laid out with football posts. Two of its perimeter sides are open to unrestricted public view and access may be obtained from B1257 and also via a public footpath PROW 46-5 running along its eastern boundary, which commences at Bran End Fields. It is owned by the Parish Council and is maintained by them.</p>	<p>Area: 0.52 ha</p> <p>Access to the Field which is adjacent to the housing estate at Bran End Fields (where many young families live) is obtained through a gate in the southern fence. It is used extensively by them for kick about football and general exercise.</p>	<p>There are no particular observations to make.</p>



Site C: Pulford Field (Recreation Area and Football Field)



Site C: Pulford Field (Recreation Area and Football Field)

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D	<p>Village Allotments (The Potton Memorial Allotment), Stebbing</p> <p>GR: TL 65822510</p>	<p>Located on Brick Kiln Lane, a short walking distance from Bran End.</p>	<p>In private ownership, let to the Parish Council since 1985 at a peppercorn, by the estate of its former owner, named in her memory, under successive five year leases and sub-let to any parishioner at a modest rent. There are currently 10 allotment holders on 10 plots. The perimeter hedge along the road is made up of field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>), hazelnut (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) and hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>). It is open to public view from the lane. There are no other allotment grounds in Stebbing. Each plot is in active cultivation with a waiting list of applicants. It is pleasing to note that recently a younger person has become an allotment holder, widening the demographic profile of its occupiers.</p>	<p>Area: 0.2 ha</p> <p>It is in a sheltered and well positioned site for productive vegetable, fruit and flower gardening. The allotment ground is well established with some poly tunnels, sheds, mown paths and the soil is in the main fertile loam. A small spring fed stream, (called Cawndesryver in 1423 and then known as Reedes Gutter in 1517, 1547, 1549, 1580 and thereafter), which leads in a westerly direction to join Stebbing Brook via the meadows described in Site F below, descends along its northern perimeter and is used for irrigation. The trees here are mainly alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>) ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>) and elder (<i>Sambucus niger</i>). To the southwest lies semi-wild vegetation and to the southeast a Leyland cypress (x <i>Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>) hedge. It</p>	<p>‘The Potton Allotments’ were visited on 03/08/2020 and its biodiversity is described below.</p>

				<p>is an attractive area away from traffic, providing a tranquil area for the allotment holders to garden and relax. It is a matter of regret that it is the only allotment ground in the village (the historic allotments were taken over for building of housing at Garden Fields in the 1960s/1970s).</p>	
<p>'The Potton Allotments' were visited on 03/08/2020.</p> <p>No habitat protection designations apply to the site.</p> <p>There are no hedges or trees within the allotments and, being regularly cultivated, a limited range of native flora but some that would be classified as arable weeds. Those seen growing within the plots were: field horsetail (<i>Equisetum arvense</i>), sun spurge (<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>), black nightshade (<i>Solanum nigrum</i>), nipplewort (<i>Lapsana communis</i>), fat hen (<i>Chenopodium album</i>), hedge bindweed (<i>Calystegia sepium</i>), common nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>), creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), shepherd's-purse, (<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>), groundsel (<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>), prickly sow-thistle (<i>Sonchus asper</i>), broad-leaved dock (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>), common chickweed (<i>Stellaria media</i>), small-flowered crane's-bill (<i>Geranium pusillum</i>), black horehound (<i>Ballota nigra</i>), red dead-nettle (<i>Lamium purpureum</i>), redshank (<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>), petty spurge (<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>), fool's parsley (<i>Aethusa cynapium</i>), smooth sow-thistle (<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>), white dead-nettle (<i>Lamium album</i>), green field-speedwell (<i>Veronica agrestis</i>) and field forget-me-not (<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>).</p> <p>Within the grass paths were dandelion (<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.), greater plantain (<i>Plantago major</i>) and creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>).</p> <p>The butterflies - large white (<i>Pieris brassicae</i>), meadow brown (<i>Maniola jurtina</i>) and gatekeeper (<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>) were present in small numbers.</p>					



Site D: Village Allotments (The Potton Memorial Allotment)



Site D: Site Village Allotments (The Potton Memorial Allotment)

Site I.D.	LOCAL GREEN SPACE (as shown on the accompanying Plans). Grid References are taken from <i>MAGIC Maps</i> at a point approximately in the centre of the site)	PROXIMITY TO THE COMMUNITY	DEMONSTRATION OF SPECIAL VALUE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY	LOCAL CHARACTER DESCRIPTION	PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE - RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY
E	<p>Field opposite Stebbing Primary School, High Street, Stebbing</p> <p>GR: TL 659122440</p>	<p>Located on the High Street, in the heart of the Historic Village, adjacent to the Adopted Development Limits, to the Conservation Area, Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monument</p>	<p>A public footpath runs along the western perimeter under a run of established poplar trees commencing from the entrance to Stebbing Park then SE over a footbridge above a stream feeding the lake at Stebbing Park and through a heavily vegetated area ending at the entrance to the Mill Lane Recreation Ground and Cricket Field (Site A). The Field overlooks The Mount, a Scheduled Monument at Stebbing Park, itself a Grade II* Listed Property. It abuts the Village Conservation Area. The area has mature tree/hedge field boundaries on its perimeters, the southern of which provides the boundary to the Mill Lane Recreation Ground and Cricket Field. Part of the field has (by concession) been used for many years as off road car parking for Stebbing Community events, including Open Gardens weekends, the Village Fete and Stebbing Primary School Fete. There is an important view southwards along the linear form of the High Street and the Church. It is part of a green corridor leading from the village core towards the PROW network and the open countryside. Two permissive footpaths cross its drier</p>	<p>Area: 1.3 ha</p> <p>Historic pasture and meadow uncultivated for in excess of 20 years. Agricultural land used historically for grazing. Prior to 1580, the field was described as part of the medieval deer park, or perhaps more accurately as within the manorial enclosure within the deer park. The Stebbing Tithe Award describes it as pasture. Undulating sandy light ground, marshy in its lower portion, with springs arising and collects in its south eastern sector giving rise to a watercourse which supplies a lake to the west (once a mediaeval stew pond) at Stebbing Park and emerging thence to Stebbing Brook. The public footpath (PROW 46-21) running along its western perimeter is part of the extensive network of footpaths in the Parish and in very popular and in extensive use as it connects to PROWs 46-10 and 46-12 (see also Sites A, E and F).</p>	<p>No habitat protection designations apply to the field. However, it is a demonstrably important species rich wildlife area that has benefited from a lack of intensive mechanical and chemical (pesticides or fertiliser) farming inputs over many years, as evidenced by the grassland flora present. The northern portion of the field comprises a dry sandy habitat, while that to the south is damp grassland and scrub. The site was visited on the 15th July 2020 and the plant species listed below were observed.</p>

			<p>northern part, accessed from the PROW, which are used by families walking away from traffic and also by dog walkers. The Field is in private ownership. It was included as a late submission in the UDC "Call for Sites" process under SLAA reference 07Ste16. UDC considered that "Development of the site would introduce built form in an important gap on the west side of the High Street with views across the valley. The site is considered unsuitable as development on the site would not contribute to sustainable patterns of development".</p>		
<p>Plant species observed on 15 July 2020:</p> <p>Arid sand grassland:</p> <p>Grasses: cocksfoot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), small-leaved timothy (<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>), common bent (<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>), false oat grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), meadow foxtail (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>), sweet vernal grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>). Forbs associated with different levels of soil moisture, such as lesser stitchwort (<i>Stellaria graminea</i>), lady's bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>), squarestemmed St. John's-wort (<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>), bracken (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>), sheep's sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>), marsh thistle (<i>Cirsium palustre</i>), nodding or musk thistle (<i>Carduus nutans</i>), dove's-foot crane's-bill (<i>Geranium molle</i>), upright hedge-parsley (<i>Torilis japonica</i>), water mint (<i>Mentha aquatica</i>) and meadow buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>).</p>					
<p>The range of plants species growing on the field support large populations of invertebrates including species of grasshopper and the wasp, beewolf (<i>Philanthus triangulum</i>).</p> <p>The most abundant species of grassland butterflies observed were ringlet, meadow brown (<i>Maniola jurtina</i>), gatekeeper (<i>Pyronia Tithonus</i> subsp. <i>Britanniae</i>), small skillper (<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>) and small heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>).</p> <p>The small heath has several protective designations: it is a priority species under BAP 2007, a species of principal importance under NERC S.41 and designated as 'near threatened' on the GB and England post 2001 Red List.</p> <p>Mammals – there was evidence of moles and rabbits.</p>					



Site E: Field opposite Stebbing Primary School, High Street, Stebbing (view to South)



Site E: Field opposite Stebbing Primary School, High Street, Stebbing

STEBBING NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019 - 2033

Site I.D.	LOCAL GREEN SPACE (as shown on the accompanying Plans). Grid References are taken from <i>MAGIC Maps</i> at a point approximately in the centre of the site)	PROXIMITY TO THE COMMUNITY	DEMONSTRATION OF SPECIAL VALUE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY	LOCAL CHARACTER DESCRIPTION	PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE - RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY
F	<p>Field opposite The Downs, Stebbing</p> <p>GR: TL 65752460</p>	<p>Located on the Downs, separate from the Adopted Development Limits and adjacent to Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monument</p>	<p>On the eastern slope of the Upper Chelmer River Valley with iconic open views westwards across Stebbing Brook and its valley form to a historic meadow beyond and thence to arable plateau land. Two public footpaths cross the area, one (PROW 46-10) proceeding north on the valley floor, along the water meadows lying to the east side of Stebbing Brook, with the Mill Leat running through it and Reedes Gutter descending into it- with dense mixed native trees and shrubs along the stream margins - and the other (PROW 46-12) leading westwards over a bridge to connect to footpaths leading towards Great Dunmow/adjacent to the Ancient Woodlands of Ridleys Wood and Bigods Wood and the Important Woodlands of Nick's Hole, Leaselands Spring and The Fir Wood. The network of PROWs throughout Stebbing is actively used by walkers, runners and cyclists. This is part of a Stebbing circular walk recommended on the <i>Essex Walks</i> website in the terms "Also the walk from Stebbing to</p>	<p>Area: 3.5 ha</p> <p>This field is an enclosed area of land bounded by the main road through Stebbing, The Downs/High Street to the east, a farmland access track and access road to Stebbing Park to the south, Stebbing Brook to the west and to the north, hedgerows and Downs Villas. Historic unimproved pasture and meadow; upper part used for seasonal livestock grazing and lower part for cricket bat willow forestry. Bounded to the western perimeter by Stebbing Brook. Along its Northern boundary lies a length of remaining boundary embankment of the mediaeval deer park of Stebbing Park. It was formerly divided in two parts by a field boundary, being recorded as pasture in a Survey</p>	<p>No habitat protection designations apply to the field. The western part of the field nearest Stebbing Brook is fenced off and densely planted with <i>Salix alba</i> var. <i>caerulea</i> ("cricketbat willow"). Access to the flora of this area, riparian flora and fauna by Stebbing Brook was, therefore, not possible. Cricket Bat Willows are grown in many locations along the banks of the River Chelmer and its tributaries as a commercial crop by or on behalf of the</p>

		<p>Great Dunmow is unusually open, which is great for views and for appreciating the big Essex sky, but could prove chilly in a strong wind". The Stebbing P3 Group (which maintains the PROWs in liaison with Essex CC) has prepared an illustrated guide to all the Walks in Stebbing, and published by Stebbing PC, available free of charge in the Community Shop. The field overlooks the historic Manor House of Stebbing Park and the avenue of mature lime trees (which are subject to TPOs) leading to it. It abuts the Village Conservation Area. "The views (<i>sc.in towards and outwards</i>) provide one of the key components to the setting of the Village" (per para 3.3.1 of The Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Appraisal dated March 2017; The Landscape Partnership). Through it are wildlife corridors used by deer. It forms a transition between the core of the village and the open countryside to the west and valley form north. The field is in private ownership. It was included as a late submission in the UDC "Call for Sites" process under SLAA reference 08Ste16. UDC considered that "Development of the site would introduce built form in an important gap on the west side of the High Street with views across the valley and the potential to impact the Scheduled Ancient Monument. The site is considered unsuitable as development on</p>	<p>by Kent, Claridge and Pearce, prepared for the landowner, the Earl of Essex, in c. 1798 (in private hands) and likewise described in the Stebbing Tithe Award of c 1840 (ERO D/CT 332a). Part of it in the north eastern corner ("Pound Piece") formed the Lord's Pound which was recorded as early as 1441 as "Pundfalde". Part of the (recently restored) flint wall to the Pound lies adjacent to the south-eastern entrance to the field via the kissing gate leading to PROW 46-12 and at the entrance to Stebbing Park. There is the remains of a hydraulic ram (Archimedes Screw) in the field which once supplied water to a Victorian brick cistern located at the summit of the Mount, providing a gravity feed supply to Stebbing Park and its sometime farmyard. The Mount is the surviving motte of a Norman earthwork Motte and Bailey castle. The view from The Downs across the field westwards is probably the most historically significant in the Parish. The area to the west as far as the eye can see was part of the site of the mediaeval deer park which covered over 150 acres. It is first recorded as being in existence in 1204, when it was held by the</p>	<p>world's largest/ leading suppliers of bat blanks – J.S. Wright of Great Leighs. The practice involves their felling after about 20 years and then replacement with rootless willow sets. On the OS map TL62SE of 1955, the field is shown to be divided in two, with the western part depicted as tree planted. The cycle of growing and harvesting this "crop" is notable in this part of Essex and contributes to a particular and distinctive landscape (also recognised as such downstream of Stebbing Brook in the Conservation Area of the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation). The eastern, higher portion of the field comprises a dry sandy habitat, while in the lower middle section to the west in the area of a spring-fed rift that</p>
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			<p>the site would not contribute to sustainable patterns of development”</p>	<p>Norman Lord Hugh de Coulonces, although it is likely to have been first created by the Peverel Family who had been given one of the two Domesday Manors in Stebbing by William the Conqueror. The deer park survived until about 1580 when it was disparked by the then owner Sir Henry Capell (whose descendants later became the Earls of Essex and who continued their ownership of the majority of Stebbing Parish, including of Sites A, E and F until 1901). It later became a rabbit warren and then taken over as pasture. The field immediately opposite is pasture and beyond arable fields. The fields on the valley slopes were part of the disposal by the Earl of Essex in 1901 of Stebbing Park Farm, described as being “of exceedingly rich arable and pasture land beautifully watered by a never failing intersecting stream”.</p>	<p>runs approximately north/south the soil has a much higher moisture content. The rift reveals the presence of a dark, peaty soil, possibly resulting from historic sedge/reed beds. The site was visited on two occasions, on the 26th May 2020 before the cattle were turned out to pasture and on the 15th July 2020, by which time the grassland had been heavily grazed. The plant species described below were observed.</p>
<p>Grasses etc: sweetgrass (probably hybrid sweetgrass (<i>Glyceria x pedicellata</i>)) said to be relished by cattle, meadow foxtail (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>), cocksfoot (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>), Yorkshire fog (<i>Holcus lanatus</i>), small-leaved timothy (<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>), common bent (<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>), false oat grass (<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>), crested dog’s-tail (<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>), hairy sedge (<i>Carex hirta</i>) and hard rush (<i>Juncus inflexus</i>).</p> <p>Forbs associated with different levels of soil moisture, including sheep’s sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosella</i>), common sorrel (<i>Rumex acetosa</i>), abundant nodding (or musk) thistle (<i>Carduus nutans</i>), dove’s-foot crane’s-bill (<i>Geranium molle</i>), cut-leaved crane’s-bill (<i>Geranium dissectum</i>), upright hedge-parsley (<i>Torilis japonica</i>), great willowherb (<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>), common figwort (<i>Schrophularia nodosa</i>), meadow buttercup (<i>Ranunculus acris</i>), bulbous buttercup (<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>), creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), lesser celandine (<i>Ficaria verna</i>), water mint (<i>Mentha aquatica</i>), brooklime (<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>), water cress</p>					

(*Nasturtium officinale*), cuckoo flower (*Cardamine pratensis*), red campion (*Silene dioica*), teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) were noted.

The range of plant species and their proximity to Stebbing Brook support large populations of invertebrates including emergent adult mayfly, swollen-thighed beetle (*Oedemera nobilis*), white-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*), 7-spot ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*) and the moth, [Latticed Heath](#), (*Chiasmia clathrate*).

The most abundant species of grassland butterflies observed were ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*) and meadow brown (*Maniola jurtina*) with small numbers of peacock (*Aglais io*), red admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*), green-veined white (*Pieris napi*), large white (*Pieris brassicae*), small white (*Pieris rapae*) and small heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*). The small heath has several protective designations: it is a priority species under BAP 2007, a species of principal importance under 'England NERC S.41 and designated as 'near threatened' on the GB and England post 2001 Red List.

Mammals - there was evidence of mole and rabbit activity.

Stebbing Brook contains the White Clawed Freshwater Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*). It is Listed as Endangered on the global IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. As the UK's only native freshwater crayfish, the White-clawed crayfish is in decline due to the introduction of the non-native North American signal crayfish. It inhabits small freshwater streams of a depth less than 1 metre, hiding underneath stones and rocks and in small crevices where they forage for food. Stebbing Brook is the only recorded watercourse in Essex where the species is to be found.



Site F: Field opposite The Downs, Stebbing (view to South)



Site F: Field opposite The Downs, Stebbing (view to West)

Site I.D.	LOCAL GREEN SPACE (as shown on the accompanying Plans). Grid References are taken from <i>MAGIC Maps</i> at a point approximately in the centre of the site)	PROXIMITY TO THE COMMUNITY	DEMONSTRATION OF SPECIAL VALUE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY	LOCAL CHARACTER DESCRIPTION	PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE - RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY
G	<p>The Wild Flower Meadow, Stebbing Green (Daphne Rogowski Bequest)</p> <p>GR: TL68412316</p>	<p>Located on Stebbing Green. This field lies to the southwest of the road through Stebbing Green on a southwestern/north-eastern axis. At its narrowest, to the northwest it is bounded by the properties of 'Oak Tree Cottage' to the northwest and 'Seven Acres' to the southeast. It serves both the residents of the Village and those living in its immediate vicinity at Stebbing</p>	<p>It provides an area of tranquillity for residents to enter and stroll. Residents living on the Green and from the Village enter freely as the access gate from Stebbing Green is not locked. Used by the Village School, the Brownies and Cubs for their wildlife and nature classes. As its name denotes, it carries extensive important flora, particulars being set out below. It is owned and managed by the Village Hall Trustees in accordance with good ecological practices under professional guidance.</p>	<p>Area: 3.5 ha</p> <p>It is former agricultural land and was replanted/seeded as a wild flower meadow in accordance with the terms of the bequest of Mrs Rogowski, a former resident, for the pleasure and benefit of the residents of Stebbing.</p>	<p>No habitat protection designations apply to the field. See further below</p>

		Green. It is within an easy cycle ride from the heart of the village.																																			
<p>Apart from the boundary shared with ‘Oak Tree Cottage’, all others are hedged or marked with native woody species. By the road the hedge is a mixture of field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosus</i>), bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>), dog-rose (<i>Rosa canina</i>) and at the most easterly point of the space, a solitary mature English oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>). To the southeast of the field, the boundary shared with ‘Seven Acres’ is hedged with Leyland cypress (x <i>Cupressocyparis leylandii</i>) that continues to the southern-most point of the field with hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>). The boundary shared with Stebbing Village Green contains trees such as field maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>), hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) elm (<i>Ulmus</i> sp.), hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>), bramble (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>), traveller’s-joy (<i>Clematis vitalba</i>), elder (<i>Sambucus niger</i>) and dogwood (<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>).</p> <p>The herbaceous flora of the site comprises a sown and planted strip surrounded by a natural grass area. Species in the sown meadow include, common knapweed (<i>Centaurea nigra</i>), bird’s-foot-trefoil (<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>), field scabious (<i>Knautia arvensis</i>), spiny restharrow (<i>Ononis spinosa</i>), [probably] hedge bedstraw (<i>Galium mollugo</i>), lady’s bedstraw (<i>Galium verum</i>), meadow crane’s-bill (<i>Geranium pratense</i>) yellow-rattle (<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>), oxeye daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>), yarrow (<i>Achillea millefolium</i>) and ribwort plantain (<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>). The grass area surrounding the central wildflower area has a number of heritage apple trees (planted) and growing within the sward are spear thistle (<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>), creeping thistle (<i>Cirsium arvense</i>), selfheal (<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>), creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>), broad-leaved dock, (<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>), lesser stitchwort (<i>Stellaria graminea</i>) and lesser hawkbit (<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>).</p>																																					
<p>The Daphne Rogowski meadow is surveyed annually for butterflies, and on a weekly basis between 1st April and the 30th September. It represents one section of a larger survey transect at Stebbing Green which comprises 8 sections in total. Data obtained from this is uploaded to the UK Butterfly Monitoring Survey (UKBMS) website.</p> <p>Data for the Daphne Rogowski meadow alone for the years 2017 and 2019 are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="224 1085 1232 1394"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>2017</th> <th>2019</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Coenonympha pamphilus</td> <td>34</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small White</td> <td>Pieris rapae</td> <td>2</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meadow Brown</td> <td>Maniola jurtina</td> <td>263</td> <td>217</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gatekeeper / Hedge Brown</td> <td>Pyronia tithonus</td> <td>9</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Copper</td> <td>Lycaena phlaeas</td> <td></td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peacock</td> <td>Inachis io</td> <td></td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Small Tortoiseshell</td> <td>Aglais urticae</td> <td>5</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>								2017	2019		Coenonympha pamphilus	34	10	Small White	Pieris rapae	2	12	Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	263	217	Gatekeeper / Hedge Brown	Pyronia tithonus	9	19	Small Copper	Lycaena phlaeas		3	Peacock	Inachis io		6	Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	5	13
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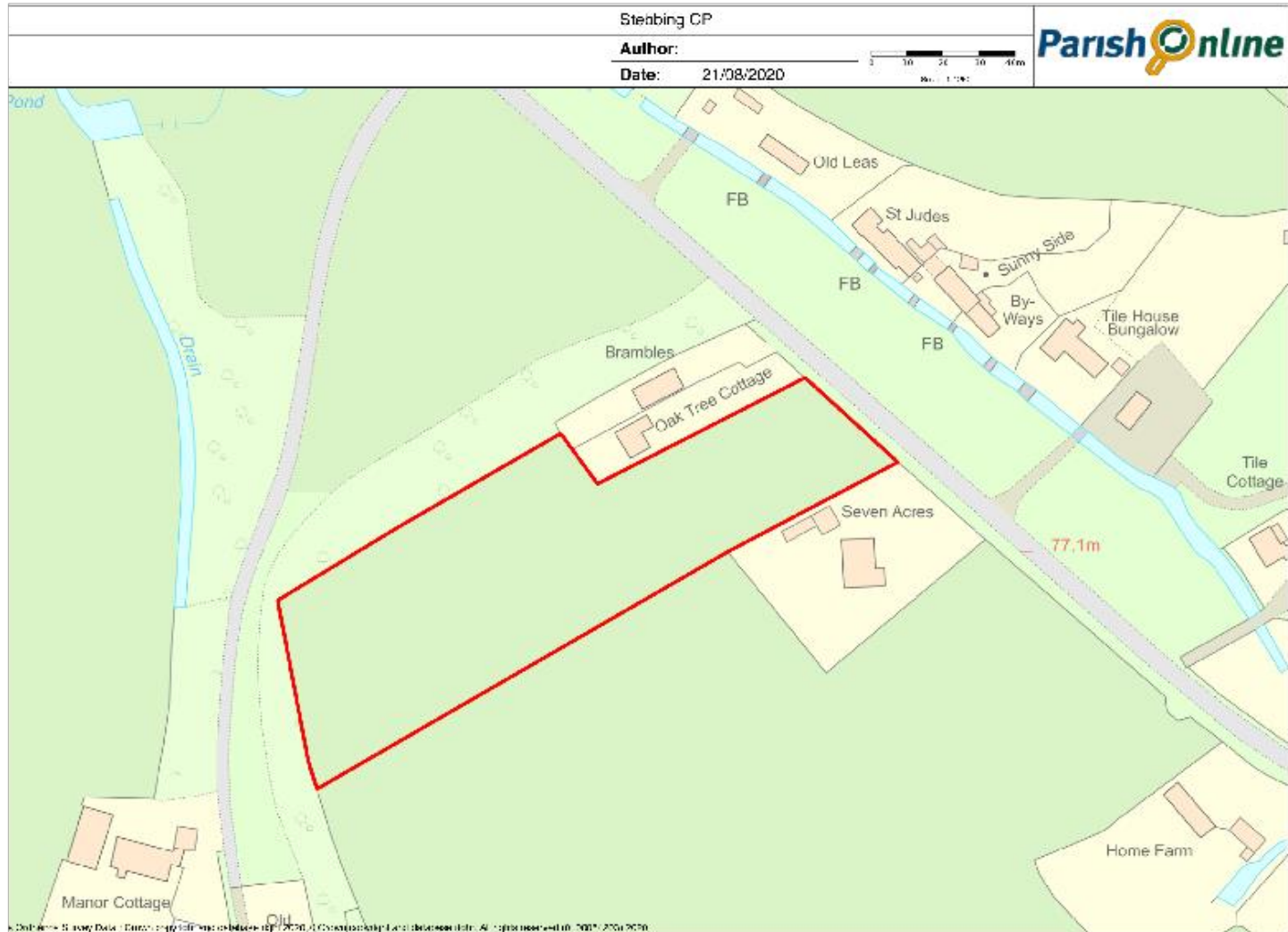
Large White	Pieris brassicae	3	8
Brimstone	Gonepteryx rhamni		1
Orange Tip	Anthocharis cardamines		1
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	68	4
	Vanessa (Cynthia)		
Painted Lady	cardui	2	1
Marbled White	Melanargia galathea		1
Small Skipper	Thymelicus sylvestris	7	2
Small/Essex Skipper	Small/Essex Skipper	6	3
Essex Skipper	Thymelicus lineola	2	1
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	1	2
TOTAL		402	304

Day-flying moths are also monitored. the six-spot burnet (*Zygaena filipendulae*) is particularly abundant.



Site G: The Wild Flower Meadow, Stebbing Green

STEBBING NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019 - 2033



Site G: The Wild Flower Meadow, Stebbing Green

STEBBING NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019 - 2033

I.D	LOCAL GREEN SPACE (as shown on the accompanying Plans). Grid References are taken from <i>MAGIC Maps</i> at a point approximately in the centre of the site)	PROXIMITY TO THE COMMUNITY	DEMONSTRATION OF SPECIAL VALUE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY	LOCAL CHARACTER DESCRIPTION	PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE - RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY
H	<p>Field at Bran End, Stebbing</p> <p>GR: TL65392515</p>	<p>Located in the heart of Bran End, lying off Brick Kiln Lane, enclosed by housing on three sides and by Stebbing Brook on the fourth, within very easy walking distance of all Bran End residents. It is adjacent to six Listed Buildings. It adjoins the Adopted Development Limits.</p>	<p>A public footpath PROW 46-8 runs diagonally through the field, proceeding between housing at Brookfields and emerging between Copstones and The Mill House on B 1057. The footpath is the only means whereby the community living on B1057 may, given the absence of footways, reach Bran End on foot avoiding the blind corner exiting Brick Kiln Lane at The Green Man. The field has for a number of years been used by residents for informal recreation away from traffic, including dog walking – an informal</p>	<p>Area: > 3 ha</p> <p>It is former arable land but has not been cultivated commercially for in excess of 20 years. It has been considered worthy of depiction in a 1940 painting (by JW Little of Appledore – one of the adjacent buildings – included in Stebbing Local History Archive). In the Tithe Award and previously, the field was divided in three, the majority being part of the Rands tenement, whose name and location can be traced back to before 1423, being within the jurisdiction of Porter’s Hall Manor. In the valley below are two water courses, one being Stebbing Brook and the other the man</p>	<p>While no habitat protection designations apply to the field, it is however an area containing demonstrably important species with rich wildlife that has benefited from a lack of intensive mechanical and chemical (pesticides or fertiliser) farming inputs. The site is now a large area of seminatural grassland that supports a great many animal species in addition to the plant species, including invertebrates and vertebrates. See further below.</p>

			<p>permissive footpath around the perimeter has thus been created. The field is in private ownership. It was included in the UDC "Call for Sites" process under SLAA reference 02Ste15. UDC considered that "The Site is considered unsuitable because it would consolidate this loose knit group of dwellings, and have a detrimental impact on the wider countryside setting of the listed buildings. it would not contribute to sustainable patterns of development"</p>	<p>made leet of Bran End Water Mill, whose origins can be traced back to 1423. The land along the whole of the valley floor between the two water courses, Pound Field (Site F) and what is now B1057 was very valuable meadow land, called before 1371 "Holemede", or its later equivalent, namely "Hall Meadow" (reflecting its proximity to the manor house). Its quality and value was recognised in the Survey by Kent, Claridge and Pearce, prepared for the landowner, the Earl of Essex, in c. 1798, since its yearly value was given as 20/= per acre, compared with pasture at 18/= and arable land at 12 – 15/=.</p>	
<p>Amongst the many other plant species there is a significant population of one arable weed species, Common Cudweed (<i>Filago vulgaris</i>) that is designated as "near threatened" on the GB and England post 2001 Red List.</p>					

The range of plant species growing on the field support large populations of different species of grassland butterflies. One, the Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*) has several protective designations: it is a priority species under BAP 2007, a species of principal importance under 'England NERC S.41 and designated as 'near threatened' on the GB and England post 2001 Red List.

In 2017 the following plant, butterfly and bird species were recorded on behalf of the Essex Biological Records Centre and validated by the Cambridge and Essex Butterfly Conservation Trust and are now entered onto the National database. They include:

Flowering plants -

Filago vulgaris (Common Cudweed)

Centaureum erythraea (Common Centaury)

Birds

36 x *Sturnus vulgaris* (Starling),

2 x *Picus viridis* (Green Woodpecker),

Delichon urbicum (House Martin)

Butterflies

1 x *Colias croceus* (Clouded Yellow),

3 x *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Small Heath),

39 x *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown),

5 x *Pyronia tithonus subsp. Britanniae* (Gatekeeper),

3 x *Aglais urticae* (Small Tortoiseshell),

4 x *Aricia agestis* (Brown Argus),

32 x *Polyommatus Icarus* (Common Blue),

Thymelicus lineola (Essex Skipper),

10 x *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Small Skipper)



Site H: Field at Bran End, Stebbing (view to North West)



Site H: Field at Bran End, Stebbing

**STEBBING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:
LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION
ANNEXE**

BIRDLIFE IN STEBBING 2020

The last survey of birds in Stebbing would appear to have been carried out in 1975.

At that time, 81 species of bird were recorded, although the list is one of birds recorded, with no indication of distribution or regularity.

Of the remaining species then recorded, the following seven are no longer recorded in the village:

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (last recorded by me in April 2015), Tree Sparrow, Reed Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Nightingale, Snipe, and Turtle Dove.

As detailed in my article published in the summer 2020 edition of *Stebbing Scene*, since Lockdown started, I recorded **71** species of birds in the Parish, plus **2** more noted (Tawny Owl and Sedge Warbler) subsequent to date of the article.

In terms of linking the rarer and most vulnerable of these species to Stebbing and particularly the LGS sites referred to in the LGS Assessment, it is particularly useful to consider their status with reference to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) 2015 Study “Birds of Conservation Concern”, which was updated at the beginning of 2020.

This Study identified 67 species as being on the red list, which means that they are very vulnerable, and of major concern, and 96 species are on the amber list, which means they are of some concern and need to be monitored.

Of the **73** species of bird I recorded in the Parish during the first six months of 2020, **16 are on the red list and 14 are on the amber list.**

I will now list the 16 species on the **Red List** and detail their status ie whether they are either Resident (R) Summer Visitor (SV) or Winter Visitor (WV).

I will also indicate population changes, the locations observed and relevance of the **LGS's** where appropriate (shown below as underlined), plus any other significant factors.

GREY PARTRIDGE (R) Population decline of 70% since the mid 1970's. Recorded on several early mornings last year on Stebbing Airfield.

LAPWING (WV) Population decline of 80% since the mid 1970's. Present in flocks on farmland around Stebbing during the winter months.

CUCKOO (SV) Population decline of 70%+ since the mid 1970's. 1/2 male birds present and singing from early April particularly favouring the areas around the Allotments, Stebbing Park and the trees surrounding several of the LGS's.

SKYLARK (R) Population decline of 75% since the mid 1970's. Present on farmland and the Stebbing Green Wild Flower Meadow. I would estimate the local population being 20+ pairs currently.

STARLING (R) Population decline of 65%+ since the mid 1970's. Present all around the village and frequently use all of the LGS's for feeding. They appear to have had a particularly good breeding year and flocks of up to 200 birds are present.

FIELDFARE (WV) Population decline of 30%+ since the early 2000's. Winter flocks of up to 100 birds can be found around the village with Mill Lane RG, and the fields opposite both the School and the Downs being favourite feeding areas.

SONG THRUSH (R) Population decline of 50%+ since the mid 1970's. 3+ pairs present throughout the village which favour all of the LGS's for feeding areas.

REDWING (WV) Population decline of 30% since the early 2000's. Winter flocks of up to 50 birds can be found around the village sometimes mixed with Fieldfares and favouring the same feeding areas.

MISTLE THRUSH (R) Population decline of 50%+ since the mid 1970's. 5+ pairs present throughout the village which favour all of the LGS's for feeding areas.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (SV) Population decline of 85%+ since the mid 1970's. 2 breeding pairs in the village this year, one in the vicinity of the Allotments and the second in one of the oak trees opposite Porters Hall.

WHINCHAT (SV) Population decline of 30%+ since 2010. A single male bird present for one day on migration in April on Stebbing Airfield.

HOUSE SPARROW (R) Population decline of 50% since the mid 1970's. A number of colonies of varying sizes are present throughout the village and use all the LGS's for feeding areas.

YELLOW WAGTAIL (SV) Population decline of 75%+ since the mid 1970's. 5+ pairs breed around the village, particularly in the vicinity of Stebbing Airfield, White House Road and Stebbing Green Wildflower Meadow.

GREY WAGTAIL (R) Population decline of 30%+ since 2000. 2+ pairs breed on Stebbing Brook, both pairs seen bred successfully and had juveniles with them.

LINNET (R) Population decline of 55%+ since the mid 1970's.. Small flocks are present around the Parish, plus a flock of 30+ birds are located on Stebbing Airfield. These birds will regularly use the LGS's to feed, particularly in winter.

YELLOWHAMMER (R) Population decline of 50%+ since 2000. 15+ pairs present in hedgerows around the village, particularly favouring the areas around the Stebbing Green Wildflower Meadow.

The 14 species recorded around the village on the Amber List are as follows:

Mute Swan (R), Mallard (R), Black-headed Gull (R), Lesser Black Backed Gull (R), Stock Dove (R), Tawny Owl (R), Swift (SV), Kingfisher (R), Kestrel (R), House Martin (SV), Willow Warbler (SV), Dunnock (R), Bullfinch (R), Reed Bunting (R).

Howard Jolliffe

15 July 2020