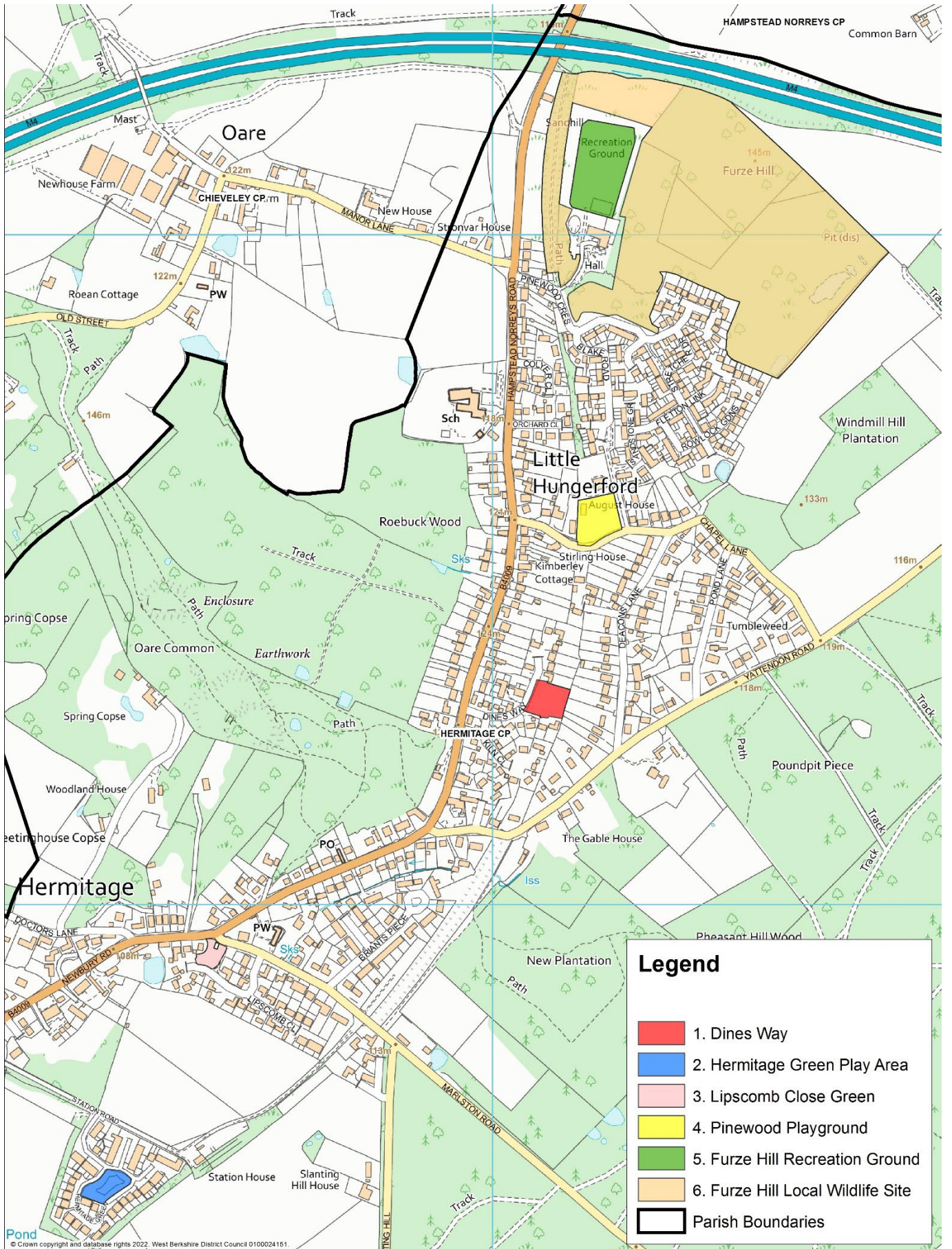









# **Hermitage Neighbourhood Plan Green Spaces Audit January 2023**



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Name and address	Description and purpose	Quality of facility (including any deficiencies)
<p data-bbox="125 312 488 339">Dines Way Green RG18 9TF</p> 	<p data-bbox="696 312 1440 459">Informal, grassed open space containing oak trees protected by a tree preservation order extensively used by local dog owners, children and occasionally for informal street events"</p>	<p data-bbox="1462 312 2101 499">Bordered by the road on one side, 1.8m close boarded fence, recently replaced on another and houses. Partially surveilled. The grass is mown regularly and trees surveyed every 2 years.</p>
<p data-bbox="125 695 611 722">Hermitage Green play area RG18 9SL</p> 	<p data-bbox="696 695 1440 842">Grassy area including children’s playground, overlooked by housing on all sides. The play area itself is surrounded by a small area of landscaping containing bushes, shrubs and some 14 young trees.</p> <p data-bbox="696 850 1440 1037">It consists of a number of items of play equipment securely mounted within a child-safe, 1.2m high fenced area with latched entrance gates. This play area is both popular and very well used by children during summer months.</p>	<p data-bbox="1462 695 2101 994">Encircled by roads, therefore casual surveillance is possible. The grass is mown regularly and hedges kept trimmed. Trees when damaged or diseased have been replaced in the past by West Berkshire Council (WBC). The playground equipment has been subject to annual health &amp; safety inspections &amp; repairs as necessary by WBC.</p>
<p data-bbox="125 1078 544 1106">Lipscomb Close Green RG18 9SZ</p> 	<p data-bbox="696 1078 1440 1305">Informal, grassed open space containing trees protected by a tree preservation order, including acer Drumondii, lime oak sycamore and oak monolith and Millennium memorial including time capsule. This informal space is used by residents for informal celebrations and youngsters for football.</p>	<p data-bbox="1462 1078 2101 1265">Bordered by roads on two sides, therefore casual surveillance is possible, close boarded fence on others, including an eco pile of the arisings from making the monolith safe and some houses.</p> <p data-bbox="1462 1273 2101 1345">The grass is mown regularly. Trees are surveyed every 2 years</p>

<p>Pinewood playground RG18 9RP</p> 	<p>Children's playground in informal grassed open space mostly mowed but some left for wildlife reasons, surrounded by and including trees including elm, oak, Scots pine, silver birch and whitebeam. Refurbished in 2005. A number of pieces of equipment The Scout hut is in the park. Very well used by the Cub Pack, offering a safe enclosed area to run a large number of weekly sessions/activities.</p>	<p>The area is encircled with trees and partially surveilled by CCTV from the Scout Hut. Most of the grass is mown regularly. Some is retained for biodiversity The single ended MUGA needs replacing because of weld failure. Weekly checks are undertaken by the council's contractor, monthly ones by a councillor and annual health and safety checks by a ROSPA approved contractor. Trees are surveyed every 2 years</p>
<p>Furze Hill Recreation Ground RG18 9WL</p> 	<p>This is a space that is well used for dog walking, regular junior football training and matches by a local football club, exercise classes and informal recreation. The multi use games area is popular with local youngsters. This is a wonderful community space and ever more important when it comes to staying healthy. It is also a centre for village activities such as fetes.</p>	<p>The recreation ground is surrounded by embankments on 2 sides, woods to the east and is close to the Village Hall and carpark to the south. There are 2 benches on the embankment.</p>
<p>Furze Hill Local Wildlife Site RG18 9WL</p> 	<p>The site includes a butterfly meadow and woods, some of which is open to the public, some closed for the safety of both people and resident wildlife. It also includes the Eling Way, a very popular and well used active travel route. The whole site is subject to a tree preservation order. Residents enjoy walking their dogs and seeing the flora and fauna which are often commented on in social media. It is even used for training the captive birds of prey owned by a villager.</p>	<p>This is an excellent and varied open space adjacent to the recreation ground bordered on the north by the M4 motorway, fields to the east and housing and a road to the south. Wildflowers such as wood anemone, bluebells, primroses and sanicle bloom in the woods in the spring. A health and safety inspection is made on the trees every 2 years. Many ash trees have recently been removed because of ash die back. The meadow has orchids amongst many other flowers in the summer.</p>

## Assessment of proposed Local Green Spaces within Hermitage parish

Title deeds for each proposed Local Green Space are available on request

Site name	Ownership	Description and purpose	Statutory designation	Close to community it serves	Demonstrably special to its community	Local and not extensive
1. Dines Way Green, RG18 9TF	Hermitage Parish Council	Informal, grassed open space containing oak trees protected by a tree preservation order, extensively used by local dog owners, children and occasionally for informal street events"	No	Within Hermitage village. Surrounded on 2 sides by dwellings, very short walk from others	The space is valued by young people for the opportunity to engage in informal play. It is also valued by local residents as a green 'lung' for the residential area it serves and is a space for the community to gather on a daily basis.	0.274 ha
2. Hermitage Green play area, RG18 9SL	Hermitage Parish Council	Grassy area including children's playground, overlooked by housing on all sides. The play area itself is surrounded by a small area of landscaping containing bushes, shrubs and some 14 young trees. It consists of a number of items of play equipment securely mounted within a child-safe, 1.2m high fenced area with latched entrance gates.	No	Within Hermitage village. Encircled by dwellings very short walk from others.	This play area is both popular and very well used by children during summer months.	0.22 ha
3. Lipscomb Close Green, RG18 9SZ	Hermitage Parish Council	Informal, grassed open space containing trees protected by a tree preservation order, including acer drumondii, lime oak sycamore	No	Within Hermitage village. Short walk from some dwellings,	This space is valued by local residents as a green 'lung' for the residential area it	0.0364 ha

		and oak monolith. Also includes the Millennium memorial with a buried time capsule. This informal space is used by residents for informal celebrations and youngsters for football.		surrounded on 3 sides by others.	serves and is a space for the community to gather on a daily basis. Children value it as a space for informal recreation. It is also a haven for wildlife, partly due to the presence of mature oaks.	
4. Pinewood playground, RG18 9RP	Hermitage Parish Council	Children's playground in informal grassed open space mostly mowed but some left for wildlife reasons, surrounded by and including trees including elm, oak, Scots pine, silver birch and whitebeam. Refurbished in 2005, with various new pieces of equipment added. The Scout hut is also in the park and is used regularly by the Scouts.	No	Within Hermitage village. Very close to many dwellings. 15-minute walk from most of the settlement	Very well used by the Cub Pack, offering a safe enclosed area to run a large number of weekly sessions/ activities. It is considered to be a special place by many local children.	0.3833 ha
5. Furze Hill Recreation Ground, RG18 9WL	Hermitage Parish Council	This is a space that is well used for dog walking, regular junior football training and matches by a local football club, exercise classes and informal recreation.	No	On edge of Hermitage village. Very close to about 40% of homes in the area, maximum of 25-minute walk from far end of settlement	This is a wonderful community space and ever more important when it comes to staying healthy. The multi use games area is popular with local youngsters. It is also a centre for village activities such as fetes. The space is greatly valued by players at	1.01 ha

					the local football club, being the only space where they can engage in formal sport in the village.	
6. Furze Hill Local Wildlife Site, RG18 9WL	Hermitage Parish Council	The site includes a butterfly meadow and woods, some of which is open to the public, some closed for the safety of both people and resident wildlife. It also includes part of the route of the Eling Way, a very popular and well used active travel route. It is even used for training the captive birds of prey owned by a villager.	Local Wildlife Site	Very close to about 40% of homes in the area, maximum of 25-minute walk from far end of settlement	Residents enjoy walking their dogs and seeing the flora and fauna which are often commented on in social media. It is a space for exercise and fresh air, both for cyclists along the Eling Way and walkers.	13.73ha – whilst a comparatively large area, it consists of a number of small areas that interlink and provide a varied environment for all to enjoy