



ODIHAM AND NORTH WARNBOROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2014-2032

EVIDENCE FOR LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION BY SITE/AREA:

Criteria for designating a Local Green Space (LGS), taken from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) section 77 are as follows:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Summary of Community Views on LGS

The importance of green space to the Community has been in evidence throughout the Steering Group's engagement and consultation to date.

In January 2015, 84% of the public (or 348/412) prioritised '*the preservation of our heritage, including conservation areas and views/landscape over the provision of new community/recreation facilities.*'

In March 15, in a survey of 26 Year 10 and 11 Geography students from Odiham and North Warnborough facilitated in events at Robert May's School, *natural environment* mattered most to them, ranked equal first with school and friends. Among the 165 including students from the school's wider catchment area, who are also stakeholders, natural environment came a close third (114/165) after school (136) and friends (115).

When the students were asked how they would improve the villages of Odiham and North Warnborough, '*protect green spaces*' was the most popular suggestion among this group of young people (108/165), and equal first with '*improve parking*' among those from this parish (17/26).

In May 2015, a series of public consultation events were carried out, that offered the opportunity to complete a survey on various aspects of the Draft Plan, including specific questions on local green spaces.

666 of the 711 respondents to the survey questionnaire answered Question 6 (see below for the question), ranking any sites that they agreed should ideally be designated as Local Green Spaces. The sites offered in the question were:

- Close Meadow
- Dunleys Hill
- Hockleys Farm
- Kitchen Garden
- Land to the East of Archery Fields
- Land behind Beech Cottage, King Street

Q6. GREEN SPACES “We are currently giving consideration to the possibility of designating any one or more of the following 6 sites as Local Green Spaces (LGS) if they are capable of qualifying as such. If they do qualify, it affords them a higher level of protection from development. You can see these sites on the Proposals Map. These open spaces are believed to be valued by the community for reasons such as their beauty, views, historic importance or recreational use and consequently are where future development should be resisted. Please note that designation as LGS does not create rights of public access in addition to any that might already exist (e.g. a public footpath), nor impose any obligation on the landowner to maintain the land for public benefit. Please rank any sites that you agree should ideally be designated as Local Green Spaces, ticking 1 for your highest priority down to 6 for your lowest priority”

Most respondents (95%) ranked all sites as contenders for LGS designation; a minority were selective and ranked fewer. This Appendix includes quantitative data from this May 2015 survey. A seventh candidate for LGS designation - the

Deer Park - is included in this Pre-Submission Draft Plan. This reflects the strength of community feedback in consultation and more recent information regarding the size of spaces being designated as LGS following Examination in some recent Neighbourhood Plans.

The seven areas of land proposed below are believed to meet all of the three NPPF criteria, for potential LGS designation; as follows by site/area:

Close Meadow (approx 2.5 ha)

Meeting NPPF criteria

NPPF Criteria	Comments
Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	This space immediately adjoins the settlement boundary, it is close to the main developed areas of Odiham and is within short walking distance of the established residential area to the North and West (see site 11.i on the Proposals Map)
Where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife	This space contributes to the visual attractiveness and setting of the historic settlement of Odiham. It affords particularly good views into the Grade 1 listed Church and other listed buildings close by. The historic importance of this space is recognised by its designation as part of the Odiham Conservation Area. It provides a tranquil green space which can be appreciated by users of the adjoining public footpaths.
Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The space is approximately 2.5 ha in area and is clearly defined by hedgerows, fencing and the main Alton Road (A32) to the West. The space also provides an important landscaped feature to the setting of the village.

Further Evidence of Local Significance

"Odiham's Close and its Meadow with the beautiful fir tree is part of Odiham's history and heritage."

Resident, Consultation May 2015

In May 2015, 618 members of the Community endorsed Close Meadow as a contender for LGS. It was the top priority for 92 people, and a top three candidate for 398 (60% of those who answered Q6).

Close Meadow lies within the Odiham Conservation Area. The Conservation Area Assessment and the more recent Odiham Conservation Area – Assessment of Setting highlights the key contribution the Meadow makes to the conservation area. It provides striking views towards the Grade 1 listed church, other listed buildings and the village centre from one of the main roads into the parish and from two public footpaths.

Hart District Council's Conservation Area Assessment of Setting document dated 15 July 2014 (page 25, section 4.1.3) describes in more detail the value and importance of the visual attractiveness of the space and its setting within the historic settlement of Odiham:

"This site is located within the Conservation Area, to the west of All Saints Church. It is in close proximity to listed buildings on the northern side of The Close (western end of the High Street) and on the western side of The Bury, including All Saints Church and The Bury House. Close Meadow rises southwards from The Close and rises from the Alton Road before sloping gently away towards The Bury (from west to east). The open character of this field and the rising topography affords important views onto the listed buildings of The Bury as well as views across the site.

The site cuts into the historic core of the Conservation Area and provides a strong link to Odiham's historic rural setting. Development of this site would sever this link and would have harmful impacts on important views across the Conservation Area. There are important views within the Conservation Area across Close Meadow, a relatively large area of open space on the eastern side of the Alton Road. Views across this field are considered to be among the more significant within the Conservation Area."

In the Odiham Conservation Area Character Appraisal (December 2008, page 43 section 9.1.2.) the importance of this green space is recognised as follows:

“Because of the location of the town on a slightly north-facing slope, largely surrounded by countryside, the views into and out of the town to this rural setting, with its many mature trees, are a major component in the positive features which contribute to Odiham’s special character. The areas round the Deer Park and Close Meadow are particularly sensitive and the protection of the rural qualities of Odiham’s immediate surroundings, which in places “infiltrate” into the town centre (such as Chamberlain Gardens and the churchyard), is therefore extremely important”.

Close Meadow is adjacent to Close Walk along its northern boundary, an historic thoroughfare that connects the western estates of Odiham with the village centre and the secondary and primary schools near each end. Close Walk is used on a daily basis by many local residents, including school children, especially during the winter when deciduous leaves along Close Walk disappear and views across Close Meadow are more evident.

Views across Close Meadows to All Saints Church are particularly spectacular.

There is evidence (see photograph below of Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee celebration from Odiham Society archive) that this space was used by the Victorians and Edwardians as a place to hold village celebrations.



It has been used in more modern times for holding the Church Fete.

Dunleys Hill (approx 3.5 ha)

Meeting NPPF criteria

NPPF Criteria	Comments
Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	This space immediately adjoins the settlement boundaries, located between the 2 settlements of Odiham and North Warnborough (see site 11.ii on the Proposals Map). It is therefore in close proximity to much of the residential areas of both settlements.
Where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife	The permissive footpath route crossing this space is used regularly for walking and exercising dogs and provides a short-cut to/from Robert May's Secondary School. The land is a green space between the villages and in the past has been used for community events such as fairs and circuses. There are important views to and from the Conservation Area.
Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The space proposed to be designated as Local Green Space is approximately 3.5 ha in area, defined by hedge and tree boundaries and the adjoining road, Dunleys Hill. The space is in a prominent focal position physically separating the two villages and its important gap function is recognised by a local gap designation (policy 3 of this Plan). In addition, it provides visual relief in the built-up frontage along the main road and helps to retain a rural feel to the two villages.

Further Evidence of Local Significance

“There are not many natural meadows left for wild life. The fields on Dunley’s Hill are a haven for wild life.”

Resident, Consultation May 2015

In May 2015, 622 members of the Community endorsed the space at Dunleys Hill as a candidate for LGS. 211 placed it first, and 432 considered it one of their top three (65% of those who answered Q6).

Hart District Council’s Conservation Area Assessment of Setting document dated 15 July 2014 (page 25, section 4.1.1) includes the following:

“The site is located adjacent to the Conservation Area along the eastern end of West Street and its junction with Dunley’s Hill. Dunley’s Hill forms the edge of the chalk downland as it slopes down to the valley floor around North Warnborough. The open character of the large open field to the west of Dunley’s Hill provides important views to and from the Odiham Conservation Area and is a significant space between Odiham and North Warnborough. The field to the west of Dunley’s Hill provides an important space that provides definition between Odiham and North Warnborough. Development of the site would physically blur the definition between Odiham and North Warnborough and would visually divorce this part of Odiham from its rural setting.

Key views: Towards the Conservation Area - The open character of the field and sloping topography provides important views onto the Conservation Area along Dunleys Hill and Western Lane. Mature trees and hedgerows define the edge of the Odiham Conservation Area and the open cultivated character of the field contributes to the rural setting on the approaches to Odiham from the north. Away from the Conservation Area - There are important views northwards from the Western Lane and the junction with Dunley’s Hill. Mature trees and the hedgerow boundary to the field beyond reinforce the rural setting of the Conservation Area and allow glimpses onto the wider valley floor landscape beyond. This includes views onto the North Warnborough Conservation Area”.

Hockleys Farm (approx 5.8 ha)

Meeting NPPF criteria

NPPF Criteria	Comments
Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	This space immediately adjoins the settlement boundaries of North Warnborough and Odiham (see site 11.iii on the Proposals Map) and immediately adjoins Robert May's Secondary School.
Where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife	Valued and attractive green edge to settlements with footpaths to open countryside. The footpaths link the settlement area to the open countryside beyond which give walkers access to the network of public footpaths located within the adjoining countryside. It establishes the rural character of the villages, with their closely adjacent farmland. There are views of special note towards Odiham and across the Whitewater valley towards Greywell.
Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The space proposed to be designated as Local Green Space is approximately 5.8 ha in area. It is an enclosed space well defined by field boundary hedgerows, fencing and the adjoining West Street.

Further Evidence of Local Significance

"Should be protected for reasons of access, safety, views and historical importance."

Resident, Consultation May 2015

In May 2015, 618 members of the Community endorsed Hockley's Farm as a contender for LGS. 98 people ranked it first, and 324 people included it in their top three (49% of those who answered Q6).

This site is on the boundary of the Conservation Area and is mentioned in the North Warnborough Conservation Area document (March 2009) as an open space with a view and vista of special note towards Odiham. It is crossed by public footpaths which link Odiham and North Warnborough to each other and to the countryside beyond through the important rural gap between the villages.

Kitchen Garden (approx 0.35 ha)

Meeting NPPF criteria

NPPF Criteria	Comments
Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	This space immediately adjoins the settlement boundary, (see site 11.iv on the Proposals Map). It is in close proximity to the village centre and many of the residential areas of Odiham.
Where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife	This space contributes to the visual attractiveness and setting of the historic settlement of Odiham. It affords particularly good views of the Grade 1 listed Church and other listed buildings close by. The historic importance of this space is recognised by its designation as part of the Odiham Conservation Area. It provides a tranquil green space which can be appreciated by users of the adjoining public footpaths.
Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The space proposed to be designated as Local Green Space is approximately 0.35 ha in area, and is an enclosed space defined by boundary walls of brick. Its undeveloped nature allows uninterrupted views of the church tower from various vantage points.

Further Evidence of Local Significance

"It is critical we have some green space in the historic centre of Odiham."

Resident, Consultation May 2015

In May 2015, 594 members of the Community supported the Kitchen Garden as a contender for LGS designation. 29 people placed it first, while it was a top three priority for 228 (34% of those who answered Q6).

It holds a particular local significance due to its historic significance, tranquillity and, most importantly, its contribution to the character of an area that is regarded by residents as not simply the heart of the village but the physical embodiment of what makes Odiham special.

The Odiham Conservation Area Character Appraisal outlines in its spatial analysis the particular contribution made to the conservation area by what it calls 'Character Area 3: The Bury and All Saints', the area in which the Kitchen Garden is situated. The Kitchen Garden is a key component of character area 3, making an important contribution to the village's layout, street pattern, open spaces, landscape, focal buildings and views.

The Appraisal notes: *'This area retains the character of an early settlement with the irregularly sapped former market place (The Bury) sitting in front of the church. The narrow streets or lanes which lead into or out of The Bury add to its qualities'. It goes on to talk of 'the charms of the streetscape', 'the attractive churchyard' and the way 'the children's playground and community tennis courts (Chamberlain Gardens) links the almshouses and churchyard with the green open spaces beyond... there is the feeling of gradually reducing intensity of development, cascading down in scale as the green perimeter of the town is reached'.*

It goes on to point out what is widely acknowledged, indeed felt, by residents, namely that although the High Street is the commercial centre of the village, The Bury 'acts as the town centre'. It is regarded as both physically the heart of the village and the place which, through its combination of listed buildings, tranquillity, charm, character, combination of greenery and built form, and simple

everyday use by people going to and fro on foot to work, shops, schools and other places, is considered the real heart of the village.

The Appraisal lists the 'significant' buildings ('focal buildings') which help define the conservation area. Several of these are adjacent to the Kitchen Garden, namely Bury House, (Grade 2 listed); All Saints' Church, (Grade 1 listed); the almshouses (parts listed Grade 2*) next to the church; and Mayhill Primary School. To this list we would add The Pest House in the churchyard (Grade 2 listed) and the village stocks in The Bury (Grade 2 listed), The Bell public house in The Bury (Grade 2) and The Bridewell Building in The Bury (listed Grade 2). What you therefore have is several buildings which would be considered key elements in the popular mind of what constitutes the 'typical' English village: church, 'the big house', the school, the pub and the village square. To this we would add the sense of being in a rural area which arises from the greenery and pervading tranquillity.

The Appraisal further notes, with direct relevance to The Kitchen Garden's claim to be considered a valued local green space, 'brick... is the predominant material for boundary walls and the conservation area provides many examples of high, brick walls these walls, coupled with the mature trees and shrubbery, create an important tunnel effect on entering the conservation area. The approach along Close Walk past the Kitchen Garden into the churchyard and The Bury is just such a tunnel'.

The contribution of the Kitchen Garden is not just through its juxtaposition with other elements of the heart of the village. The absence of development on it means that, together with the churchyard, Chamberlain Gardens and Close Meadow, it forms a green, visual corridor into the heart of the village from public footpaths and the Alton Road. The countryside which surrounds Odiham thus infiltrates into the heart of the village.

There is also an historic significance to the Kitchen Garden in the eyes of residents. Although it has been in separate ownership from Bury House since 2005, the Kitchen Garden is associated locally with the Chamberlain sisters who lived at Bury House for many years. Their brother Neville Chamberlain moved to Highfield Park near Odiham after resigning as Prime Minister in 1940 so as to be near his sisters as his health declined. The Chamberlain sisters donated land to

the parish. This land included Chamberlain Gardens, immediately to the south of the Kitchen Garden. The Bury House, the Kitchen Garden and Chamberlain Gardens are thus regarded by residents as a single historical entity which links Odiham both to important benefactors to the parish and to the most significant event of 20th century world history. This historic significance, so noteworthy and important to residents and yet perhaps of little interest to those living outside the parish, serves to emphasise just how 'local in character' is the desire to designate the Kitchen Garden as a Local Green Space.



Land to the East of Archery Fields (approx 2.6 ha)

Meeting NPPF criteria

NPPF Criteria	Comments
Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	This space immediately adjoins the settlement boundary, close to the main built up areas of Odiham and within a short walking distance of the established residential area to the west and the High Street and village centre. See site 11.v on the Proposals Map)
Where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife	This space contributes to the visual attractiveness and setting of the historic settlement of Odiham. It affords particularly good views to the south over rolling countryside and into and across the Conservation Area. It is appreciated by the many regular users of the public footpath which links to other footpaths that surround the village. It contributes to the rural feel of the village and brings the countryside into the village.
Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The space is approximately 2.6 ha in area and is clearly defined on all boundaries by hedgerows, woods, fencing and to the North by Hatchwood Cottage and Farnham Road. It provides a soft setting to one of the main entrances to Odiham village centre.

Further Evidence of Local Significance

"Land at Archery Fields is a green space easily accessible to east Odiham. It also provides a rural aspect to the village that is in character with the village and provides a rural attractive view. "

Resident Consultation May 2015

In May 2015, 618 members of the Community endorsed the land adjacent to Archery Fields as a contender for LGS designation. 104 ranked it first. 263 ranked it top three (39% of those who answered Q6).

This land at the eastern entrance of Odiham provides beautiful views to the south across rolling countryside. The contribution it makes to the setting of the Odiham Conservation Area, and its contribution towards maintaining the rural feel of the village is highlighted in the Odiham Conservation Area – Assessment of Setting. The footpath across the land is very well used and forms an important link in footpaths that circle the village. Many residents in our May consultation commented on the need to retain the 'lovely views' especially in the light of the loss of open space on the approaches due to development at Hatchwood.

Hart District Council's Conservation Area Assessment of Setting document dated 15 July 2014 says (page 26, section 4.1.4):

'This site is located beyond the Conservation Area to the east of the Archery Fields development. The land rises eastwards along Farnham Road and slopes gently southwards. The site is positioned on this ridge of higher ground that affords views into and across the Conservation Area.

The character of the landscape is open and the position of the site on a ridge would harm views onto and through the Conservation Area, particularly views of the roofscape along King Street and onto All Saints Church.

Farnham Road gently curves at the approach to the Conservation Area. The elevated topography provides views onto the west tower of All Saints Church. Views across the town are characterised by mature trees and glimpses of roofscapes along King Street and The Bury. The approach itself is characterised by buildings in spacious set back from the road behind high hedges. This reinforces the rural character along the edges of the town and contributes to views across Odiham.'

This land is identified as Grade 3 agricultural land and subject to minerals safeguarding for clay according to the Adams Hendry assessment carried out for Hart District Council in April/May 2015.

Land behind Beech Cottage, King Street (approx 1 ha)

Meeting NPPF criteria

NPPF Criteria	Comments
Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	This space is within the settlement boundary, close to the main built up areas of Odiham and within short walking distance of the established residential area to the West. See site 11.vi on the Proposals Map)
Where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife	This beautiful open space is one of the last pieces of land in the centre of the Odiham Conservation Area that remains undeveloped. The soil has remained untouched for centuries and is an ecological gem. This space contributes to the visual attractiveness and setting of the historic settlement of Odiham as there are numerous large trees which can be seen from many areas within Odiham, it is a tranquil space within the settlement boundary.
Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The space is approximately 1 ha in area and is clearly defined on all boundaries by hedgerows, fencing and adjoining properties.

Further Evidence of Local Significance

"A most glorious gem in the heart of the village and is most worthy of protection."

Resident, Consultation May 2015

In May 2015, 609 members of the Community endorsed the land behind Beech Cottage as a contender for LGS designation. For 121 people, it was their first choice; and a top three candidate for 266 (40% of those who answered Q6).

It is a valued small green area in the centre of settlement. Attempts to develop the site have failed on appeal due to the acknowledged sensitivity of the site. It is a particularly tranquil and beautiful garden within a generally built up part of the

settlement. Residents have commented during our May 2015 consultation that its special character should be retained.

This meadow is an ecological gem and also of considerable archaeological importance: - the site of an Anglo-Saxon settlement (under the shadows on the right in the photo).

More immediately important is the network of mycorrhizal fungi that exists for considerable distances between substantial old trees. This "tree interdependence" is easily disrupted by digging and tarmac: this soil has been untouched for centuries which creates a unique ecosystem which is truly the "Ecological lifeblood of the conservation area". The skyline depends on it.



King St Meadow="BC" Hidden to most by the King St houses

The Will Goodson map 1871 shows no buildings on this land, which was part of "the historic settlement with medieval burbage plots"

And ... "Some individual trees and groups are highly valued in the CA for amenity and space including those in High Street gardens and other residential areas (see Odiham Village Design Statement 4. Enhancement and Conservation)".

From the Odiham Village Design Statement –

"The Bury and northern King Street are part of the historic core of Odiham. Great

care must be taken to retain this character”.

The Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA) carried out by Hart refers to “the area to the east of King Street comprising the large gardens and trees of the houses facing High Street and *reinforcing the rural qualities of the Conservation Area*.”

The recent arboricultural survey identifies over 50 trees actually on the site, some of which are tall and significant specimens and subject to either group or individual tree preservation orders. The tops of most of these trees can be seen from a number of directions and they play an important role in the Conservation Area.

In addition, many of the mature trees have their own intrinsic value.



..... all are central to the community of Odiham and create its skyline

Historic significance: In preparation for one of the previous appeals archaeological experts examined the soil and established professionally that it is “made land”- containing fragments of Anglo-Saxon buildings. This established it as the site of an actual settlement.

The Deer Park (approx 44 ha)

Meeting NPPF criteria

NPPF Criteria	Comments
Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	This space immediately adjoins the settlement boundary, close to the main built up areas of Odiham and within short walking distance of the established residential areas to the West and South (see site 11.vii on the Proposals Map)
Where the green area is 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife	The historic importance of this space and its contribution to the character of the two villages is recognised by its designation as part of the Odiham Conservation Area. It is an area of gently undulating, large, open fields used for grazing. There are six public footpaths throughout this area used by many for dog walking and recently for geocaching (an activity encouraged by the National Trust). These footpaths give access to the canal, allow a circular route around the area and can provide a short cut from North Warnborough to Odiham following the footpath along the settlement boundary. The many public access points into the area from the settlement boundary give good access to a wide number of the community and so reduces the need to drive to other areas suitable for dog walking and informal recreation. There are important views across the Deer Park both into Odiham, North Warnborough and out into the countryside. There is a range of different habitats from ancient undisturbed medieval fish ponds to established hedgerows, ancient oaks and rough grassland; there is an abundance of wildlife.
Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The space is approximately 44 ha in area and is clearly defined by long established field boundary hedgerows, the settlement boundary and in part, ancient walls. An ancient brick wall marks the end of the medieval burgage plot, is listed and is therefore of great archaeological importance. This area establishes the historic curved settlement shape of both Odiham and North Warnborough.

Further Evidence of Local Significance

"The Deer Park is a highly valued historic asset and provides the 'green lung' between the villages of Odiham and North Warnborough."

Resident, Consultation May 2015

In January 2015, when the community was asked in an open question which green spaces they valued most, the Deer Park came second after the Basingstoke Canal.

The importance of the Deer Park to the community was further evidenced in the May 2015 NP survey by the total number of comments made relating to this land (more than 300). This was a larger number of comments in the survey than those relating to Housing Sites (232) or Q10 General comments (284).

In May's NP questionnaire, the Deer Park was not included in the list of potential LGS contenders as there was some doubt at that time whether it would in examination be considered against NPPF criteria as *'an extensive tract of land'*. Since then information has emerged based upon other recent Neighbourhood Plans going through examination that large areas of land have been receiving LGS designation.

In the light of more recent information regarding the results on examination of other Neighbourhood Plans with respect to LGS size and differing Examiner interpretations; plus the expressed value placed upon it by a large section of the community in NP surveys the Deer Park is included for LGS consideration in this Pre-Submission Draft Plan as a potential Local Green Space.

In July 2012 whilst English Heritage decided not to include the Deer Park in its National Register of Parks and Gardens. However, it did make the following statement that recognised the Deer Park *"for its strong local impact and high historic significance. Its historical significance is clear as is the manner in which its presence has strongly influenced later landscape character, management and development"*.

The earliest mention of the Deer Park occurs in 1216 when the park and Odiham castle were retained for the king. The Deer Park has been used for agriculture for the last 400 years and the formal field boundaries reflect the introduction of Parliamentary enclosures in the 18th century. The outline of the park is still of vital importance in influencing the layout of the settlements of Odiham and North Warnborough. The Deer Park lies on the eastern side of Dunleys Hill, forming the eastern boundary to North Warnborough, and provides a very important open green space for both villages.

Most of this open space is used for grazing; mature trees mark boundaries but are not generally particularly dense, in that there are no clumps of woodland. The open spaces of the Deer Park contrast with the tightly concentrated Odiham village centre, with its busy traffic, commercial uses, other activities.

