

Wool Neighbourhood Plan: 2019 - 2031

During the consultation phase of the Plan, the overwhelming message was the value people put upon the landscapes within which they live. There is much affection and appreciation of the local green areas and spaces around the village.

Nearly all of those who responded to the questionnaire felt that:

1. It was important to keep as many of the fields surrounding the parish as possible and did not want to see large developments built on these.
2. Open green space in the village was important and reflected the rural feel of the area as a valued aspect of living there.

Some areas of the parish have been established as not suitable for housing therefore it is important these open green spaces are preserved. These links should include views and vistas with green spaces between areas. Existing mature trees or old hedges should be conserved and incorporated into any development. Additional tree planting would be welcomed and could include edible species such as fruit trees including hazel and walnut. Bio-diversity should also be encouraged, by developing wildlife areas next to existing wildlife habitats.

Wool Parish residents are also rightly proud of their heritage, including the character of the conservation area (see attached CA) and the surviving historic buildings.

Woolbridge Manor provided inspiration for Thomas Hardy's book 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' where Tess & Angel spend their honeymoon night with the tomb at Bindon Abbey where Angel Clare laid Tess' body. Legend has it that a tunnel was built from the house to the Abbey grounds at Bindon at the time of the Civil Wars. The bridge over the River Frome has given the house its name.

Wool will retain the character of the village and surrounding countryside, maintaining our much-loved green spaces and views within and out of the village, historic buildings and the links to Thomas Hardy, with any new development being well-designed and environmentally-friendly. There should be no inappropriate infilling or unplanned sprawl.

Local Landscape Character

Wool has an extraordinary wealth of wildlife which Wool Wildlife Group monitor, see website below for in depth information:

<http://woolwildlife.org.uk/home.html>

The verges throughout the village are host to many wild flowers.

The Frome water meadows has food, such as insects, worms and snails, washed downstream that attract large numbers of birds.

Some of the important wildlife habitat areas covered by the Wool Neighbourhood Plan are inaccessible because they are within the MoD Bovington Training Area.

National planning policy allows for green spaces that are well related to existing settlements and hold a particular local value to be designated as "Local Green Spaces". This designation provides strong protection against development, which should last well beyond the Neighbourhood Plan period.

So it is not appropriate to extensive tracts of countryside, or land which may have planning permission to be developed or may need to be released for housing, employment or community buildings / infrastructure in the longer term.

Many of these spaces may be in public ownership, but the designation can be applied to privately owned land provided that it is clearly valued by the community and of obvious importance for its recreational, landscape, historic, cultural or wildlife value.

1. Local Green Spaces (Protect green spaces including retain hedges)

The areas identified for designated as Local Green Spaces are:

Table 1. Local Green Spaces

	Local Green Space	Reason for designation
1	Old Watercress beds.	This area has natural springs within it, being the source of the village stream and original water supply to the village. It is important to keep water pure for all wildlife. Although already a wildlife haven there are members of the community who wish to establish a wildlife area to be accessed and enjoyed by the whole community.
2	Stream running from it's source SW corner & S of Watercress Beds field, back of houses on east side of Duck Street under road at junction of Colliers Lane & High Street (School Arch) then front of houses	Following on from above the village stream runs eventually into Poole Harbour. Poole Harbour is a large natural harbour in Dorset, southern England, with the town of Poole on its shores. The harbour is a drowned valley formed at the end of

	along west side of Spring Street and eventually South of Bindon Lane to Bindon Mill.	the last ice age and is the estuary of several rivers, the largest being the Frome
3	Village Green. Common ground from and including land in front of Poorhouse Barn to the Black Bear in Spring Street.	Despite the closely cut grass and rocks along either side of Spring Street along with planting at the front of Poorhouse Barns much of the grass is the Village Green and the public have had access to it for many generations, with a member/s of the public walk this area along with footpaths annually. The horse chestnut tree was planted to commemorate the Jubilee of King George V. Wool Fair is hosted here annually as close to May 14 th as possible. The triangle part of the green produces a 'fairy ring' every year.
4	Holy Rood Church & church yard	There are four churches within the NP area with the Holy Rood churchyard still in general use.
5	Village Pound	The Village Pound is situated just into Bindon Lane, 5 on map. It was used to pen any animals found straying; ducks, geese and cattle in the parish were impounded in the Pound and only released on payment of a fine by the owner. An important part of Wool's history and at the moment needs a little TLC (who to ask for permission to tidy)
6	Water meadows from East Burton Mill via Woolbridge Manor to Bindon Mill (eventually running into Poole Harbour)	There is a sign on Woolbridge threatening transportation for persons damaging the bridge, this dates from the reign of George IV (1762-1830)
7	Playing Fields and Play park at D'Urberville / Kids of Wool	This area was purchased by Wool Parish Council from the Weld Estate, it has a covenant enforcement stating to be used for recreational purposes of the village only. It is the main area used by the community: Play Park Skate Park

		Sports Field Recreational Ground, including seating D'Urberville Hall Library Kids of Wool building
8	Grass area at The Square	There is an ancient chestnut tree on The Square. The Millennium Stone also stands on The Square, which was unveiled on January 1 st 2000. The unveiling speech was given by: Mr Edward Williams, others in attendance included the sculptor Mr George Morrice.
9	Braytown triangle	The horse chestnut tree on the triangle was planted to celebrate the 25 th Jubilee of King George V in 1935.
10	Protected ancient hedge (East side of road from Burton Cross roundabout, past New Buildings to junction with Lulworth Road (opposite Burton Cross buildings)	There are many other ancient hedgerows and trees within the village with many lining the footpaths.
11	Allotments	At present there are two areas of allotments in the NP area: 1-on the west side of the Lulworth Road as you leave the village 2-on the west side of Burton Road just south of the railway crossing Both normally have a waiting list and therefore it is important to consider incorporating allotments with any new development.

Figure 1:



Figure 2. The Village Stream



Figure 3: Village Green



Figure 4: Holy Rood Church and Churchyard

Figure 5: Village Pound

Figure 6: Water Meadows

Figure 7: D'Urbervile Play Park
& Field



Figure 8: The Square

Figure 9: Braytown Triangle

Figure 10: Ancient hedge



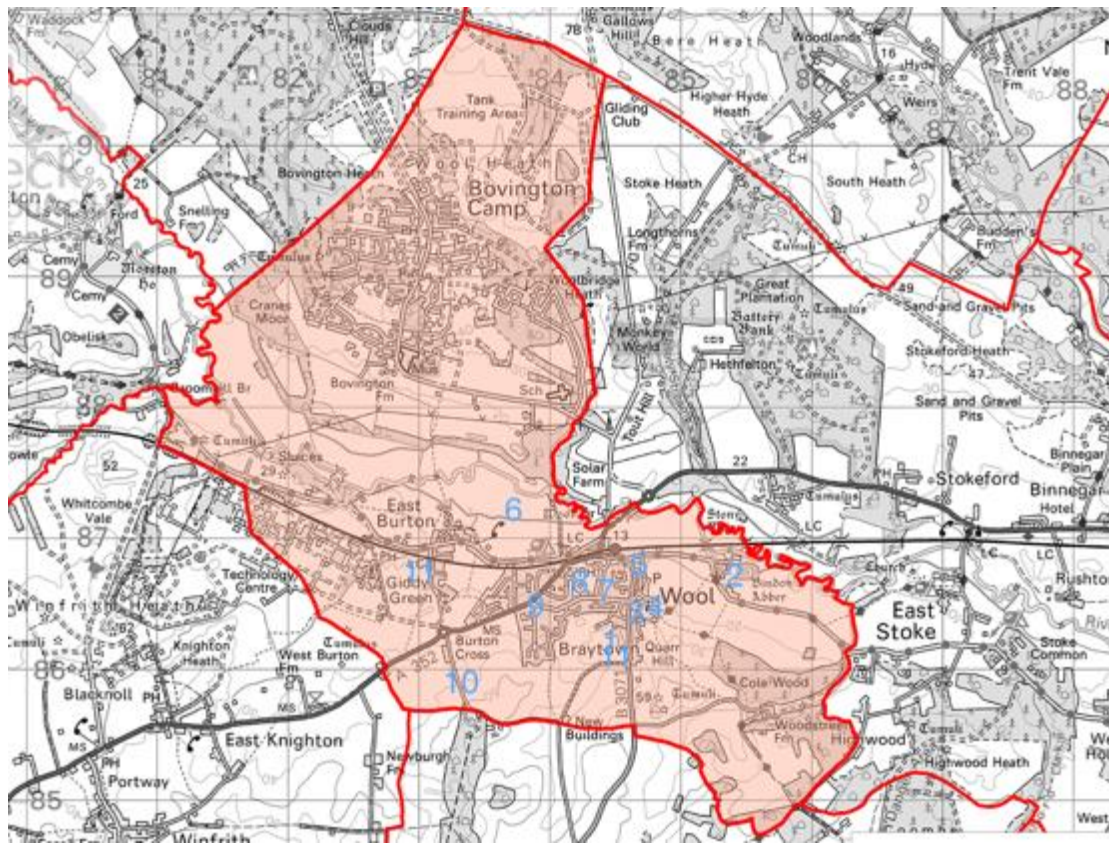
The only form of development that would be appropriate in such locations would be ancillary development to support their on-going function (such as outdoor sports and recreation facilities within the D'Urberville Play Park & Field).

Development proposals adjoining such sites should also be considered, to ensure that the development would not have an adverse impact on the Local Green Space. For example, the approval of a noisy industrial unit adjoining a space noted for its tranquility would be inappropriate, as would a large, ugly building or a large area of blank wall adjoining an area noted for its landscape contribution.

Wool lies within an area of chalk valley and pasture associated with the River Frome. The Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a nationally important landscape skirts around the southern edge of the parish.

Policy 1. Local Green Spaces

The sites listed in Table 1 (and as shown on the map) are designated as Local Green Spaces, and no development will be permitted within or immediately adjoining them that would harm their green character or undermine their reason for designation.



2. Green spaces in-between developments

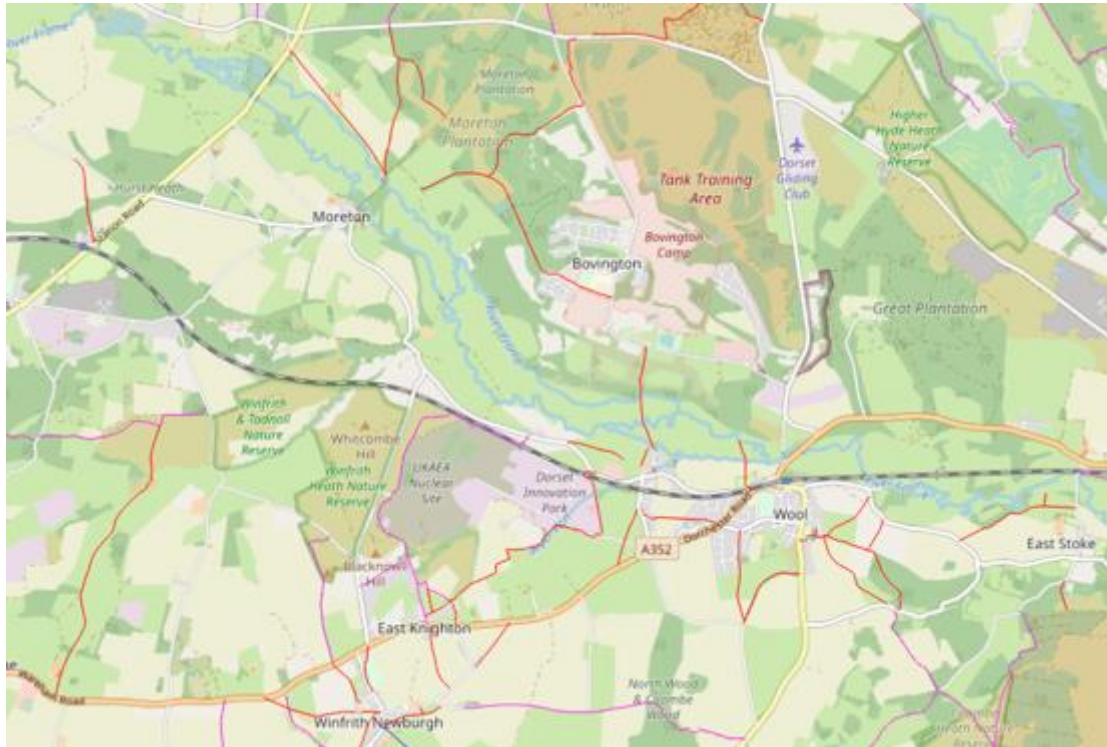
Existing trees, hedgerows and mature shrubs give valuable maturity and impact to planting within development sites. Where possible these should be retained and incorporated within the site, careful planning and management will be required in order to minimise disturbance, particularly to root systems.

The Dorset Council state: They will require information to show how the retained trees will be protected during works on site. As a minimum, developers will need to provide a plan indicating with accuracy each tree's position, its canopy spread and the proposed position of protective fencing. The tree's ability to withstand disturbance depends on a number of different factors including the age and species involved, therefore, developers should seek the advice of a qualified arboricultural consultant at or before the site planning stage.

From our initial consultation the majority of the community asked for 'green spaces' between any development as well as preserving existing trees, hedgerows and footpaths.

Alan Brown in his book *More Memories of Wool* (pages 294-299) lists Footpaths 1 – 25 (22 footpaths and 2 bridleways, oddly no No. 20 exists)

The Old Drove originally ran from Milborne St Andrew into Purbeck. It now runs from Woolbridge Manor to East Burton Road, to the west of Whitmead Caravan Park, then picks up again south of Colliers Lane to New Buildings and comes out onto the Lulworth Road south of the allotments.



Policy 2. Any new development will require 'Green Spaces' to be kept in-between the developments along with the preservation of existing trees, hedgerows and footpaths .

3. More trees and shrubbery

Those that replied to our initial consultation stated how important green areas were to them, including wanting more trees and shrubberies.

It is hoped not to lose existing trees, hedges and shrubbery but it will still be important to increase the 'green lungs' throughout our Neighborhood Plan Area.

Policy 3. More trees and shrubbery will be required around and

throughout any new development.

The following quotes have been taken from an article published in the Guardian on 24th August 2020:

Children raised in greener areas have higher IQ, study finds.

“Growing up in a greener urban environment boosts children’s intelligence and lowers levels of difficult behaviour, a study has found.

The analysis of more than 600 children aged 10-15 showed a 3% increase in the greenness of their neighbourhood raised their IQ score by an average of 2.6 points. The effect was seen in both richer and poorer areas.

There is already significant evidence that green spaces improve various aspects of children’s cognitive development but this is the first research to examine IQ. The cause is uncertain but may be linked to lower stress levels, more play and social contact or a quieter environment.”

“There is more and more evidence that green surroundings are associated with our cognitive function, such as memory skills and attention,” said Tim Nawrot, a professor of environmental epidemiology at Hasselt University in Belgium, where the study was conducted.”

“What this study adds with IQ is a harder, well-established clinical measure. I think city builders or urban planners should prioritise investment in green spaces because it is really of value to create an optimal environment for children to develop their full potential.”

“The study, [published in the journal Plos Medicine](#), used satellite images to measure the level of greenness in neighbourhoods, including parks, gardens, street trees and all other vegetation.

The researchers took into account the wealth and education levels of the children’s parents, largely ruling out the idea that families who are better placed to support children simply have more access to green space.”