

Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Local Green Space Report

Appendix 12 – Giles Wood Landowner Consultation

See overleaf

SEEND PARISH COUNCIL



14th May 2020



Dear 

Re Local Green Space Nomination - Landowner Notification

As you may know, Seend Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Once formally in place, the Plan will inform and shape future development of our area, and become part of the statutory Development Plan which Wiltshire Council will use for determining planning applications in the area.

I am writing to inform you that **Giles Wood** has been proposed for designation as a Local Green Space within the Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Enclosed is a map of the local green space (identified within the red line) that has been proposed.

What does Local Green Space Nomination mean?

Local green space designation is a way for communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them (National Planning Policy Framework 2019, para. 99). Successful designation of the site as a Local Green Space would mean that policies for managing development on the site should be consistent with those for Green Belts (para. 101). This means that inappropriate development on the site would not be approved 'except in very special circumstances' (para. 143).

In line with nationally defined criteria to be suitable for designation, the local green space must be:

- a) In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land, and

- c) Demonstrably special to the local community and hold particular significance, for example, because of its beauty, historic significance recreational value (including playing fields), tranquility or richness of wildlife.

In addition, land which is subject to existing national planning designation will need very good justification for additional designation, in line with national guidance, for example land within the Conservation Area.

Process to date

The Steering Group initially identified Giles Wood as a potential Local Green Space when gathering evidence in 2018. At that time, a high level assessment of the space was undertaken, assessing the space's physical characteristics against the national planning policy criteria outlined above (criteria A and B). This informed the Steering Group's decision not to take the space forward to collect further evidence on whether the space is special to the community (criteria C).

The draft Neighbourhood Plan recently (15th February – 28th March 2020) underwent its first formal stage of consultation (known as Regulation 14 consultation), during which the community and other interested parties were invited to give comments on the draft Plan. You can view the Regulation 14 documents, including the full draft Local Green Space Report, on the Seend Parish Plan website: www.seendparishplan.org

During this consultation, three responses were received noting the importance of Giles Wood to the community and the need for it to be protected. As part of considering the Regulation 14 comments received on the Plan, and noting the previous identification of Giles Wood as a potential Local Green Space, the Steering Group has now decided to propose its designation as a Local Green Space in the Plan. This is in recognition of Giles Wood clearly being a special place which should be protected from development in the future.

In coming to this decision, the Steering Group also reconsidered the space's assessment against criteria A and B, to consider that although Giles Wood is the furthest space away from the communities of Seend Parish out of all those on the list of proposed Local Green Spaces, it is also very accessible for residents of Seend Parish and of Bowerhill.

Next steps

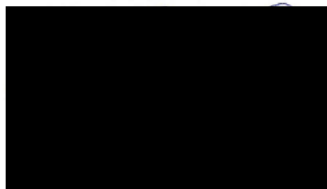
The Steering Group is currently working on amendments to the Plan in light of the responses received during Regulation 14 consultation.

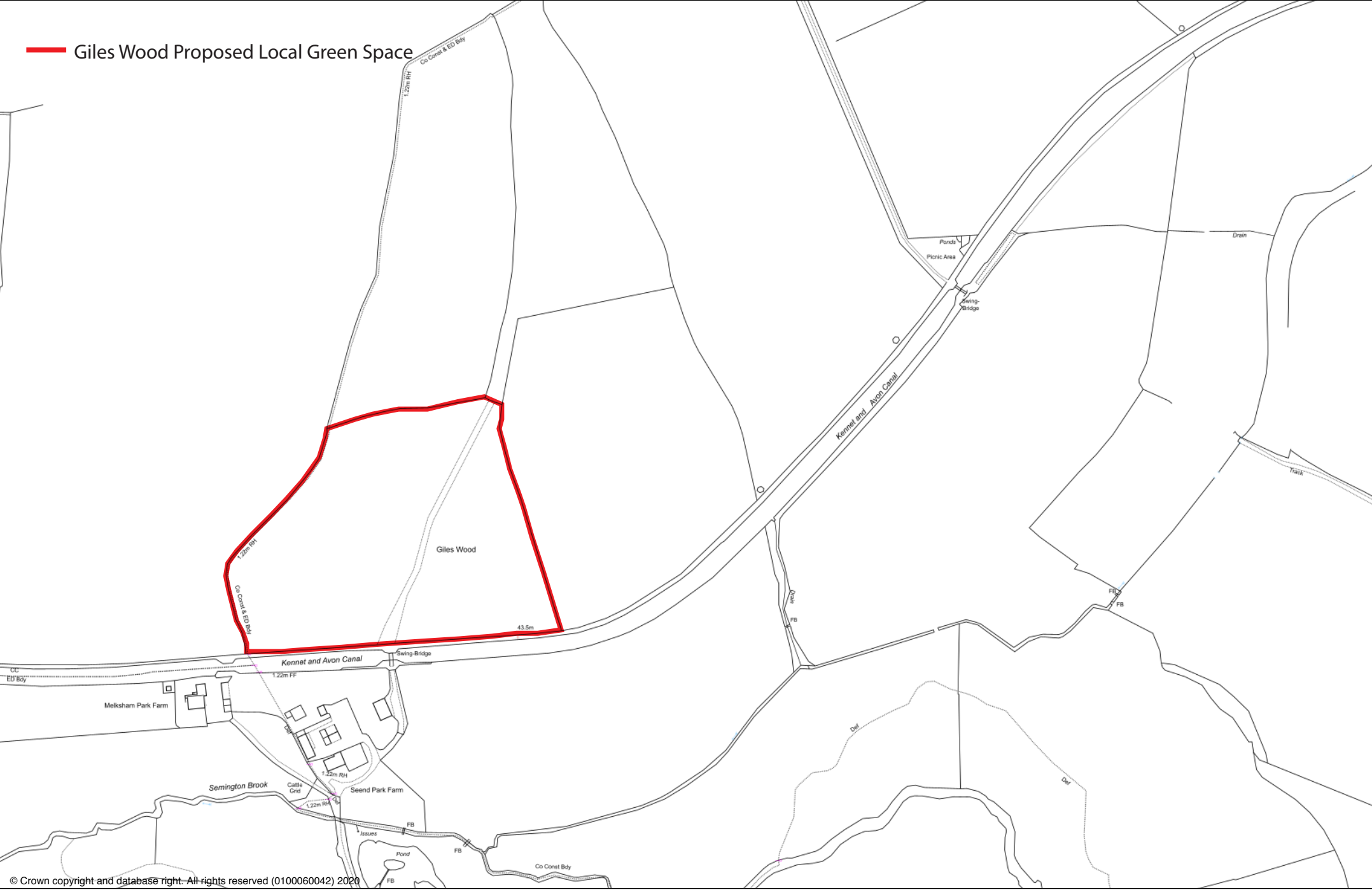
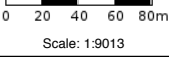
Please get in touch with any comments or concerns regarding the proposed designation of Giles Wood as a Local Green Space before Friday 12th June. Your comments will be considered, and will inform the draft Local Green Space designations in the next version of the Plan.

You will also be contacted again during the next round of formal consultation on the Plan (known as Regulation 16 consultation), when you will be able to submit your comments formally.

Your comments will form part of the evidence base of the Neighbourhood Plan. It will be the eventual independent Examiner of the Plan who will decide which spaces will be designated as Local Green Spaces in the Seend Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely







Subject **Re: Map of Giles Wood**

From Seend Parish Council Clerk [REDACTED]

To [REDACTED]

Copy [REDACTED]

Date 18-05-2020 11:34

Thanks [REDACTED] I will forward your email to the Chairman of the SPNPSG [REDACTED] If they require a more formal response, they will let you know.

Best wishes,

On 18-05-2020 11:18, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning [REDACTED] and thank you for your letter and map concerning the nomination of Giles Wood as a Green Space. I am delighted to learn this and will happily give the nomination my backing. It was obvious to so many people during the recent Governance Boundary Review that the wood was an important asset and contributed to the enjoyment of our leisure time in a place of tranquillity. Our aim in planting the wood in 1993 was to make it a place where local people could come and walk and play and feel it was their wood. So scouts, schools, marathons, walkers all use it and many have planted trees and wild flowers in memory or in celebration. My late husband [REDACTED] would have been delighted with the nomination it was exactly what he wanted for the wood.

If you need me to make a more formal reply in the form of a letter please let me know.

Kind regards

From: Seend Parish Council Clerk

Sent: 18 May 2020 10:34

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Map of Giles Wood

Good morning [REDACTED]

You should by now have received in the post a letter from me regarding the proposed designation of Giles Wood as a Local Green Space in our Neighbourhood Plan. The attached map should have been sent to you at the same time.

Please feel free to respond by email rather than by post if it is easier for you.

Regards, [REDACTED]