



Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan

Open Space Audit

Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

May 2015

Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan

Audit of Open Spaces as at May 2015

Prepared by Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Audit of Open Spaces

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Purpose of the Open Space Audit

The Stanwick Neighbourhood Plan Vision and Aims recognises that Stanwick has a number of good recreational and leisure facilities.

The Neighbourhood Plan objectives include the need to examine land use and environmental issues.

In view of the Aims and Objectives it was decided to undertake an audit of the open space available to provide a base line point for the Neighbourhood Plan so that the Steering Group had a good understanding of the current situation to enable the Steering Group to make decisions on an informed basis.

The Stanwick Parish Plan 2013-2018 gave residents the opportunities to identify areas within and surrounding the village that should be retained as green space. The documented responses to the Parish Plan public consultations clearly demonstrate a strong view that green space is important to the residents of Stanwick.



Introduction

The National Planning Policy Framework recognises that:

“Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities” (policy 73)

Policy 73 continues that:

“The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.”

The purpose of this audit is to assess the existing public open space within the parish of Stanwick and to identify any quantitative deficits.

The audit will compare the available open space to the minimum requirements and criteria detailed in the East Northamptonshire Council Open Space Supplementary Planning Policy Document (November 2011).

The Open Space Supplementary Planning Policy Document (November 2011) recognises eight different types of open space:

- **Allotments, Community Gardens** and city (urban) farms;
- **Amenity Green Space** (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) - including informal recreation spaces, greenspaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens;
- **Cemeteries and Churchyards;**
- **Green Corridors** (including river and canal banks, cycle ways, and rights of way);
- **Natural and Semi-Natural Open Space** including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands (e.g. downlands, commons and meadows) wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas (e.g. cliffs, quarries and pits);
- **Outdoor Sports Facilities** (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas;
- **Parks and Gardens** including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens;
- **Provision for Youth and Young People** including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas (e.g. 'hanging out' areas and teenage shelters);

Appendix D of the Open Space Supplementary Planning Policy Document details local standards that are applicable to Stanwick.



East Northamptonshire Council

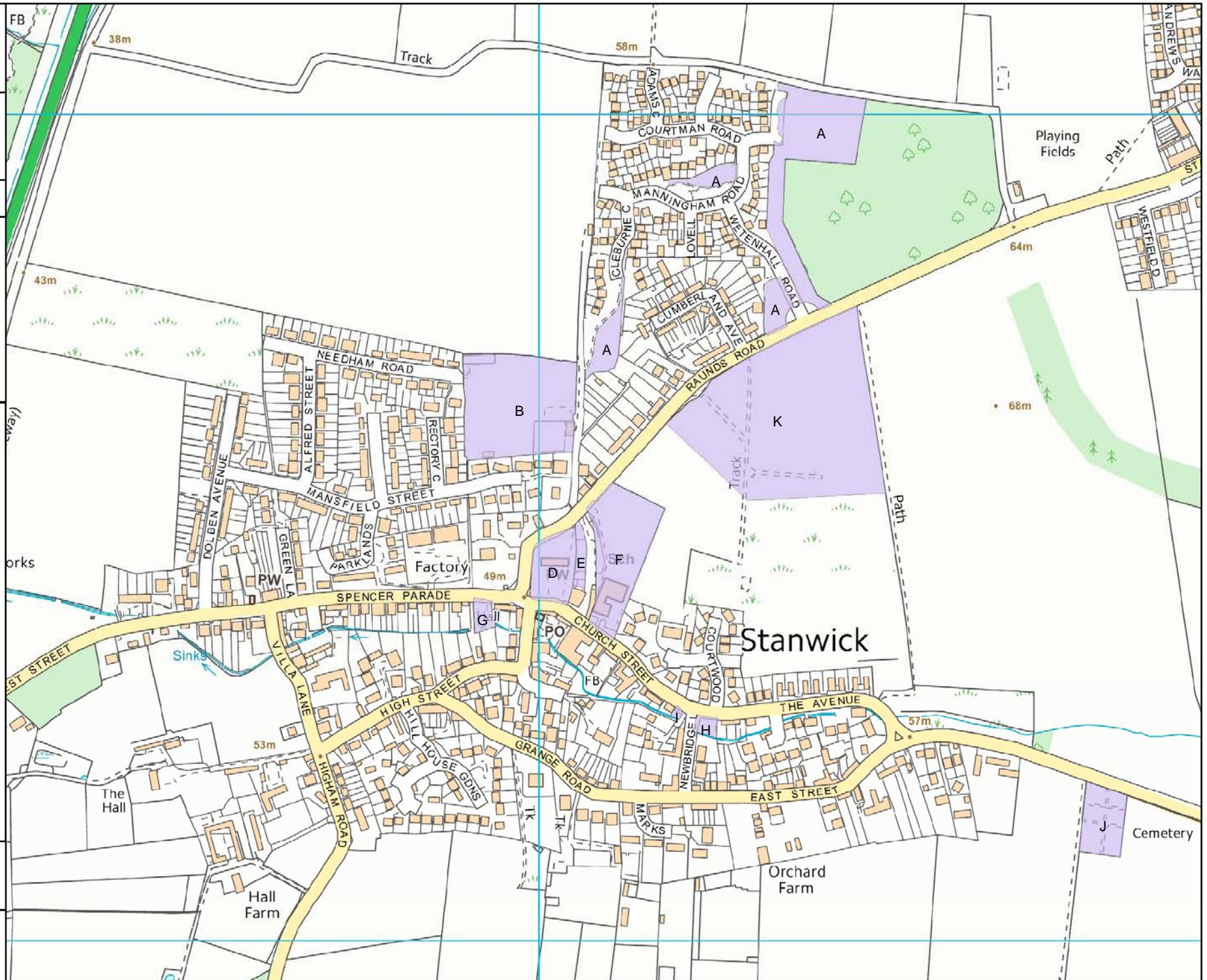


Scale:
1:6,000

Planning Policy

Stanwick

Open Spaces
Update 2011



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Open space and recreational space in Stanwick

This section should be read in conjunction with Map 1

Public open space at Mallows Grange map ref A

The amenity green space at Mallows Grange is in the ownership of Stanwick Parish Council. A significant area of the open space forms a balancing pond.

The open space is primarily grass with a number of shrub beds and boundary hedging with trees. It does not have any other amenities such as children's play equipment or outdoor gym equipment.

The Cleburne Close amenity green space was identified in the East Northamptonshire Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) as a potential site for improvement to make up the shortfall in parks provision in Stanwick (page 52 para 5.54)

The total area is 5.36 acres and located in three main areas of the estate as shown on the map.

Stanwick recreation ground map ref B

The recreation ground is owned by Stanwick Parish Council. It is comprised of a grassed/pitch area, a small children's play area and a hard standing basketball court with one hoop.

Stanwick Bowls Club occupies an area of the recreation ground. This is a private club and is not a facility provided by the Parish Council.

The total area of the recreation ground is 13865sq m.

Amenity green space in Mansfield Street map ref C

There is a small area of amenity green space totalling 298sq m. This is maintained by Spire Homes. It is predominately a visual amenity.

St Laurence church yard map ref D

St Laurence church yard was closed for new burials in 1984. It provides a visual amenity as the setting to the grade 1 listed St Laurence Church. In addition it is utilised for events such as the Church Summer Fete.

Garden to the Duke of Wellington Public House map ref E

The garden to the Duke of Wellington provides an enclosed grass area with seating and a children's climbing frame.

This area was identified in the East Northamptonshire Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (2006) as a dedicated site for young people and children rated highly on both quality and accessibility (para 8.61)

Stanwick Primary School map ref F

The school playing field provides outdoor sports facilities for the pupils of Stanwick School.

Memorial Gardens map ref G

There is an area of amenity green space totalling 678sq m next to the village hall. The area has a public bench but no other facilities.

The area is owned and maintained by Stanwick Parish Council.

Amenity green space map ref H & I

These areas of amenity green space at the junction of Newbridge Lane and Church Street, totalling 635sq m are maintained by the Parish Council as part of the county verge but are not owned by the Parish Council.

The areas have little amenity value except for use by those in the immediate vicinity and as a visual amenity.

Stanwick Cemetery map ref J

The cemetery is owned and maintained by Stanwick Parish Council. It has a total area of 4000sq m.

The cemetery has been in use since 1928. At the time of writing there are one hundred and ten (110) unallocated grave plots available. Since 2005, one hundred (100) grave plots have been allocated. At this rate of allocation, all plots for interment will have been used by 2025.

Parish Fields map ref K

Parish Fields is a ten acre site purchased from Taylor Wimpey by the Parish Council in 2009. Within the site a pocket park has been created that encompasses six acres.

Within the remaining area, two acres are being given over to an allotment and community garden facility. In addition land will be taken up by the accompanying off road access and car park.

Green Corridors

Green corridors are defined as “a thin strip of land that provides sufficient habitat to support wildlife, often within an urban environment, thus allowing the movement of

wildlife along it. Common green corridors include railway embankments, river banks and roadside grass verges.”

The Open Space Supplementary Planning Policy Document (November 2011) includes public rights of way within their definition of Green corridors.

The National Planning Policy Framework Policy 75 requires that “Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks”

Within the parish of Stanwick the following Rights of Way are recorded on the Definitive Map:

PH 1 From the B663 eastwards to the B645

PH 2 From the B663 eastwards to the B645

PH 3 From Chelveston Road (Stanwick) (next to cemetery) southwards to join PH 4

PH 4 From B663 westwards along the Stanwick-Chelveston-Higham Ferrers parish boundary to Higham Road (Stanwick) (by Chelveston Lodge)

PH 5 From Higham Road (Stanwick) (by Chelveston Lodge) westwards along the Stanwick-Higham Ferrers parish boundary to the A45

PH6 From the A45 north west along the Stanwick- Higham Ferrers parish boundary

PH7 From A45 north west to the Higham Ferrers Parish boundary

PH 8 From Stanwick roundabout northwards adjacent to the A45 (known as Cotton Lane) to the Stanwick-Raunds Parish boundary.

PH 11 From Raunds Road (Stanwick) south to The Avenue (Stanwick)

PH 13 Is located west of the A45 within Stanwick Lakes

PH 14 From The Hollow along the brook to Chapel Lane

PH 15 From Church Street to the brook

PH 16 From West Street, up Green Lane, into Mansfield Street, north along the rear of properties of Dolben Avenue before sharp westward turn to A45. PH 16 does continue within Stanwick Lakes. The Right of Way is severed by the A45.

UG55 UG34 UG 15 & UG 20 mark the northern boundary of the parish between Stanwick and Raunds

MM8 marks the southern boundary of the parish between Stanwick and Chelveston

Stanwick Lakes

Stanwick Lakes is a 750 acre countryside attraction and nature reserve. Its' is formal title is the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits and holds SSSI, RAMSAR and NIA status.

The road access to the site is from the A45 and is within the parish of Stanwick although the majority of the site is outside of the parish boundary.

Stanwick Lakes is owned by East Northamptonshire Council and managed on a long lease by Rockingham Forest Trust.

The Parish Plan 2007 and the Stanwick Parish Plan 2013-2018 both identified that residents are concerned that pedestrians are required to cross the A45 to reach Stanwick Lakes and that residents would like a bridge to be provided for use by non-motorised traffic.

Further information about what Stanwick Lakes has to offer can be found at www.stanwicklakes.org.uk

Summary of available open space within the parish of Stanwick

The population of Stanwick is approximately 2000.

| Allotment & Community gardens | Local standard | Current provision | Adequacy of provision |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Allotments at Parish Fields | 0.34 ha per 1000 population | 0.809 ha | Adequate. |

| Amenity green space | Local standard | Current provision | Adequacy of provision |
|---|--|-------------------|---|
| Mansfield St 289sqm Newbridge Lane 635sqm Mallows Grange public open space 2.17ha | 0.6 ha per 1000 population & within 5 minutes' walk (240m) | | Sections of the village do not meet the local standard. |

| Cemeteries and church yards | Local standard | Current provision | Adequacy of provision |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| St Laurence Church yard | No standard set | N/A | Closed to burials, although |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| | | | the interment of ashes is permitted at the discretion of the Vicar |
| Stanwick Cemetery | No standard set | Five of the six sections of the cemetery are full. The final segment has limited capacity | Cemetery provision will need to be expanded within the Plan period |

| Green corridors | Local standard | Current provision | Adequacy of provision |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Numerous Rights of Way exist as listed above. | No standard set | N/A | There may be benefits to designating new Rights of Way |

| Natural & semi natural open space | Local standard | Current provision | Adequacy of provision |
|--|---|--------------------------|---|
| Stanwick Lakes | 1.3 ha per 1000 population & within 15 minutes' walk (720m) | 750 acres (303 ha) | The absence of a safe pedestrian access to Stanwick Lakes promotes car use. |

| Outdoor sport facilities | Local standard | Current provision | Adequacy of provision |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Stanwick recreation ground | 1.69 ha per 1000 population & within 15 minutes' drive (5 miles) | 1.3 ha | Inadequate provision within Stanwick. Limited outdoors sports facilities are available at the recreation ground |

| Parks and gardens | Local standard | Current provision | Adequacy of provision |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Stanwick recreation ground | 0.6 ha per 1000 population | 1.3 ha 0.65 ha per 1000 | Meets the standard |

| Provision for young people | Local standard | Current provision | Adequacy of provision |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|
| Play area at Stanwick recreation ground | 0.1 ha per 1000 population | The play area at the recreation ground is 360sq m | Inadequate. The play area was designed in the 1970s when the population was far lower. |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|

Conclusions

When comparing the amount of open space present to the standards outlined in the Open Space Supplementary Planning Policy Document it is apparent that there are a number of inadequacies in provision.

This primarily stems from provision of open space not keeping pace with the growth in the population.

There is scope to improve the access to open space through a safe pedestrian access to Stanwick Lakes. In addition there may be scope to formalise footpaths that have been created by use and custom.