

Explanatory note for map of Green Infrastructure in Dursley

Much of the source data was derived from google earth imagery. The rest were from two main documents:

Future Dursley NDP Local Green spaces. Information was taken from a map publicised by the Stroud District Council on 21/09/2016.

Dursley Landscape Character Assessment November 2015 report by White consultants.

The Stroud District Council document included many of the green spaces (parks and play areas) in the parish. Most of these are Amenity grassland (for use by the public) on this map. There are a couple of ponds within the greenspaces that have been picked out separately. Two of these highlighted sites (Area off Ferney Hill footpath and Land off Hardings Drive) weren't accessible to the public so are included within the grasslands category. The Landscape Character Assessment contained most of the grasslands used in the key. These included: most of the upper valley slopes, pastures and grasslands (in LCA 2), the wooded upper valley sides (LCA 3), Castle Stream farm valley side (LCA 5), River Ewelme valley floor and lower valley sides (LCA 7A & B) plus Chestal Parkland.

Rationale for each local green space mentioned in the key:

Grassland

The smaller fields connecting the wooded upper valley sides to the town were considered to be of biodiversity interest. According to Kathy Meakin of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Dursley resident these small, semi-improved and in places slightly scrubby rough grassland provide ideal habitat for species of woodland edge. Some of the fields on Castle Stream Farm were also believed to have a greater biodiversity interest than the larger improved farmland at the eastern of the parish. Finally the grassland to the south of the River Ewelme was considered of wildlife interest because of its proximity to the river.

Other farmland

This is the other land used for arable or improved grassland.

Amenity Grassland

These mainly consist of play areas and parks open for public access and/or community use. They may include trees and shrubs but is predominantly grassland.

Open water

This category comprised of the river, ponds, streams and ditches visible from Google imagery and Ordnance Survey.

Woodland

This is mentioned in the Landscape Character Assessment. All of those within upper wooded valley sides have also been given Key Wildlife Site status by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Parkland

This is the Chestal parkland which contains many veteran trees.

Orchard

There is one orchard found in the parish. This is in the upper valley slopes pastures and grasslands (LCA 2C). It was taken from a GIS layer of Traditional Orchards, a priority habitat. This was assessed and the layer assembled by Natural England in 2004.

Allotment

The one allotment site is adjacent to Blackboys Farm.

Wildlife area

This is the bank above Lister Petter, a mixture of planted and self-seeded trees and scrub with some tall herbaceous plants and rough grassland.

Churchyards

All those with significant green space were included.

Large Gardens

These were private gardens over 200m² with areas of grass and trees and under separate ownership according to Google Imagery. If those gardens bordering the woodland and some of the smaller, longer gardens in the centre were combined into blocks then they could have the same beneficial effect for wildlife. However, it was felt easier to just impose a size limit.

Rob Curtis

Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records

December 2016