

STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS – OPEN SPACE AUDIT**MAY 2009****CONTENTS**

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CHAPTER 1- INTRODUCTION

1.0 The audit process, described in this report, is designed to generate comparative information on different sites across the district for the following purposes:

- to provide an overview of the quality and value of spaces and facilities within each of the district's parishes;
- to influence the production of new planning policies essential in determining planning applications, guiding new development and resolving conflicts of demand or use; and
- to enable the Council to demonstrate a continuous improvement in the quality of open spaces, sport and recreational facilities in its district.

1.1 It is believed that all areas of open space, formal recreational space, and sports facilities have been identified by the audit. These have been surveyed and assessed, and conclusions reached on their value to the local community and the environment of the district.

1.2 For convenience the audit is split into the following categories, although it is recognised that some of these allow for a range of uses:

- allotments (AT);
- cemeteries and graveyards (CG);
- formal playing pitches (FP);
- alternative sites for sport (AS) ;
- informal recreation grounds (RG);
- children's playgrounds (CY);
- indoor facilities for high levels of use (IF);
- community centres and village halls (CV);
- managed open space with public access (MO);
- semi-natural open space and woodland with public access (SO);

CHAPTER 2 – ALLOTMENTS

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- There are no allotments located within Stapleford Abbots parish.
- According to the local parish council, as of May 2009, no approaches have been made in recent years for the provision of such a facility and it would therefore appear that there is currently no demand for this type of facility in the local area.
- The lack of demand for such facilities is largely down to the small local population and the fact that most homes in the parish contain adequate amounts of private amenity space for such activities.
- Residents of the parish still seeking such facilities will therefore require their own vehicles or access to public transport should they wish gain access to such facilities elsewhere.

CHAPTER 3 - CEMETERIES AND GRAVEYARDS

Site Number	Site Name	Address	Area (Hectares)	Ownership
CG1	St Mary's Church	Church Lane, Stapleford Abbots	0.56	Diocese of Chelmsford



St Mary's Church, Site CG1

ST MARY'S CHURCH (CG1)

- 3.0** Located towards the end of Church Lane, which in turn is accessed from the B175, this is an attractive, well maintained site. It sits peacefully surrounded by the open country fields of one of the most rural parishes in Epping Forest District. Upon reaching the site, those travelling by can park their cars in the field directly to the south, which according to the sign at the field entrance, can accommodate 50 cars.
- 3.1** From the car park, visitors can access the site itself via a wooden gate leading onto a well surfaced pathway. This path then guides pedestrians to the main entrance of the Church proper. An alternative entrance is also available to the east of the site. This entrance is not gated, although it is sloped, so visitors must walk up a few steep steps before they can reach the hard standing footpath. This makes the entrance unsuitable for wheelchair users or those with pushchairs.

3.2 Once onto the pathway from either of these two entrances, visitors may then either head towards the entrance to the Church itself, or follow the path eastwards towards the vast majority of the gravesites. To the east of the site a small grass public footpath traverses it from east to west. A mixture of trees and shrubs are spread throughout the site, which very much add to its overall amenity value and help to mark out a definitive boundary. One small issue which needs could be addressed is the provision of some seating on the site so that residents have the option to enjoy what the site offers.

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- This is a pleasant and peaceful site, which is clean and well kept.
- It is easily accessible although the eastern entrance is not suitable for those with wheelchairs or pushchairs.
- The site offers good parking facilities, particularly given its very rural location.
- The site would benefit from the provision of some seating.
- Given the rural nature of the parish and hence its small population, there does not appear to be any demand for further provision of this facility within the parish.

CHAPTER 4 – FORMAL PLAYING PITCHES

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- There are no formal playing pitches within the parish.
- The local parish council has not observed any demand for the provision of such a facility in the parish.
- Given the very rural nature of the parish, and its small residential population, this lack of demand is not surprising.
- Those who seek to engage in pitch sports will therefore need to travel to neighbouring parishes such as Lambourne and the London Borough of Redbridge.

CHAPTER 5 – ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

Site Number	Site Name	Address	Area (Hectares)	Ownership
AS1	Stapleford Abbots Golf Course	Tysea Hill, Stapleford Abbots	115.20	Privately Owned
AS2	Stapleford Aerodrome	Ongar Road, Stapleford Abbots	100.00	Privately Owned

STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS GOLF COURSE (AS1)

- 5.0** Located to the south east of the parish, this golf course lies on the boundary with Brentwood District Council, and falls predominantly within that authority. It can be accessed from a junction off Tysea Hill. Offering an 18 hole course, this is an attractive site which is clearly well maintained and cared for.

STAPLEFORD AERODROME (AS2)

- 5.1** Situated to the south of Ongar Road, to the north of Stapleford Abbots, this site falls partly in Lambourne parish. The aerodrome is currently the home of Stapleford Flying Club, a privately owned business which has trained pilots for the last forty years. With a fleet of over 40 aircraft, they train pilots at all levels. Other companies using the site, meanwhile, offer business charter services and London sightseeing trips.

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- Despite the presence of some alternative sites for sport in the parish, there is still very little recreation space in the parish especially those which cater for children and young people.
- Given the location of the parish, neighbouring the London Borough of Redbridge, there does not appear to be a demand for further informal areas of recreational space within Stapleford Abbots.
- Residents of the parish therefore need their own vehicles or to have access to public transport in order to access similar facilities in neighbouring parishes.

CHAPTER 6 – INFORMAL RECREATION GROUNDS

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- There are no informal recreation grounds within the parish.
- Despite the presence of some alternative sites for sport in the parish, there is no recreation space in the parish which caters for children and young people.
- Given the location of the parish, neighbouring the London Borough of Redbridge, there does not appear to be a demand for further informal areas of recreational space within Stapleford Abbots.
- Residents of the parish therefore need their own vehicles or to have access to public transport in order to access similar facilities in neighbouring parishes such as Ongar and the London Borough of Redbridge.
- Given the very rural nature of the parish, the few houses which have been built here are usually accompanied by large plots of land therefore providing most locals with adequate amounts of private amenity space.

CHAPTER 7 – CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUNDS

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- There are no children’s playgrounds within Stapleford Abbots parish.
- Again, given the location of the parish to the neighbouring London Borough of Redbridge, and the typically large plot sizes of the local residential homes here, there does not appear to be a demand for any particular type of facility for children and young people within the parish.

CHAPTER 8 - INDOOR FACILITIES FOR HIGH LEVELS OF USE

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- There is no indoor facilities for high levels of use within Stapleford Abbots.
- The local parish council has indicated that there is no demand for a facility of this type within the parish given its small population.
- Such a facility would require large turnover in terms of use in order for it to be profitable and given the very rural nature of this parish it is highly unlikely that such a facility would achieve this if it were located here.
- Those locals wishing to access indoor facilities for high levels of use will need access to personal transportation or local public transport to reach neighbouring parishes such as Chipping Ongar and Loughton where such facilities are provided.

CHAPTER 9 – COMMUNITY CENTRES AND VILLAGE HALLS

Site Number	Site Name	Address	Area (Hectares)	Ownership
CV1	Stapleford Abbots Village Hall	Stapleford Road, Stapleford Abbots	0.15	Stapleford Abbots parish Council

STAPLEFORD ABBOTTS VILLAGE HALL (CV1)

9.0 Built around 16 years ago and situated adjacent to the south of Stapleford Abbots County Primary School this village hall appears to be in good condition and is very well maintained. The hall is used for a variety of different activities including indoor bowls, badminton, keep fit and pre-school clubs as well as a variety of societies such as the historic society. The hall is also regularly used as a function room for parties and wedding receptions and is available for hire from Friday to Sunday.

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- This is the only facility of its type within the parish.
- Given that this is a very rural parish however with only a small local population, the local parish council feel that the hall provides adequate facilities.
- The hall appears to be well used, is in good condition and is very well maintained by the locals who use it.

CHAPTER 10 - MANAGED OPEN SPACE WITH PUBLIC ACCESS

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

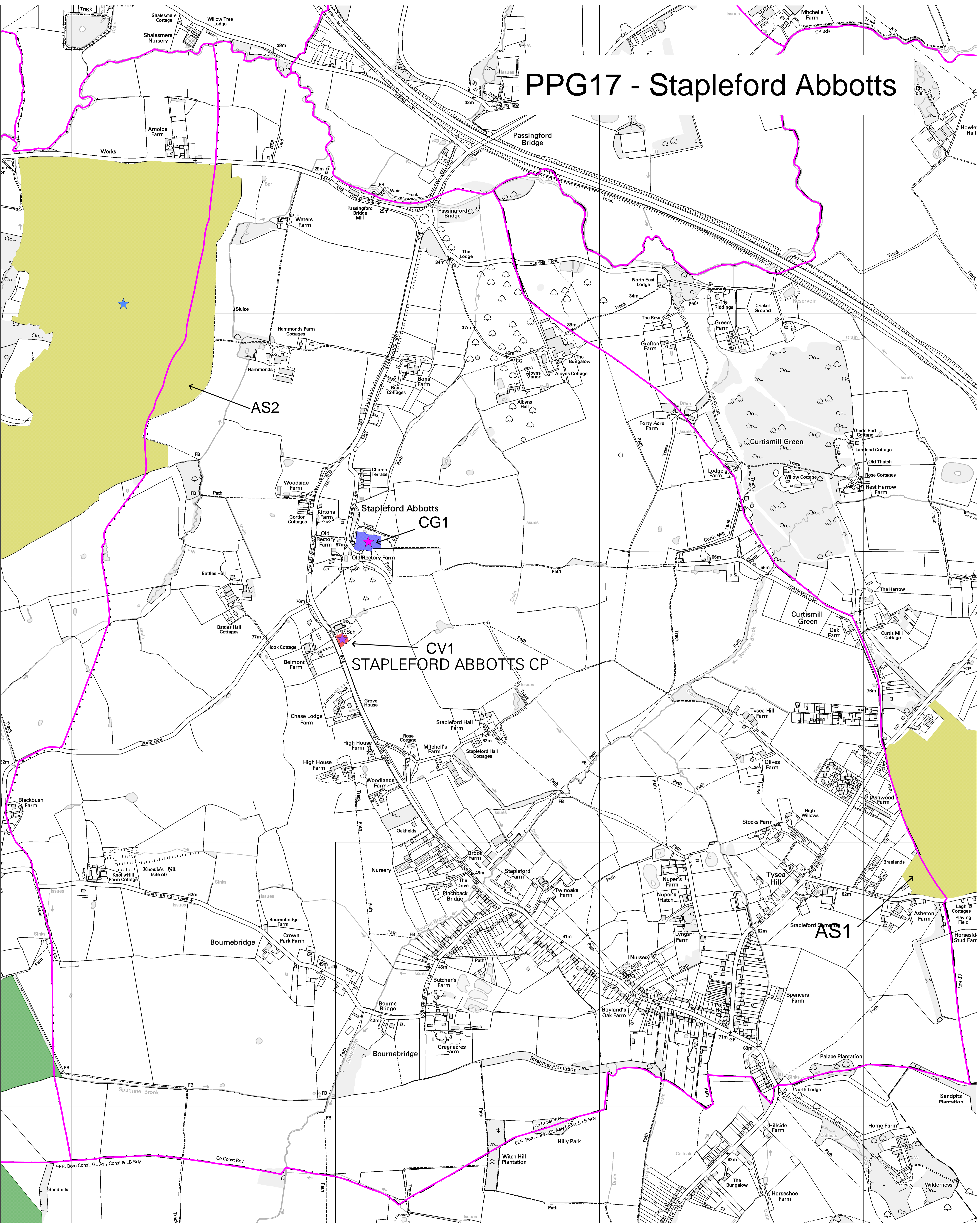
- There is no provision of any managed open spaces throughout Stapleford Abbots, despite its strong rural character.
- This is in part due to the already very rural nature of the parish coupled with the fact that the local parish council has received no requests for the implementation of a local village green or anything similar.

CHAPTER 11- WOODLAND AND SEMI-NATURAL OPEN SPACE WITH PUBLIC ACCESS

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- Despite the very rural nature of the parish, there are no areas of publicly accessible woodland or semi-natural open space available.
- There are however a number of such sites in neighbouring areas including Bedfords Park and Hainault Forest which are both within a mile of our boundary.
- The parish is also crossed with multiple public footpaths giving access to the open countryside.

PPG17 - Stapleford Abbots



Parish: Stapleford Abbots

Area: 954 Hectares Scale: 1:45,000 @ A0

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Key			
	Allotments (AT)		Woodland and Semi-Natural Open Space with Public Access (SO)
	Cemeteries and Graveyards (CG)		Children's Playgrounds (CY)
	Formal Playing Pitches (FP)		Indoor Facilities For High Levels Of Use (IF1)
	Alternative Sites For Sport (AS)		Community Centres and Village Halls (CV)
	Informal Recreation Grounds (RG)		Managed Open Space with Public Access (MO)
	Epping Forest		Parish Boundary
	Denotes Membership Only Facilities		

Date: 4th January 2010