

## WSLNF – Proposed green sites – Porter’s Grove Wood – No 20

Site Details (complete this form for each site to be proposed for designation)

| Local Green Space Assessment for: Porters Grove Wood   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Date of assessment:</b> Desk based assessment 30.12.24  |  |
| <b>Assessors:</b> Jim Boot, Community Planner  |  |
| <b>Site Name and Address (location)</b>  | <b>Grid Ref:</b>                               |
| Porter’s Grove Wood – formerly adjacent to Grove School  | TQ 78359 10335                                 |
| <b>Site owner (if known)</b>   | East Sussex County Council (when school)       |
| <b>Have they been informed / discussed?</b><br>No  | <b>If yes date:</b>                            |
| <b>Description and purpose / current use</b>   |  |
| Steep woodland remnant with a pond at the bottom surrounded by new housing - Darwell Close to the south, Newts Way to the west, Loverose Way to the east - with a narrow wooded bank of woodland connecting it to the top of Dogkennel Wood to the north. Links to Newts Way Play area   |  |
| <b>Statutory designations (eg SSSI<sup>1</sup>)</b>  | <b>Other designations (eg LNR<sup>2</sup>)</b> |
| Close to Coombe Haven SSSI.  | Close to Filsham Reedbed LNR                   |
| <b>Site allocations in Local Plan</b>  |  |
| Protected by planning permission and site allocation HL7 in Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan which states: “Improve local connectivity with walking and cycling links to improve and to preserve the Public Right of Way at the north of the site and to enhance access to Dog Kennel Wood and Combe Valley Countryside Park .”  |  |
| <b>Planning permission</b>   |  |
| Yes, building currently underway on adjacent site.   |  |
| <b>Access &amp; proximity including how close to the community it serves (in meters)</b>   |  |
| Popular green space bordering new estates but on the edge of town / countryside.   |  |
| <b>List any public rights of way to or across the site:</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public rights of way currently but potential for better public access.</li> <li>• There is a path east-west through the wood which used to be used by children walking back and forth to the, now replaced by housing, Grove School. It is visible from Loverose Way - wide, even and covered in fallen leaves - but is cut</li> </ul> |  |

<sup>1</sup> Site of Special Scientific Interest

<sup>2</sup> Local Nature Reserve

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>off at the bottom end by the housing developers' high fence. The path must be reinstated once the Porter's Grove building is done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Porter's Grove MUGA site is in the top northeast corner of the Wood and the path will give vital traffic-free access to it.</li> <li>• There could also usefully be a woodland path from Darwell Wood to Dogkennel Wood and thus to the level crossing and Combe Valley and the path to Bulverhythe - potentially a direct, traffic- free, walking and cycling route to Bexhill Road and beach.</li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>Which of the following criteria does it meet?</b></p>   | <p><u>F</u>ully / <u>P</u>artially / <u>N</u>ot (if <u>F</u> or <u>P</u> provide details)</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beauty</b></li> </ul>   | <p>Fully – as natural Sussex woodland, it was, and will be again, refreshingly beautiful to the people who live around it in neighbourhoods with little greenery and a lot of hard standing.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Historic significance / heritage</b></li> </ul>   | <p>Not known</p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Recreational value</b></li> </ul>   | <p>Partially – general amenity</p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tranquillity</b></li> </ul>   | <p>Partially – a quiet haven amongst a built up area</p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wildlife</b></li> </ul>   | <p>Fully – woodland</p>  |
| <p><b>Local in character – how would you describe for this statement?</b></p>   |  |
| <p>The trees are the same in character as those in neighbouring Dogkennel Wood and Combe Valley Countryside Park and should be maintained as permeable as possible to wildlife and walking residents.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>Area (in hectares)</b></p>  | <p>1.72 ha</p>   |

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### Photograph



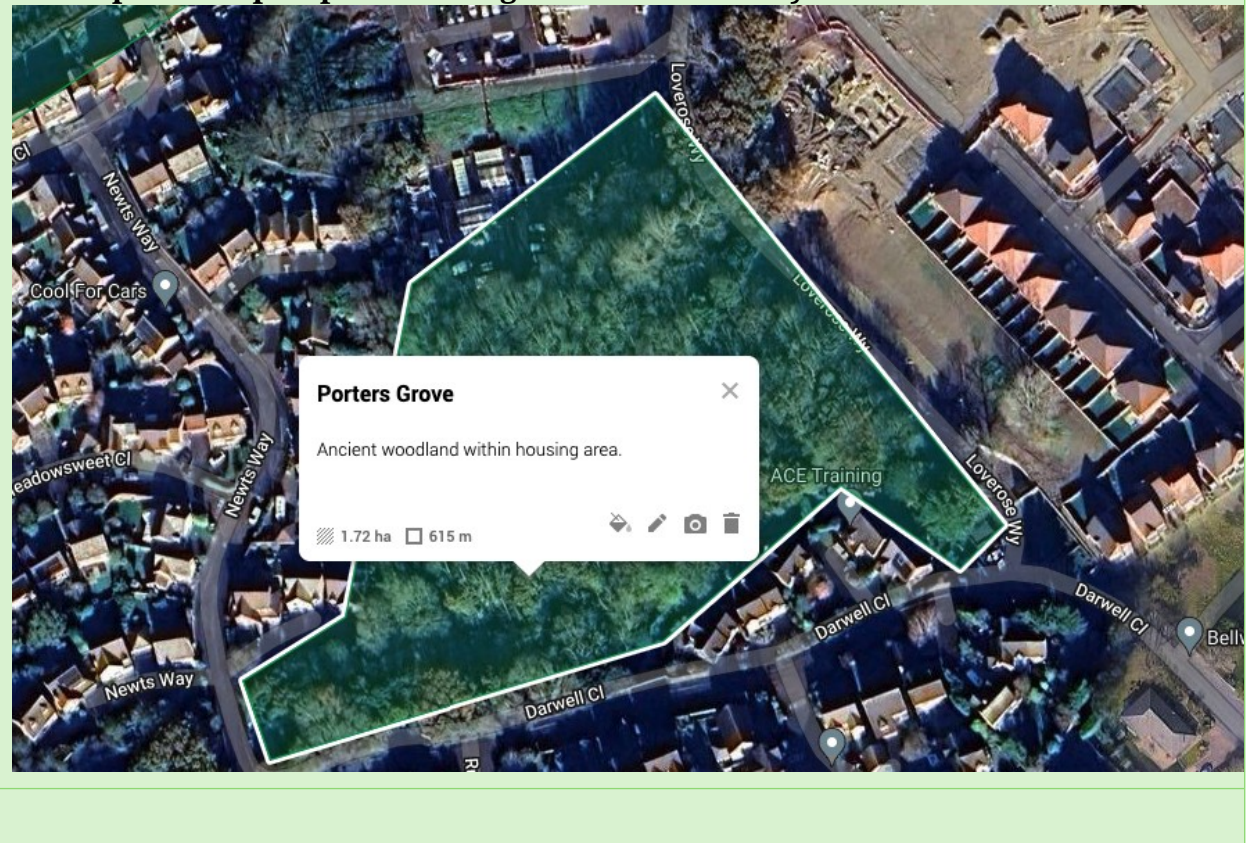
Part of the Porter’s Grove Housing Estate, to be renovated as a MUGA and open area



20 Porters Grove Wood MUGA to be

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Aerial photo map or plan showing accurate boundary of site.



Adapted from Locality Local Green Spaces, 2019:

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/making-local-green-space-designations-neighbourhood-plan/>