

Commons Act 2006 – Sections 15(1) and (2)

Application to Register Land as Town or Village Green – Northfield Playing Field, Winsley

Appendix 15 – Witness Evidence – Lawful Sports and Pastimes

Activity	Carried out (User Evidence Forms) (Written Representations)	Seen
Football	72 13	115 4
Cricket	17 1	56
Rugby	6 2	27
Dog Walking	17 1	82 2
Bicycle Riding	21 1	59
Playing	35 7	111 2
Rounders	4	29
Drawing & Painting		7
Team Games/ Team Work	1	40
Community Events		13
Bird Watching	2	10
Picnicking	26 5	69 1
Kite Flying	1	23
Walking	23	75 2
Family Celebrations	4	27
Ball Play / Games	22 3	4
Congregation point / socialising	13 7	2 1
Go karting (makeshift track)	3	3
BMX stunts	1	
Using original facilities	1	
Childrens games / activities	7	1
Cubs / Scouts	4	1
Dog training	2	1
Exercise / personal training	10 2	7 5
Athletics / running	6	5
Rehab from injury	2	
Running around / chase	13	1
Races	1	
Picking dandelions for rabbits		1
Frisbee	7 1	2 1
Hockey practice		1

Tennis	2	4
Fitness	2	1
Swings	1	
Informal recreation	2 2	1
Keep fit / Classes	1	4
Sunbathing		1
BBQ	1	
Sledging	2	
Snowman building	2	
Nature activities	2 1	1
Parties	2 1	1
Exercising horse / horse riding	1	1
Dressing up parades		1
Lockdown	3	
Obstacle courses	2	
Sport	4 4	1
Exploring	1	
Bonfire nights	1	
Access to village shop / bus stop / pub/ walks etc	3	
Flying drones		1
All sorts	1	
Martial arts		1 1
Easter egg hunt		1
Camping		1
Yoga / Meditation		1
Boxing practice		1
Mowing the grass		1
Hide and seek	1	
Playing field for residents of Winsley		2
Staff and Children Winsley Acorns Pre-School	2	1
Snack and a rest on sunny days	1	
Village activities		1
Outside time	1	
Sit and relax	1	

Witness Evidence - Lawful Sports and Pastimes

Witness	Date of Correspondence	Evidence
Julian Baddeley	Undated correspondence with user evidence form – Application Exhibit J	<i>I moved to Winsley in 1998 when I was 9 years old...For 9 years until I left home I often walked to Northfields playing field to play football or find friends. I was allowed to go there alone because I did not have to cross any major roads. It was part of village life for our age group of children and was an amenity that I have fond memories of...It was great playing football in a casual way and for those years I did not watch television after school. It was a social hub. I can name many people who went there during those years.</i>
B & J Treble	Undated correspondence with user evidence form – Application Exhibit J	<i>We have seen the Northfield play area in use since we moved in in 1979 to the present day. Our son played with balls there with us in the 1980's. In about 1992 our daughter was playing up there with our son and his friends and she got hit on the head with a cricket bat...Our children and their friends would frequently have used it to play ball games including rugby, football and cricket as well as for kite flying and throwing a frisbee from 1983 to about 2000. The boys also built a bike jump there, according to my son...</i>
M Halliday (Winsley Acorns Preschool)	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit O	<i>Use 2013 – Present (7 years) We have been using the area at Northfield for over 7 years to support children who attend the preschool and live in the village...We have used this area to develop the children's physical skills, such as football and team work...We also use this space for picnics, exploring nature, bug hunts and it is a lovely area to walk to and spend time in a green space.</i>
H Sutherland	01/03/2021	<i>I have used Northfield green space for many years with my four boys. They play football there most weekends and have had some lovely picnics with friends when they were small. It's a safe space that my now older children can walk to and meet friends for fresh air and exercise. As a preschool teacher in the village, I have also used the space with our smallest members of the community.</i>
P Walker	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<i>As a previous resident of the Winsley Tynings estate both myself and my family have utilised the valuable Green Space at Northfields for recreational use. Having now moved away from Winsley I personally still use the area for delivering personal training and activity sessions for local residents. In my time using the space, which has been on daily basis, I regularly see other people young and old alike utilising the space for play, sport or just walking through.</i>
K Sparrowhawk	06/07/2020	<i>Request for new goalposts Application Exhibit E – My family have used the pitch almost every day during lockdown (often</i>

		<p><i>more than once a day!)</i>...As the mother of two energetic football, cricket and rugby obsessed boys it has been great to have such a handy open space to play in.</p> <p>Includes childrens letters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We have been playing at the field at the end of Northfields and we would be very happy if you would fix the goal please</i> • <i>We love playing at Northfields...</i>
Petition	28/06/2020	<p><i>Request for new football posts on land at end of Northfield Winsley ...This football goal is well used by local families...</i> (6 names added).</p>
M, T, K and D Bartholomew	09/11/2021	<p><i>I am sure you are aware of how it has been used for the last 6 decades – by young and old, clubs such as cubs, scouts and guides, for football, kite flying, cricket, walking exercise classes and picnics. We back onto the field and have seen how much it has been enjoyed by the community.</i></p>
M and T Bartholomew	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<p><i>Since myself and my family moved to Winsley in 2018, we have seen from our window the field at the end of Northfields used daily by young families picknicking, by older children trampolining, playing hacky sack, young toddlers learning to walk, kites flown, the ages have been months old through to adults doing training sessions. The land has now got 2 football posts, they amaze us as we regular [sic] see children playing football for 4 hours at a go.</i></p> <p><i>We have 2 young children who love to make use of the space and enjoy meeting other children of all ages.</i></p>
S, P,C & T Ellis	28/02/2021	<p><i>We have been using the playing field at the end of Northfield Road for the last 12 years to play football, play frisbee, hang out with friends. Our 10 year old son – uses it weekly to catch up and play football with his school friends who live in and around winsley. We often see other families using this valuable green space...</i></p>
P & S Hellyer	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<p><i>When we moved to this address the previous owner (of 30 years residency) told us that the park had always been set aside as a place for the children of the village to use and was maintained by the Parish Council. We have found this to be very much the case. Children from little toddlers up to teenager and parents alike frequently use the area for ball games and a safe play area.</i></p>
Judith Cable	Undated correspondence – Application Exhibit G	<p>Since January 2016</p> <p><i>We have used the field 2 or 3 times a week since then. Firstly for taking our young grandchildren for a walk, or nature walk looking at leaves, daisies etc. Then playing hide and seek. At age 4 and 6 it's fun to hide against a hedge or behind a small tree. Then in the last year or two we have</i></p>

		<p><i>played football...We have seen several families enjoying kicking a ball around on the field.</i></p> <p><i>We have used the field sometimes during lockdown for our daily walk, when we didn't have the energy for a longer walk. Also to take our daughters dog for exercise as she is getting older and not able to walk too far.</i></p> <p><i>On my grandsons 8th birthday recently we met on the field, socially distanced, to give presents and sing Happy Birthday. With school closed the field has been invaluable for children to have a quick run before and after home schooling.</i></p> <p><i>This morning I saw a couple doing keep fit exercises and jogging around the field. They are there regularly.</i></p>
Matt (Northfield resident)	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<p><i>I have lived in Winsley for over 3 years. Ever since I have lived here my family have regularly used the land to play on, even more so following the national lockdown. The land is regularly used by families all year round.</i></p>
Jennifer Cable	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<p><i>We moved to Winsley in 2012 and are regular users of the field at the end of Northfield. We use it for football and other recreational games as a family.</i></p>
B Duncombe	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<p>Since moving to Winsley 2010</p> <p><i>As a family we are keen to be outdoors and have enjoyed Northfield as a great area to play football and other ball games with our children...We are not alone – there are many families and young people who use the site. It is a particularly useful place for young teens to develop their independence safely by being able to meet and play ball games/frisbee without an adult being present...</i></p>
B Sheff	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<p><i>...my own children, even though we live a number of streets away, would go over to the field to play with friends...</i></p>
R Rowe	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<p><i>I consulted with my daughter on this question of usage and her and her friends played there for many years...Living opposite the field it is obviously still well used. The main usage was football for boys, hence the ancient rusty goal posts until the Parish council replaced them recently...It is still well used for that purpose and yesterday a session was being held by an enthusiastic dad with a few boys, they had brought proper training cones and it was an organised session...During lockdown it has been used on at least two mornings a week for personal training exercise. I would say that it is used by different people or groups nearly every day.</i></p>
K & D Kemp	Undated correspondence -	<p><i>As a child I remember going with friends to this area, in the 1970's, as it was fun to be able to run around free, I have</i></p>

	Application Exhibit G	<p><i>watched this area of space being well utilised by the local children and adults.</i></p> <p><i>I have seen football being played and even more now that the Council have put up two goal posts, games are more common.</i></p> <p><i>Gathering of teenage children – just chilling out.</i></p> <p><i>There have been people using the area for hurdle practice and some one has been using it as a fitness ground.</i></p> <p><i>Some children have camped out.</i></p> <p><i>I have seen someone mediating [sic] there and then a couple of chaps doing martial arts.</i></p> <p><i>People having picnics.</i></p> <p><i>Easter Egg Hunts.</i></p> <p><i>Walking of dogs.</i></p> <p><i>Dog training.</i></p> <p><i>People reading.</i></p> <p><i>Playing with Frisbees.</i></p> <p><i>Playing tennis.</i></p>
D Schweizer	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<p><i>We moved into Winsley 1979...when it was already being used by local young people for ball games etc.</i></p>
R Smith	27/02/2021	<p><i>The land has been used as a playing field, greenspace by the village for at least fifty years. I have lived in the village for forty three years and can bear witness to its use by villagers for that amount of time.</i></p>
M Legh-Smith	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<p><i>Facilities Manager Bradford Town Youth Football Club – Children of various ages regularly play football...Now the field has been provided with new goals, my son along with his friends plan to use this after school and during weekends.</i></p>
Anonymous (GP locally resident of Northfield since March 2018)	28/02/2021	<p><i>During this time, myself, my partner and my 3 children have used this land on a regular basis.</i></p> <p><i>My children play football, rugby and cricket on the land. We also exercise our dog on the land. Prior to COVID lockdown in March 2020 we used the land at least 2-3 times. Since March 2020 when the weather has permitted we have used the amenity land on a daily basis for exercise.</i></p> <p><i>Since 2017 I have seen the following use of the land on a regular basis, a local martial arts teacher leading classes, the children and staff of Winsley Acorns Pre School walk to the land to use it, a local personal trainer, children come to practice football skills where parents have driven them to use the land, children from the village walking and cycling to use the land and local people exercising their dogs.</i></p> <p><i>Our house overlooks the land and we have therefore be [sic] able to see how regularly the land has been used by the community. Prior to March 2020 the land would be used by</i></p>

		<i>approximately 3 different groups of people a day. Since March 2020 the land can be used by up to 6-7 groups of different people every day.</i>
I Sparrowhawk	26/02/2021	<i>Since moving to the village in September 2015 our family of four have made regular use of the playing field at the end of Northfields for everything from ball games to picnics with friends and family. Having an open and accessible space for our 7 and 10 year old boys to run around has invaluable [sic], especially during the covid-19 pandemic. They wrote to the Parish Council last year requesting that the old and unstable goal post be replaced and were delighted when two new posts were installed. They now use the area on an almost daily basis, frequently more than once. Whilst football is the game of choice they will spend hours just throwing, kicking and catching a rugby or tennis ball. It's also here where my eldest learnt to pad up and start facing a hard cricket ball and there are any number of other games they play here. Includes photographs of childrens play.</i>
W Fortt	01/03/2021	<i>For as long as I can remember it has been a place for recreation and enjoyment. I moved from Bath to Winsley in 1977...My Mother...lived here before me so we go back a long way as members of this community.</i>
M Cottrell	Undated correspondence - Application Exhibit G	<i>My children in the 1980's – 1999 were always playing with their friends on the spare ground up in Northfield as the playground at the end of Whitehorse Rd was always for the younger end to play in.</i>
M Denbury	23/03/2021	<i>We have lived at ■ Tynning Road since August 1967. At that time the Tynning Park Estate was just starting construction. This phase saw a large number of young couples arrive and subsequently a very lively mix of children growing up together. Our children made good use of that piece of land as a play area from about 1975 to 1985. Children were playing there long after ours stopped. The land was used for all sorts of games such as football and makeshift cycle/go cart track. Families came and went and the land continued in use as a play area. Goal posts were installed, and new goal posts again recently.</i>
R Davies	18/03/2021	<i>...lived here since September 1997 (Tynning Road). This was shortly after the completion of the by-pass; indeed, when we arrived, we were getting circulars inviting us to lodge claims for the disruption it had caused. As our daughter was at pre-school age, we were delighted we could use it to kick a football around or play with a fling-a-ring. Other children were often seen there using it for the same reasons.</i>

C Bolshaw	30/11/2021	<i>We have lived in Northfield for the past 26 years and in all that time we have seen the Northfield playing field constantly used by local children (including our children and their friends) and their parents for all manner of games and sports (eg football, cricket, tennis, frisbee etc etc).</i>
R Burvill	31/01/2022	<i>Northfield has been used by a large number of people for football, exercise, picnics and birthday parties amongst other pastimes, by our household for 12 years but the neighbourhood for more than 50 years.</i>
R Cawte	10/02/2022	<i>My family has used the field at Northfield Winsley for many years for recreation – in particular my children have used it for football, ball games, etc with friends. My son had an outdoor birthday party on the field with football and a picnic with friends. We have lived in Winsley since 2005 and used the field on numerous occasions.</i>
K & S Cole	29/12/2021	<i>We lived in Bradford Road until the early nineties and during that time our children regularly used the field to meet with friends for exercise and sport. More recently, we have lived in Saxon Way and witnessed the local Scout group using the field for their outdoor activities, children playing ball games with friends and adults exercising.</i>
G & J Connor	17/12/2021	<i>We have been living at █ Northfield, Winsley since 1990. At that time we had two very young children who used the field, as we obviously did. It was also a nice safe place for them to learn how to ride a bicycle safely and just play in a safe environment. Likewise we have seen many children and families using the field for recreation purposes ever since...we now have 3 Grandchildren who also use (well used to) the field for playing.</i>
R & S Davies	14/02/2022	<i>My wife and I came to live in Winsley in 1997 and for that 24 years the field was open to the public for use as a recreational area and for children to play in. Indeed I would often take my own daughter there when she was young.</i>
Sarah Dodd	05/01/2022	<i>I live in the village with young children. We know how many children (in particular) use that playing field for recreation. Whether it is to play co-ordinated games, or to learn to play a game or simply to let off some steam, the field is used by the community.</i>
D, J, B and E Forbes	01/12/2021	<i>...we have only lived in the area for a short time, 5 years...We have used that space since we moved into the village, many football games, frisbee games, and a snack and a rest on sunny days have been enjoyed by my family and our neighbours in that space.</i>

M.D. Golding	16/12/2021	<i>I have lived in Winsley for many years and have watched children enjoying this facility.</i>
T Hogan & Family	04/12/2021	<i>...we have frequently enjoyed unfettered [sic] access to Northfield playing field for ad hoc recreation purposes with our boys, including sports (kicking footballs, throwing rugby balls etc.) and picnics. In fact, the "playing field" was already in use as a recreation facility when we moved here in 1999.</i>
B & R Hughes	31/12/2021	<i>Having moved here in 1994 we have regularly walked around the area and in previous years played with our daughter and friends when they were young. In the past we have watched the lads having a game of football as we strolled by. We have also seen cricket, catch and Frisbee players. We have also taken the dog to have a sniff round on our way up to Ashley Lane.</i>
S J Hughes	11/11/2021	<i>I have lived in Winsley since 2007 and my family have used this space for sports practice and outdoor play since then...it is not only used by children for play, but is also well used by dog walkers, for exercise and many other purposes.</i>
Beccy Janes	13/02/2022	<i>This space has been used by generations of my family and until the purchase of the land was regularly used with our children. We used this area to enjoy the fresh air and play sports as an alternative to the village play area where there can often be younger children and so sometimes feels a safer option when kicking footballs etc.</i>
Cllr J Kidney, Wiltshire Councillor for Winsley and Westwood	29/12/2021	<i>My own children have played on the space on numerous occasions, and I have had conversations with older residents in the village who have happy memories of the children playing there back in the 1970's and 80's, and more recently the children of those children.</i>
K Ladner	03/12/2021	<i>The area has been used for as long as I can remember, having first moved to Winsley in 1986, for community use. My own sons often used it to play football with their friends.</i>
C & G Pearce	01/12/2021	<i>We moved to ■ Saxon Way, Winsley on 23 March 1990 and we can confirm that before we purchased the house we were told that the area behind us was a play area that had been used for a number of years...the previous owner went out of his way to warn us that balls may appear in the garden from time to time and to illustrate this told us that soon after he had installed his greenhouse a ball came over the hedge and broke a pane of glass – it was his own son that had done it! Relatively few instances have occurred since we have lived here. On the afternoon of 23 March 1990 our two sons along with their Dad went through the gate from the back of our garden</i>

		<p><i>to have a kick around on the play area, a great way to meet other youngsters from the village...</i></p> <p><i>During the almost 31 years that we have lived here we can confirm that we have had families using the play area on a very regular basis. We have had football, rugby (especially during the time of the world cups), cricket, tennis, and running competitions. We have seen young people learning to ride 2-wheel bikes out there and we have seen adults using it for exercise and personal fitness; we have had end-of-school year picnics... Since lock-down just over 12 months ago the play area has been used daily...</i></p>
D & D Rees	05/12/2021	<p><i>Our two daughters both used this site during their early years in Winsley where they attended the local primary school. They used this area for meeting and playing with their many friends for hours on end in what is a safe environment. It provided an environment which had little or no facilities but a somewhere where they could find ways of self-entertainment over many years.</i></p>
T Richards	30/12/2021	<p><i>When our children were still at school, we would often use the Northfield Playing Field as it was the closest, and take a ball there for regular kick-about, particularly in the light summer evenings. There were permanent goalposts there (at this time these were bare tubular construction with no nets). When we had a dog, we would also play games of fetch there, being careful to ensure no fouling that would have caused hazard to other users.</i></p>
D Rickard	30/12/2021	<p><i>We have lived in Tynning Road (opposite the entrance to Northfields) since 1976. Our two children and later four grandchildren have all enjoyed using Northfields playing field since then. We have played football (for years with only one old goal post) cricket, frizbie, making daisy chains or just running around. When they were older, due to locality with no main roads to cross, our children went to play safely on their own or with friends using the old stack of tyres to practise golf.</i></p>
R Rowe	31/12/2021	<p><i>As you can see I live opposite the land in question. I have lived at number ■ since 1987. Throughout that time the field has been used by local children as a playing and meeting space. My own daughter, who is now 44, recalls playing there...</i></p> <p><i>It was always particularly popular with the boys as it had a reasonable goal post for when they played football.</i></p>
J Schweizer	06/12/2021	<p><i>Having lived in Tynning Road Winsley for over 40 years I can confirm that this playing field has been used regularly for all this time by the children of the community for various games and play activities.</i></p>

P Seeley	15/02/2022	<i>My child and many of her friends frequently used to play at the field, playing football and generally spending time outside...</i>
J Strike	08/11/2021	<i>We used it for general exercise, ball games, socialising, and dog walking, and it supplemented the size of the gardens on our estate tremendously... I also coordinated distribution of the questionnaires across the village – again the response was encouraging and hopefully helped illustrate the different ways the land was being used and by whom.</i>
S Thwaite	03/12/2021	<i>For at least 35 years it has been used by all ages of local people. Boys and girls playing football, parents with toddlers have a place they can let their young run about, and runners are seen running round the field for training. I love walking by the field and seeing folks using the green space.</i>
B Treble	04/12/2021	<i>I moved to Tynning Road in April 1979 and it was used by the youngsters there for football and other sports at that time. I went there with my children from 1982 onwards to play ball games and picnics until the children were old enough to go on their own. My son tells me that he played football, cricket, rugby, and frisbee and also flew a kite from 1992 to 2000. They also built a bike jump. I have seen youngsters playing there since 2000 on regularly [sic]. I took my granddaughter there in 2019 to play with a ball.</i>
J Treble	07/12/2021	<i>I moved to the Tying Road estate in 1979 and found that the Northfield space was being used by the local children and had clearly been in use prior to that time. So, I believe that it has been used by families and youngsters for their self organised sports and games for over 50 years. In fact since the estate was built. From 1982, I often went there with my own children to play ball games, like football, rugby and cricket. We also had picnics there and accompanied the children until they were old enough to go on their own...My son regularly played on the space, without adults but with a number of friends after 1992. He played football, cricket and rugby which helped him to develop his skills so that he became a regular member of all the school sports teams. Until he moved on to University in 2000, he found many other uses for the space including playing frisbee, flying his kite and building and using a bike jump. My daughter also used the space for these games as she often used to accompany our son when she was younger. Since 2000 I have continued to see youngsters playing and using the space regularly. And now I have started to take my</i>

		<i>young granddaughter there to play with a ball and have fun and develop her co-ordination.</i>
E Townsend	13/12/2021	<i>We have owned our house since November 2017 and the playing field has been an important resource for us and our children since then. Our 11 and 8 year old boys have used it a huge amount with their friends for playing football and riding their bicycles around amongst other things.</i>
B Wilson	19/12/2021	<i>We have lived in the village since 1983 and both our children spent many hours meeting friends and playing on that playing field.</i>
S Wriges	Undated correspondence (following Form 45 Notice of Application 12 th November 2021)	<i>I for one, have been a resident of Winsley on and off for 50 years...I have picniced there with my Grandchildren and played football and sometimes just sat and relaxed.</i>