

Review of Specification for Grounds Contract in Wickhambrook 2027/28

At its November '25 meeting, the Parish Council appointed R H Landscapes & Maintenance Ltd¹ to undertake the grounds contract for the 2026/27 financial year (**Min. 25.11.15 refers**).

The first cut took place in March, and the service has attracted generally positive comments throughout the season to date (some delay on cuts due to wet weather in late spring had resulted in overgrowth in the cemetery).

A revised specification for the grounds contract was agreed by the parish council at its September '25 meeting (Min.25.09.15), which noted the following adjustments to the specification for 2026-27:

- Increase cuts of footpaths to 6 per year
- WA1 – cut a footpath through WA1 between tennis court and bowling green to allow for foot traffic from school to recreation ground
- Up to two cuts (with collection of arisings) for Wildlife Areas
- Outer banks - cut back 1/3 - 1/5 every third year (with collection of arisings)

In November 2025 Wickhambrook Outdoor Bowls Club sadly closed its gates as due to low membership and difficulty in attracting new members and recruiting officers, it was no longer viable. The parish council made a nominal payment of £1 in respect of the WOBC shed and its contents (Mowers etc). This year, there being no members, the green has not been cut to date, and the parish council may need to consider adjusting the specification to allow for this in the next financial year.

The proposed changes to the specification therefore are:

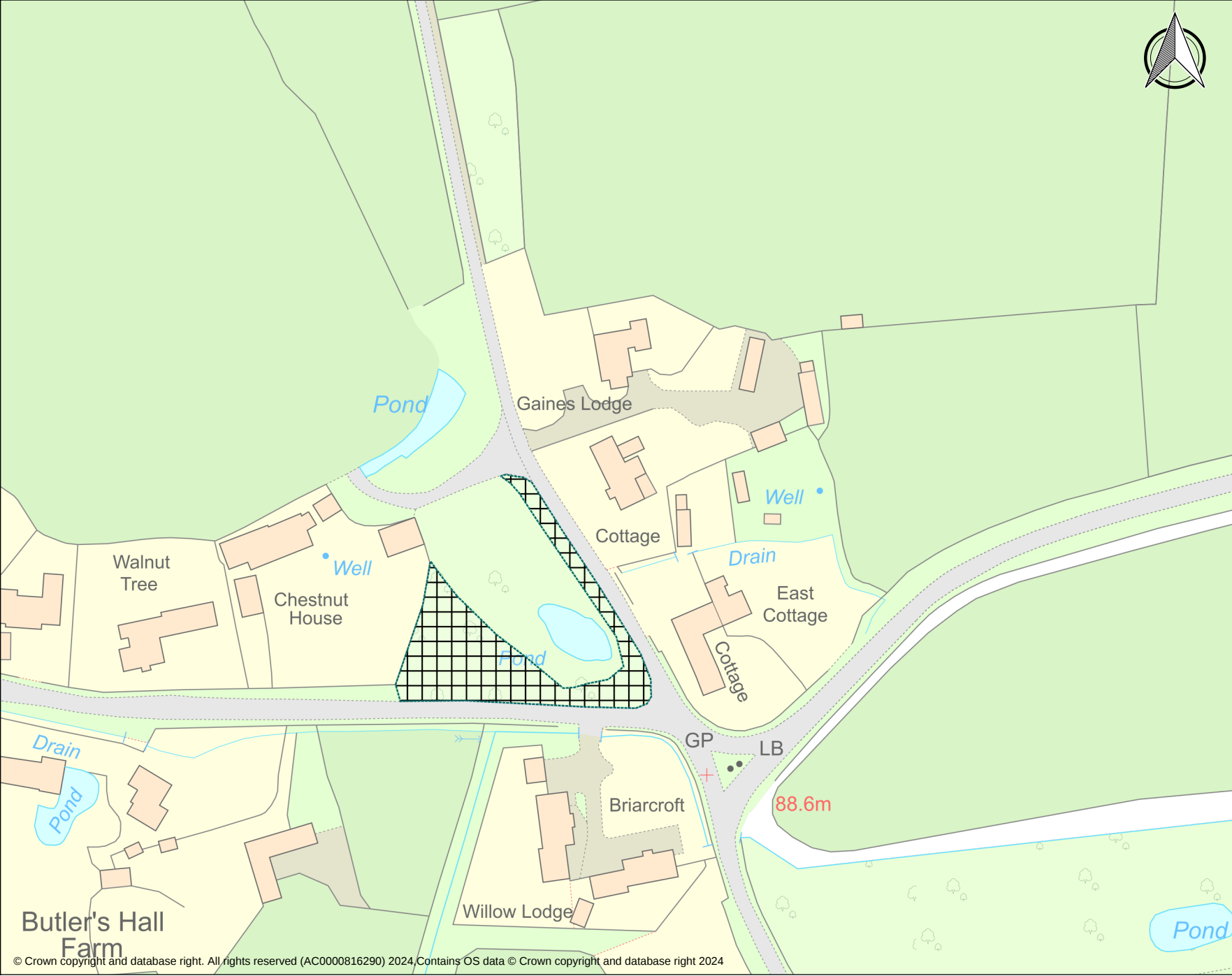
- Delay of cuts in old and new cemetery to allow for spring flowers to set seed – further clarification in notes
- Bowling green – reduce overall cuts to eight, but include cutting of the green
- Separate out Wildlife area between Tennis Courts and Bowling Green from Inner Banks (no change to frequency or collection of arisings) and clarify exact shape to ensure no damage to recently planted Whips

Thus, the proposed specification this year, which is attached as **Appendix A** to this report, and plans at **Appendix B**.

Action: Identify any adjustments to the proposed specification and agree specification to be put forward to full council.

¹ Who had previously been appointed for the years 22/23 and 23/24
Hilary Workman
Clerk & RFO
July 2026

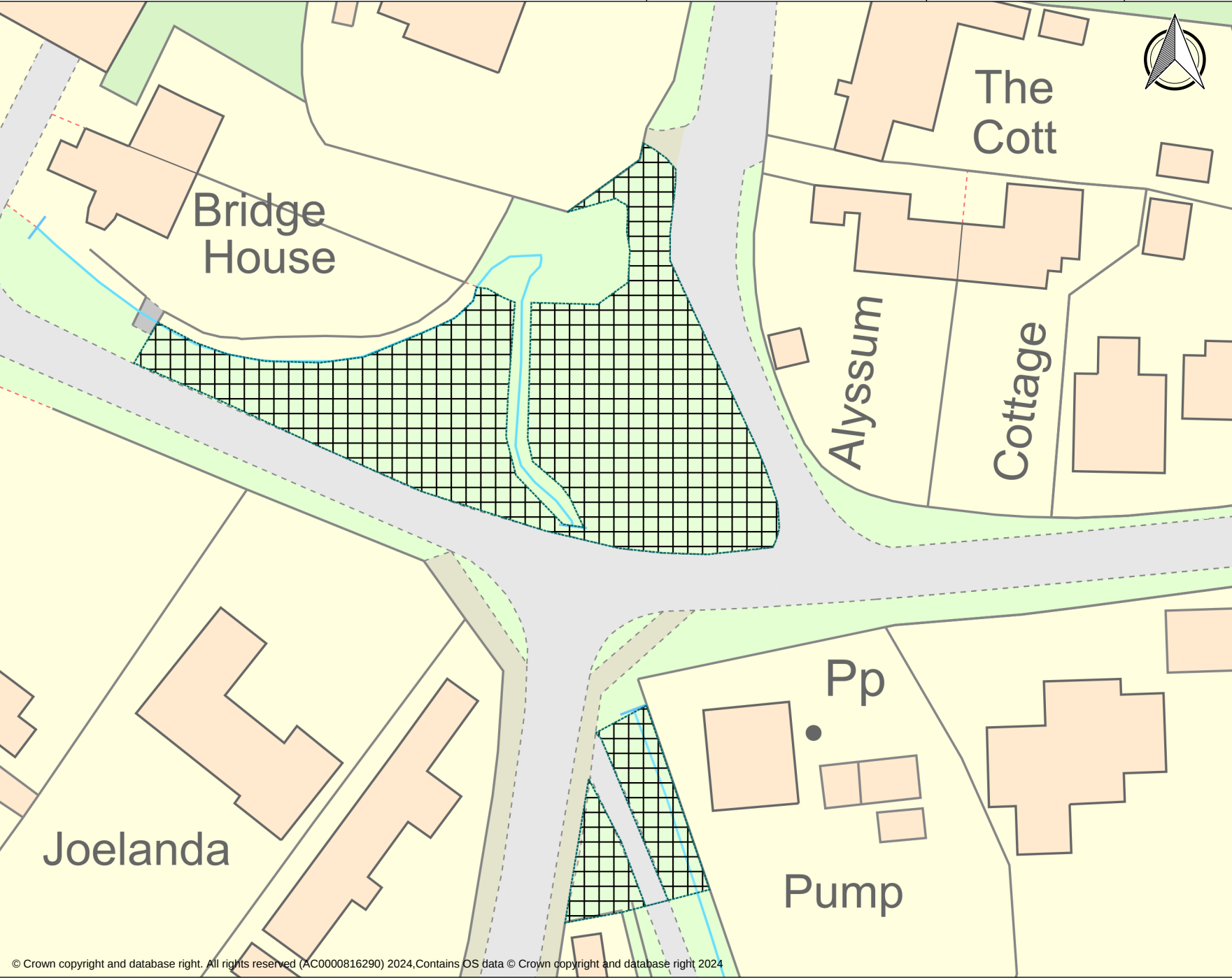
Map Item	Description	Max. No. Cuts	Collect Arisings	Leaf Clearing	Notes
	Greens				
1	Attleton Green	18	No		
WA6	Attleton Green	2	Yes		
2	Coltsfoot Green	18	No		
WA5	Coltsfoot Green	2	Yes		
3	Meeting Green Verge & Triangle	18	No		small triangle must be trimmed to ensure visibility
4	Nunnery Green Verges	18			
WA2	Nunnery Green Verges	2	Yes		
	Cemetery & Churchyard				
5	All Saints Churchyard	18	No		Only in Churchyard, not verges or car park
6a	Old Cemetery and Memorial Garden	14	Collection of arisings from the cemetery on the first cut following delayed cuts in the spring (to protect wild flowers)	yes	Delay cuts to allow spring flowers to set seed, as agreed with contractor - generally, first cut in May.
6b	New Cemetery	18	Collection of arisings from the cemetery on the first cut following delayed cuts in the spring (to protect wild flowers)	yes	Delay cuts where bee orchids indicated, or to allow spring flowers to set seed, as agreed with contractor
WA3	Cemetery Wildlife Areas	2	Yes		
	Play Areas				
7	Bury Road Play Area	18	yes	yes	Cut grass immediately outside pocket park to facilitate access.
8	Cemetery Road Play Area - leaves & debris collected	18	yes	yes	
	Six Acres & Recreation Ground				
9	Bowling Green (in and outer banks)	8	yes	yes	include the bowling green - up to eight cuts
10	Tennis Courts surrounding Grass	8			Don't cut late spring to September to allow for established bee orchids to set seed
12	Recreation Ground & Six Acres	18	Collection of arisings from Recreation Ground and Six Acres on the cut immediately preceding the Fete and Flower show each year.		*please quote for both collection of arisings, and arisings left in place
12	Additional Cost per cut for cut and collection	2		yes	May not be taken up and would be subject of separate purchase order
WA1	Inner banks	2	Yes -		
WA7	Area between bowling green and tennis courts	2	Yes -		cut footpaths through WA7 between tennis courts and bowling green as shown on plan to allow for foot traffic from school to recreation ground and for residents to wander amongst the planting scheme. Entire area (
WA4	Outer Banks (cut back 1/3 - 1/5 every third year)	1	Yes		strim/brushcut - note steep banks
	Other				
13	Footpaths per plan, namely FP26 from Cemetery to FP25; and FP25 from	6			Also cut footpaths as indicated in area WA7
15	Memorial Social Centre Grounds	18	yes		
16	Hedges - i) Bowling Green: Leylandii Hedge (both sides and top); other boundary hedges oneside only. ii) the beech hedge near the car park (cut one side); c) hedge bounding the cemetery - cut hedges both sides on road and alongside Footpath & one side elsewhere; d) hedge opposite school (Map 16c) cut bothsides	2	yes		
18	Scrub to rear of hard standing between Bowling Green and Tennis Courts	1	yes		



Parish

Grass Cutting

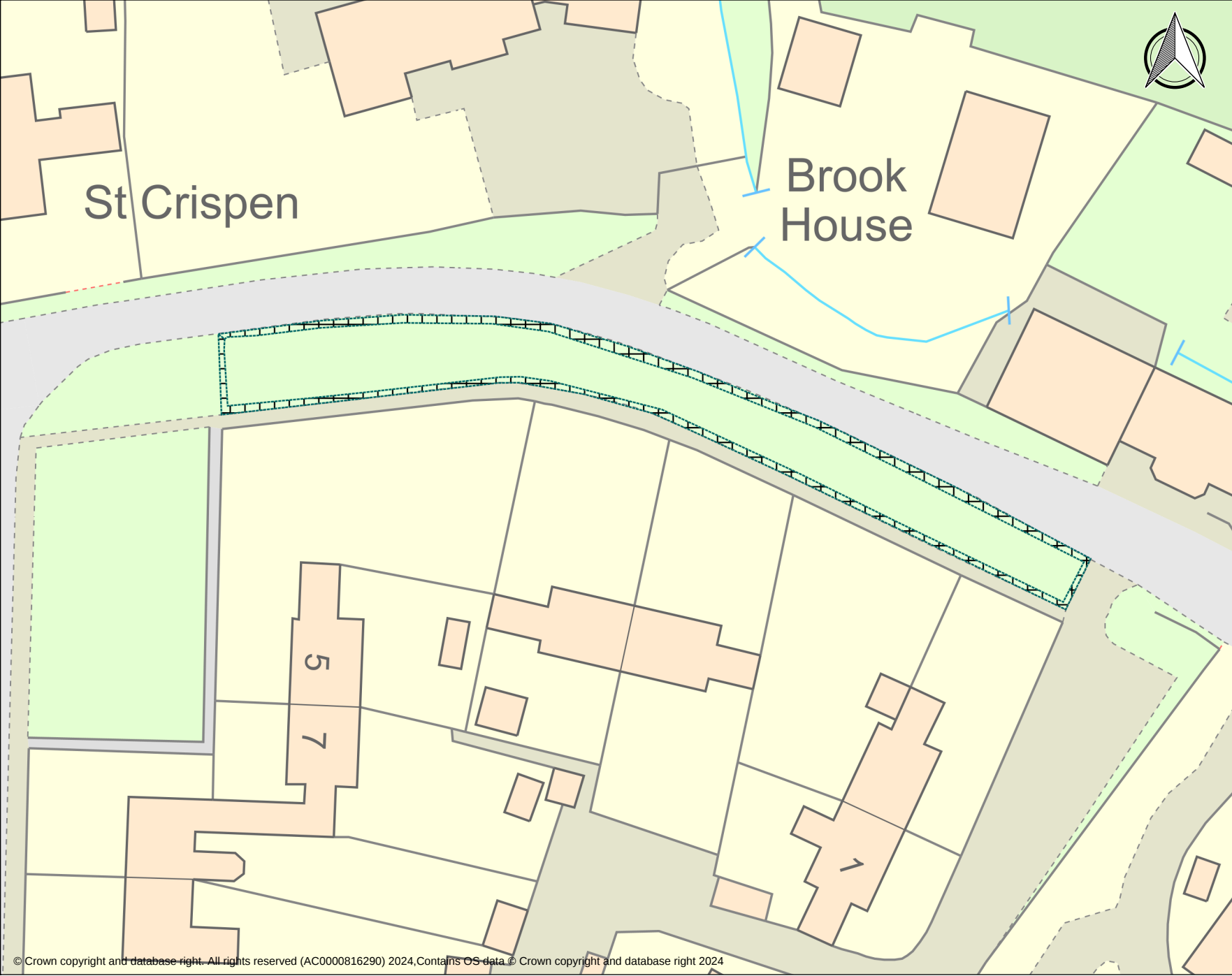
Butler's Hall
Farm

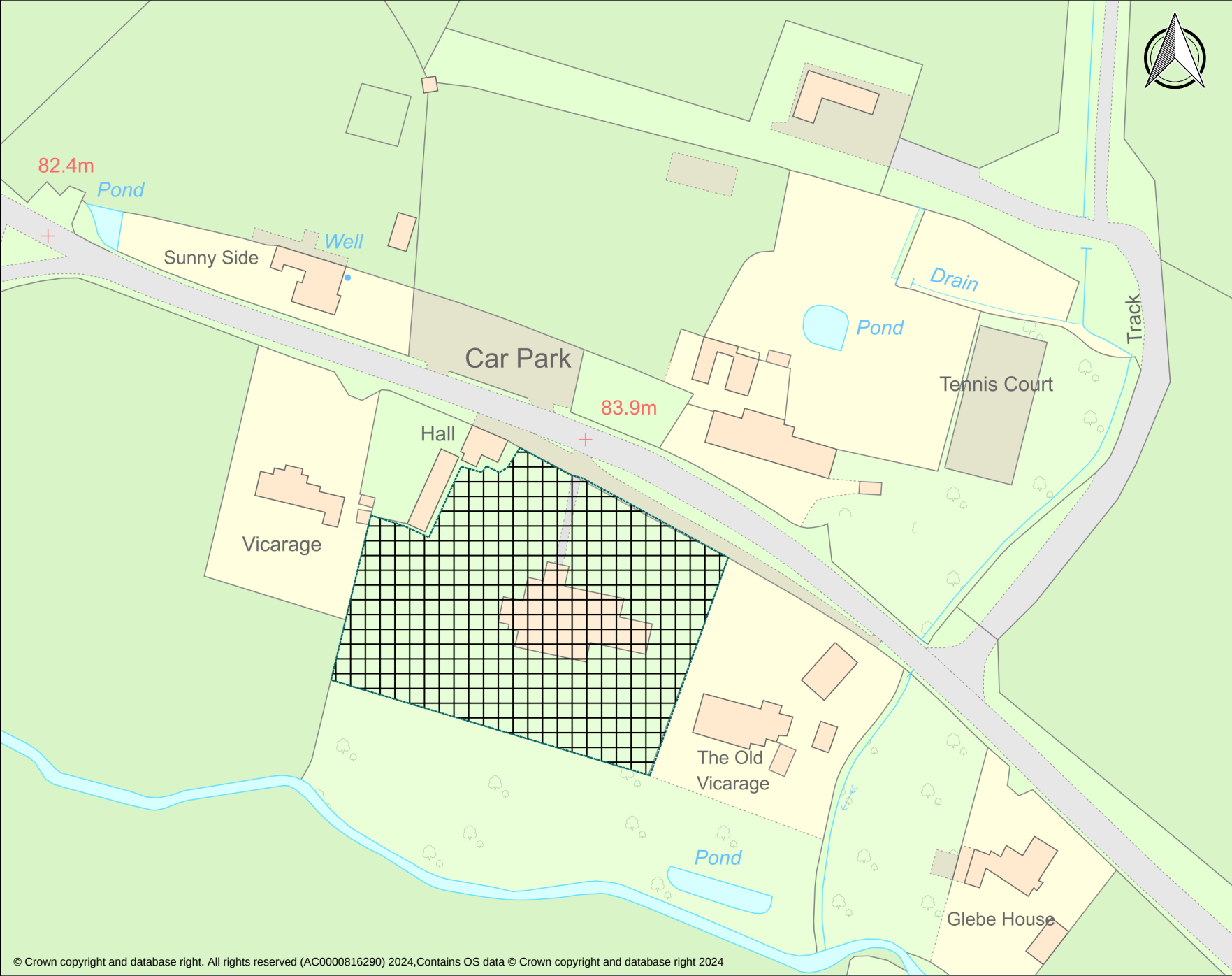


Parish

Grass Cutting



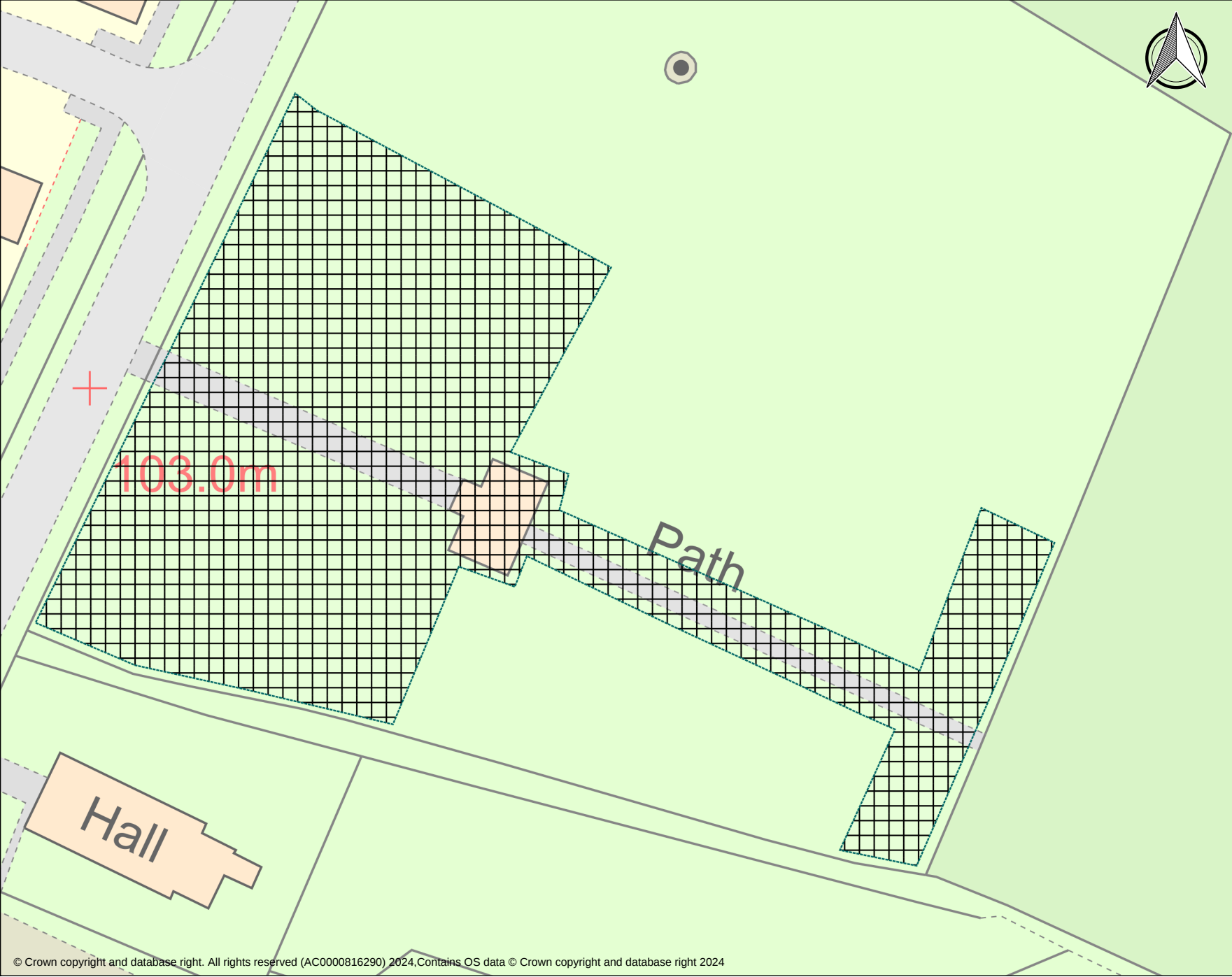


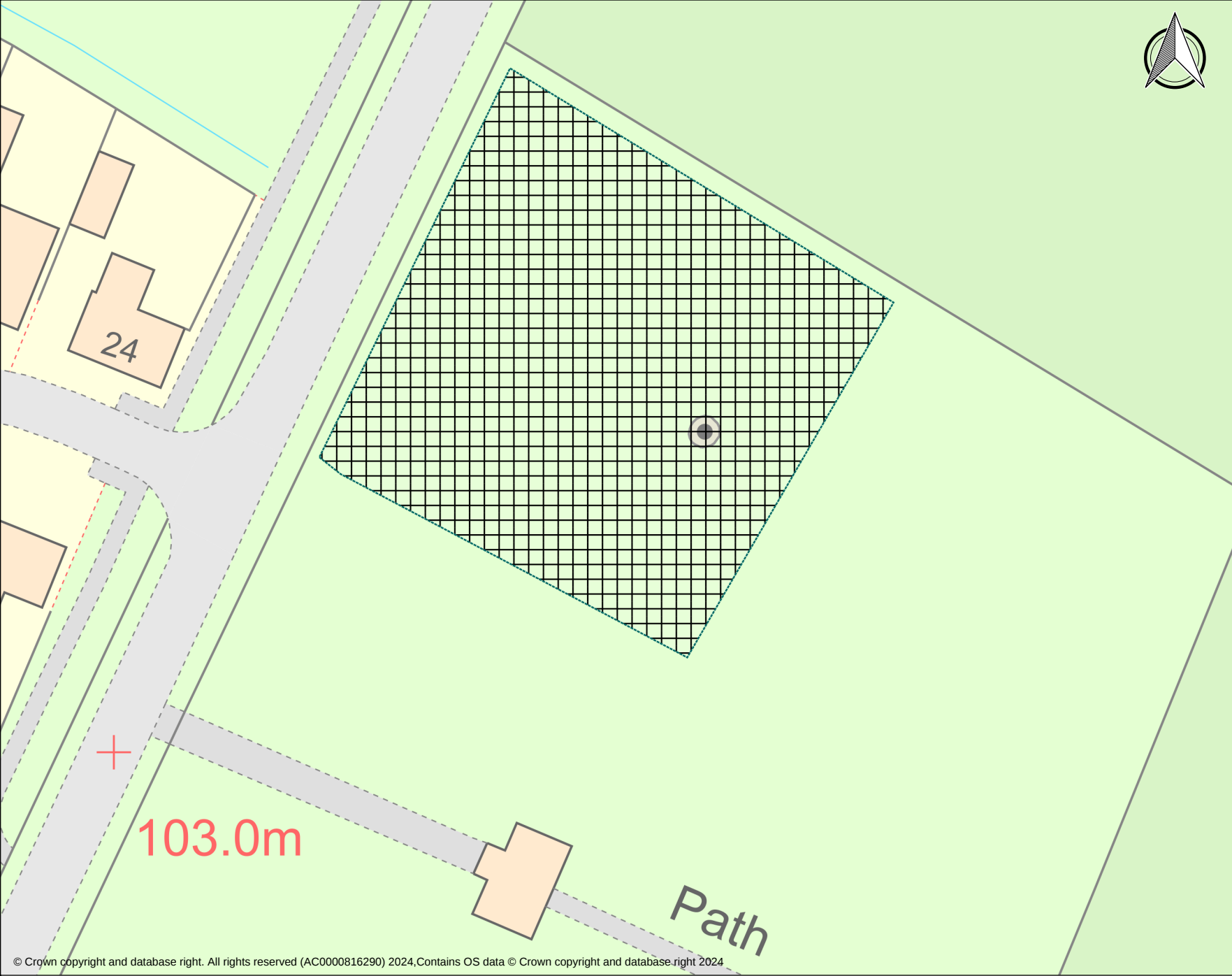


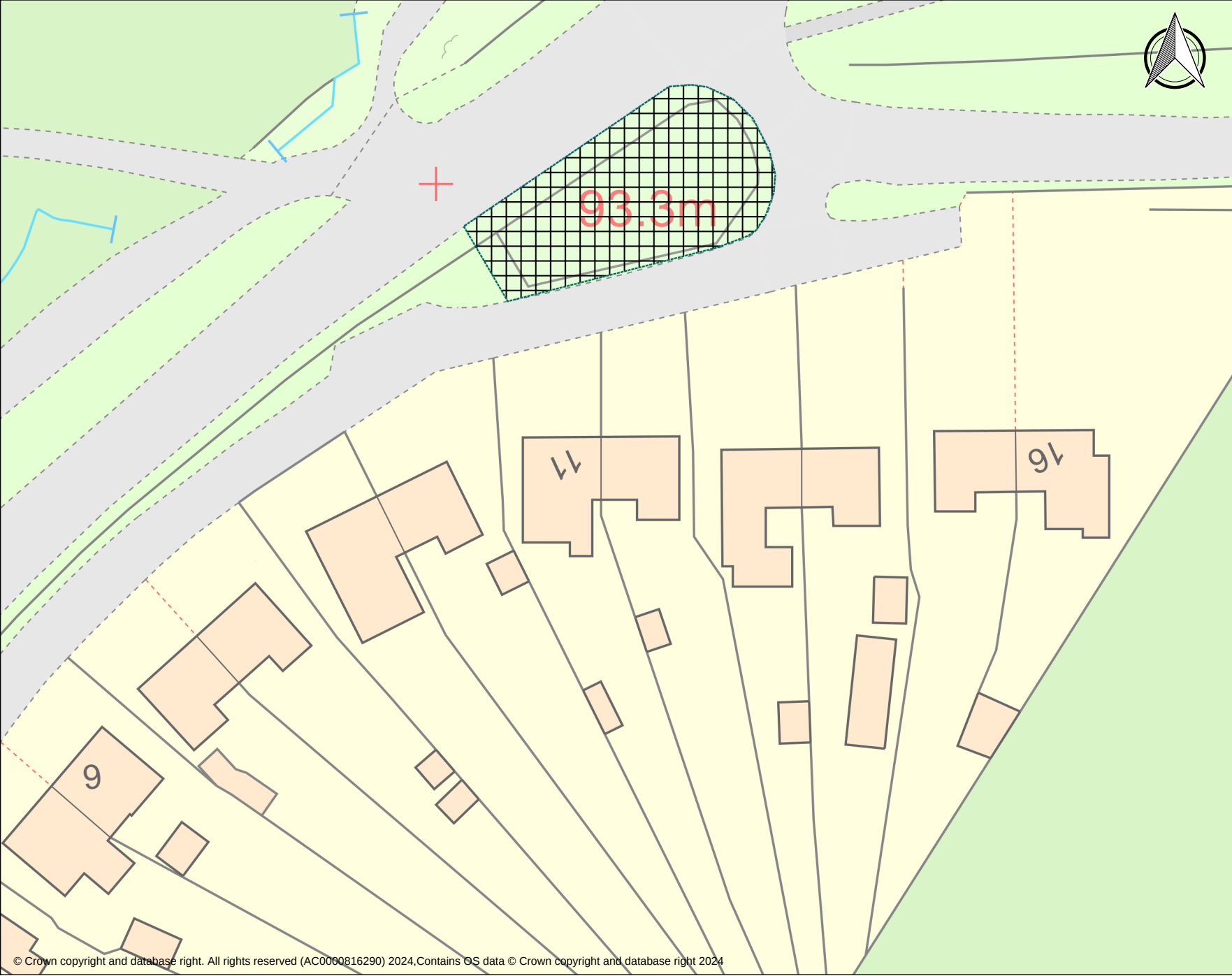
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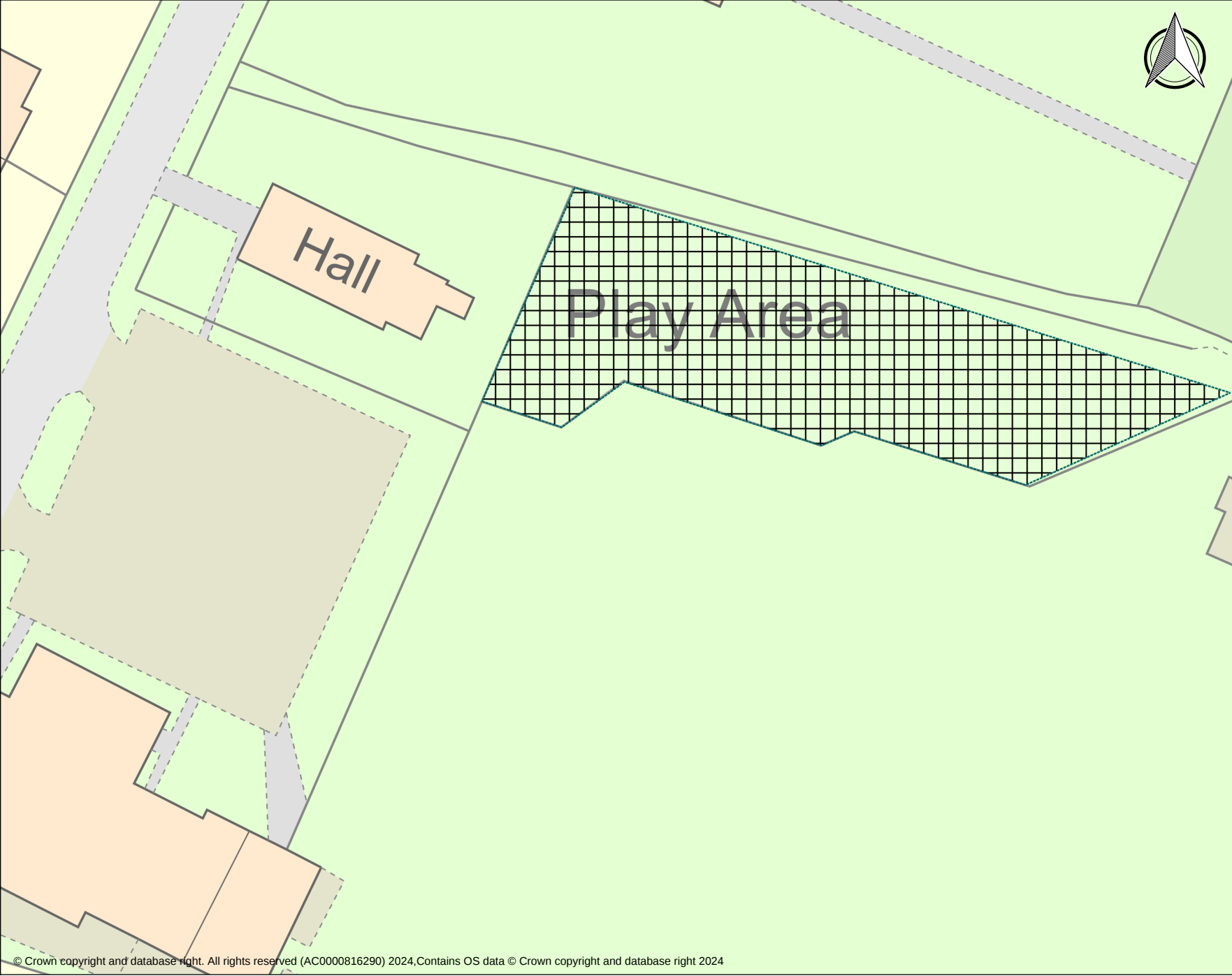
Grass Cutting

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Parish

Grass Cutting

Grass Cutting

WA2 - Nunnery Green Verges

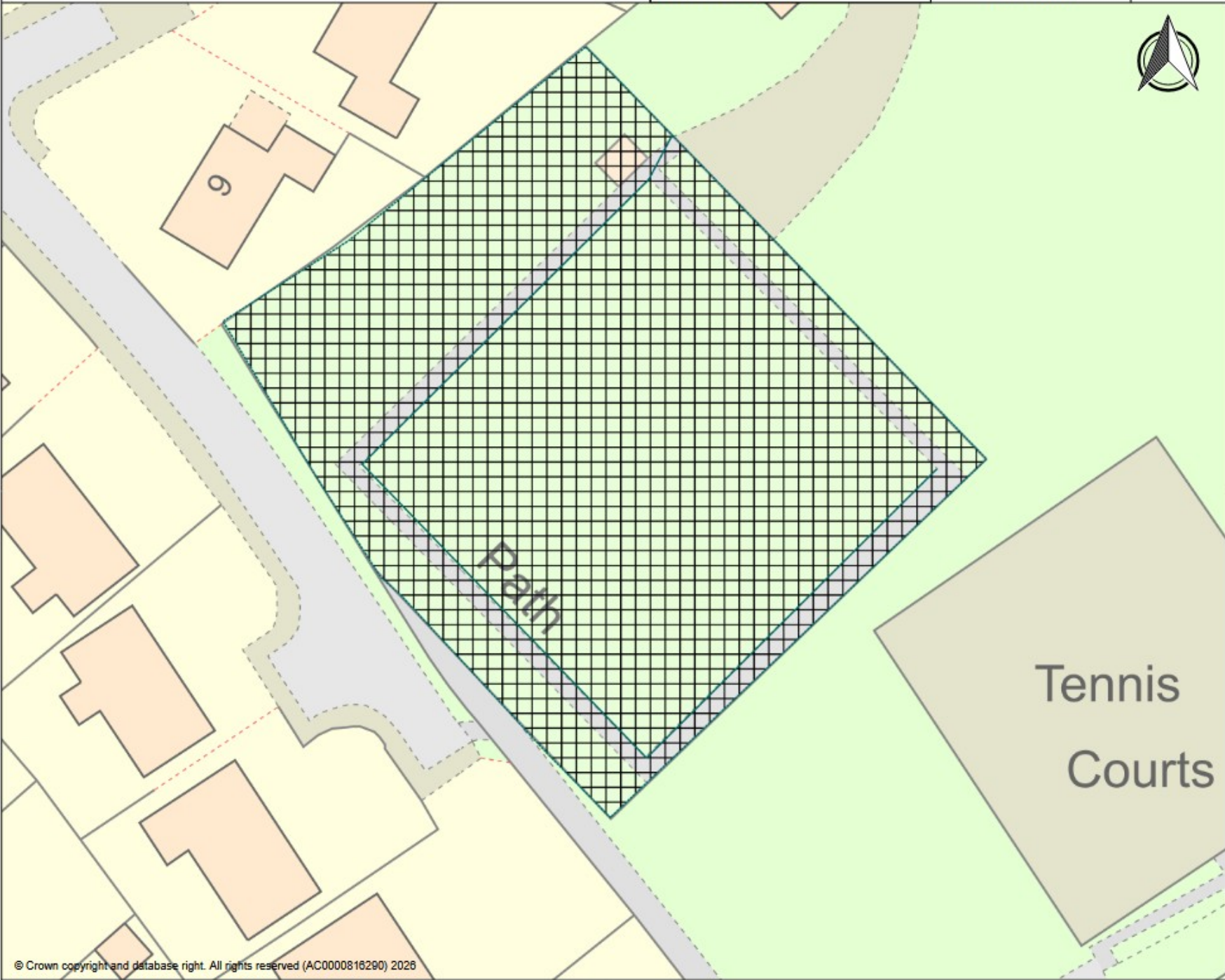
Wickhambrook

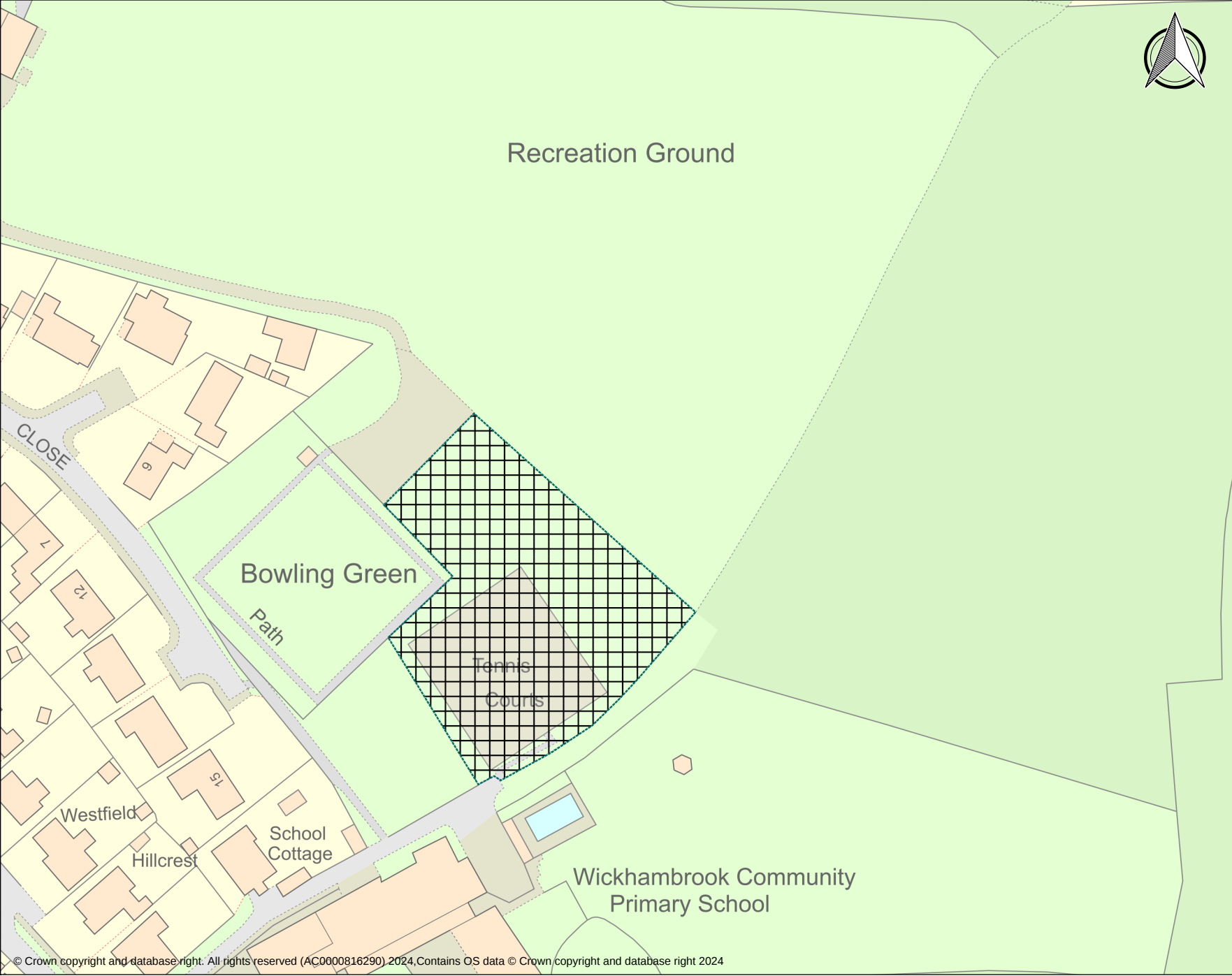
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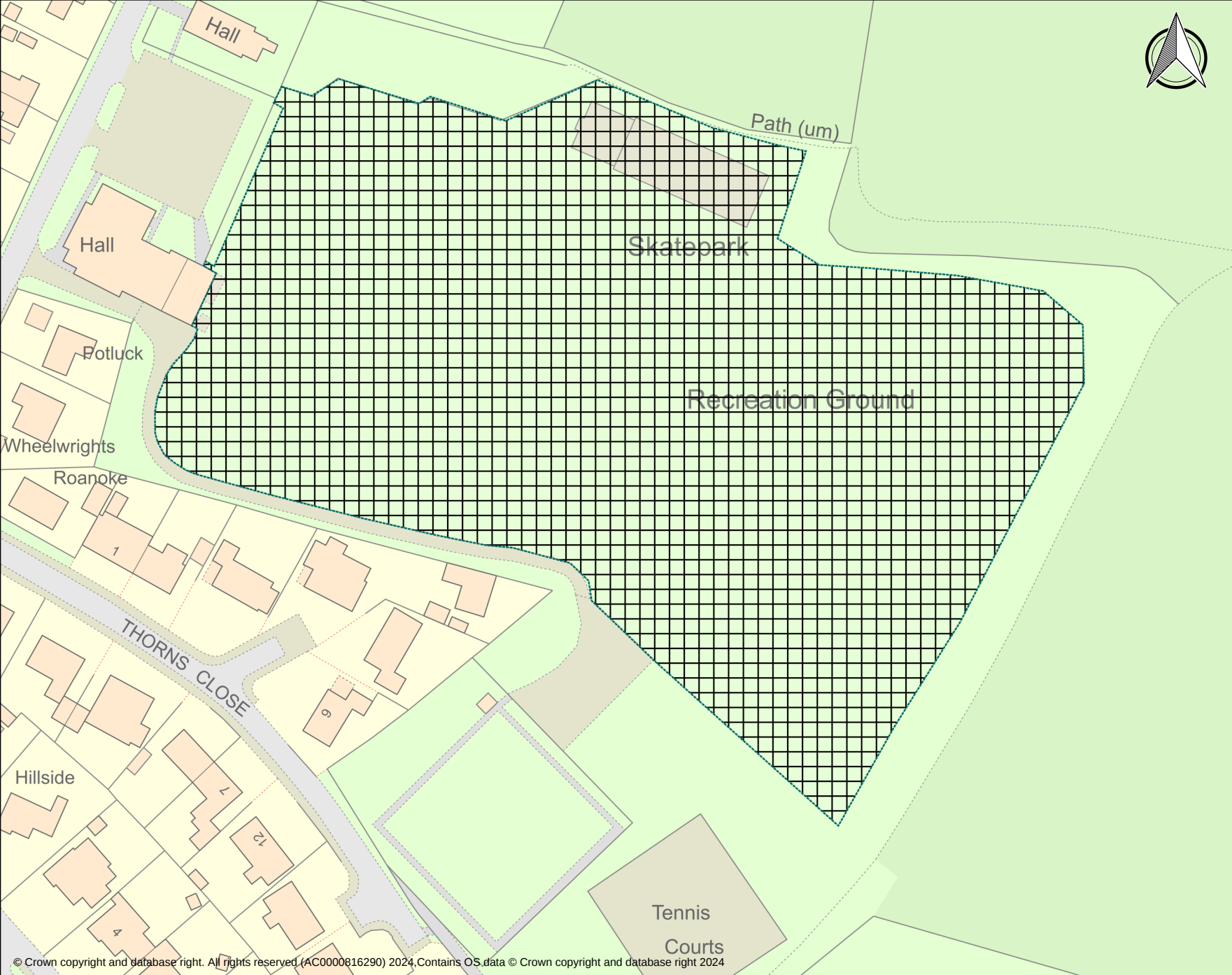
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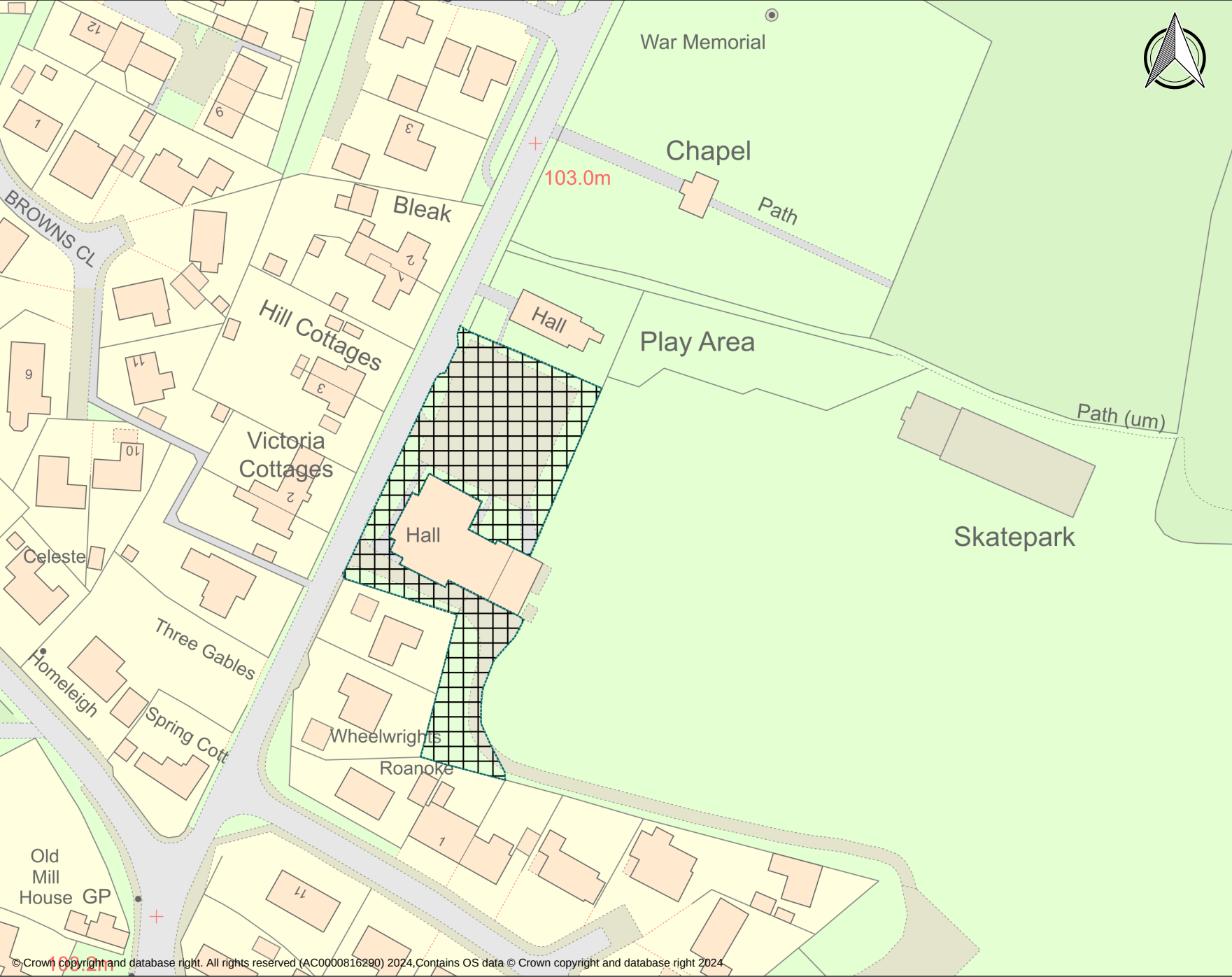






Parish

Grass Cutting





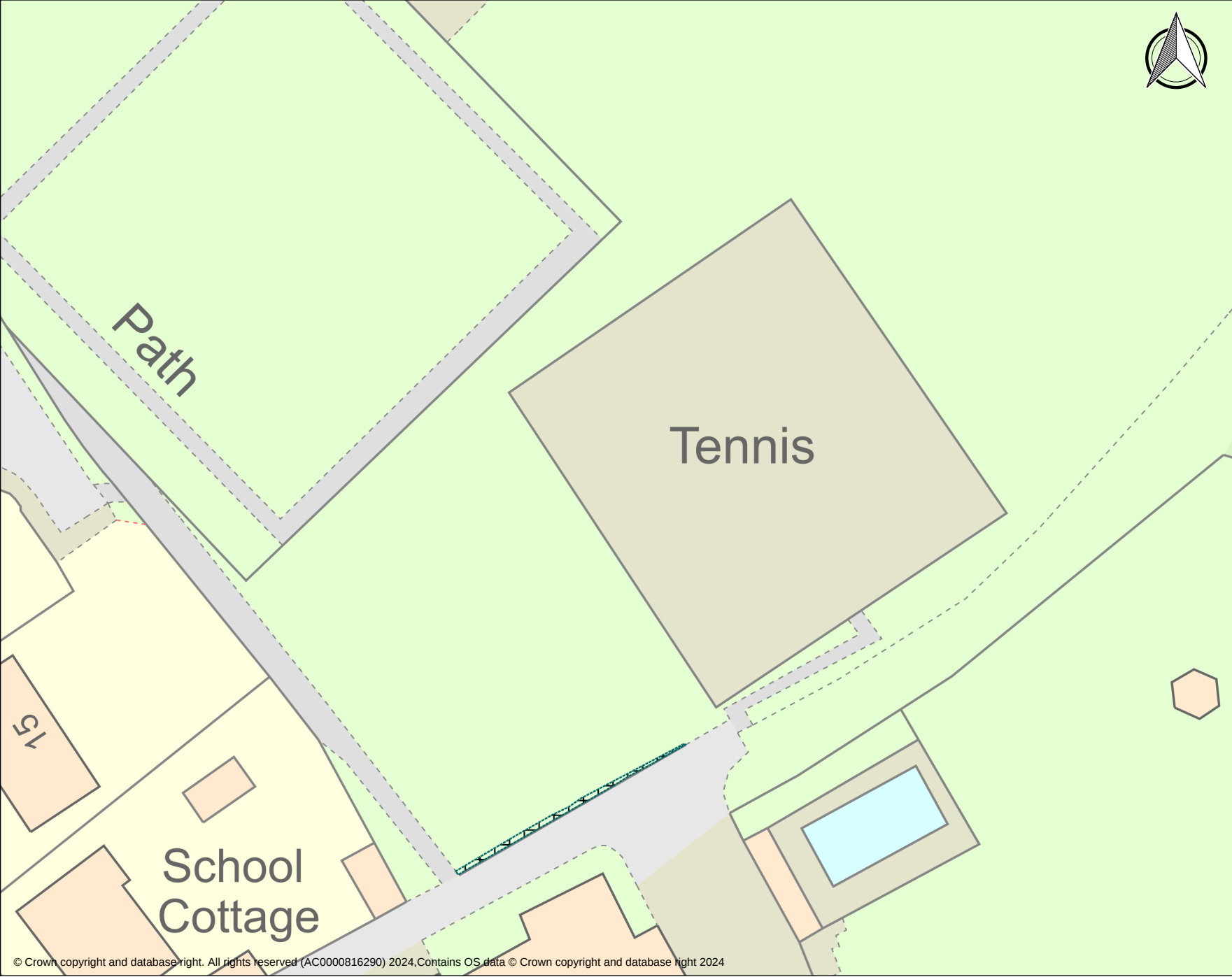
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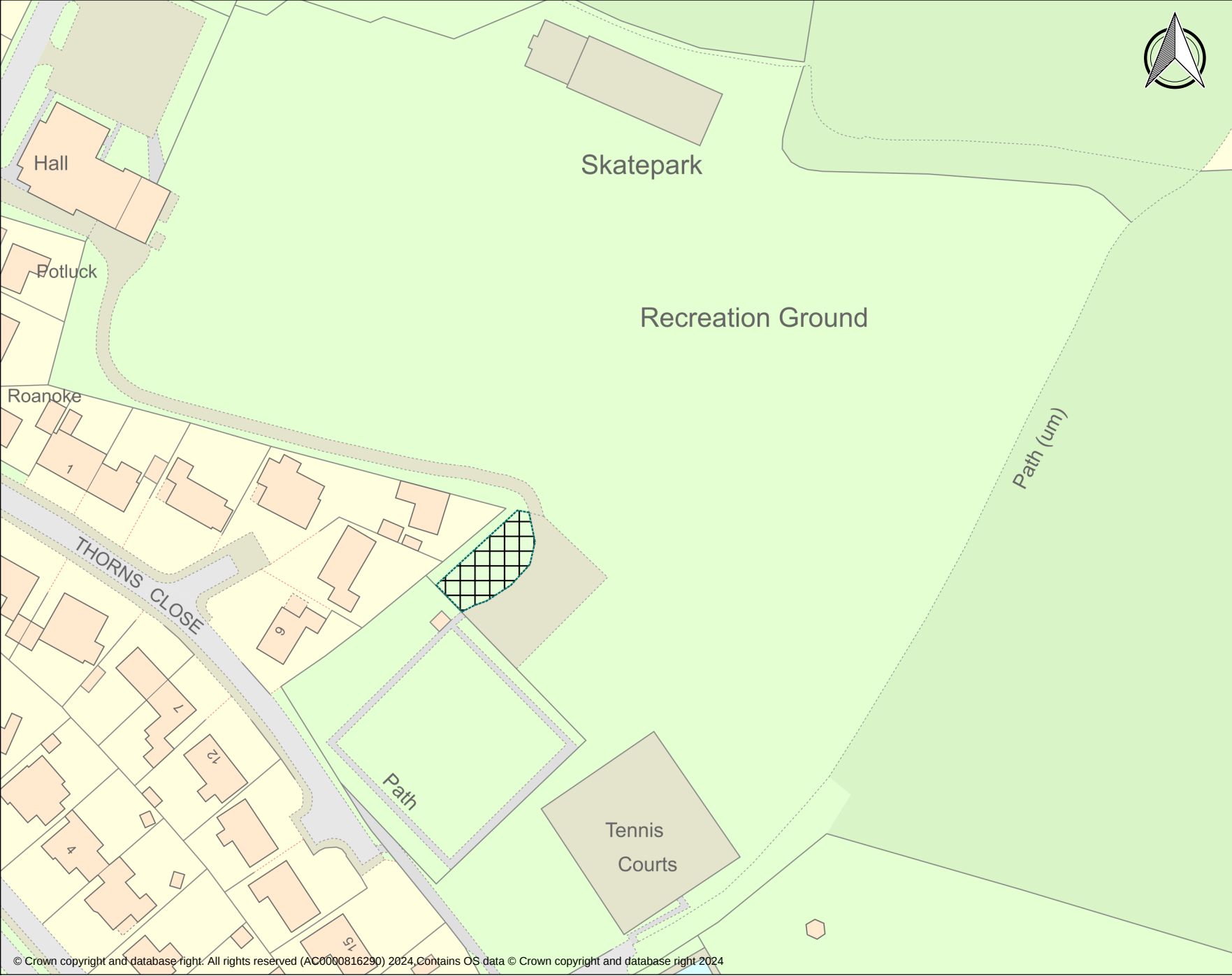


Grass Cutting









Wildlife Areas - cut twice (June & September) with arisings collected

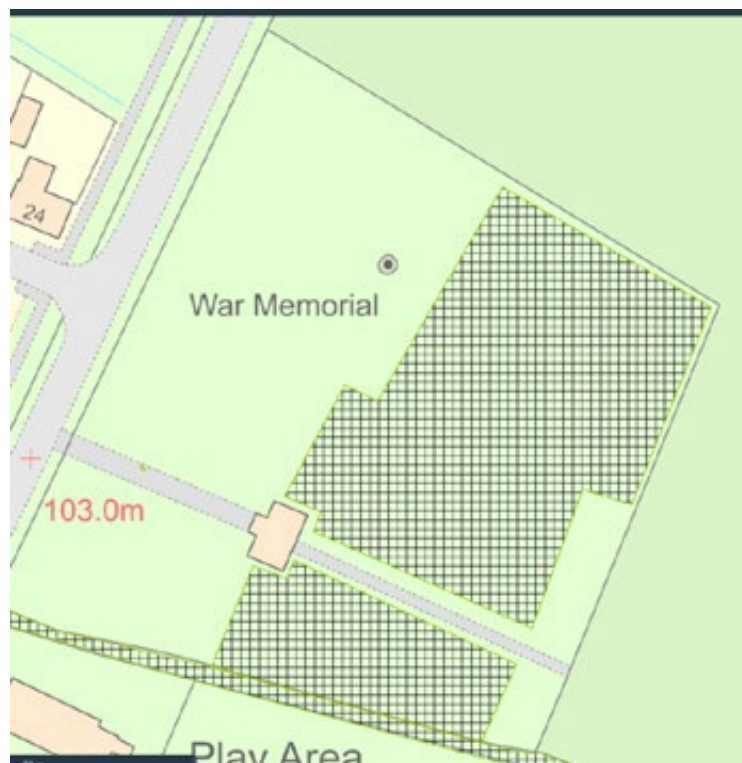
WA1 – Inner Banks



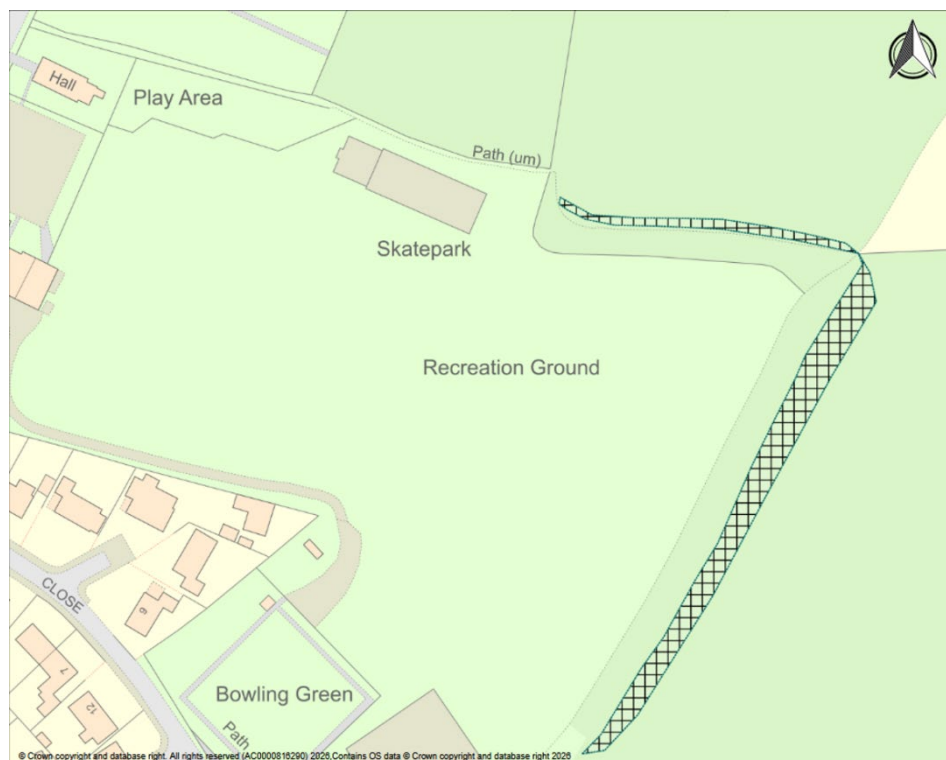
WA2 – Nunnery Green Verges



WA3 – Cemetery Wildlife Areas



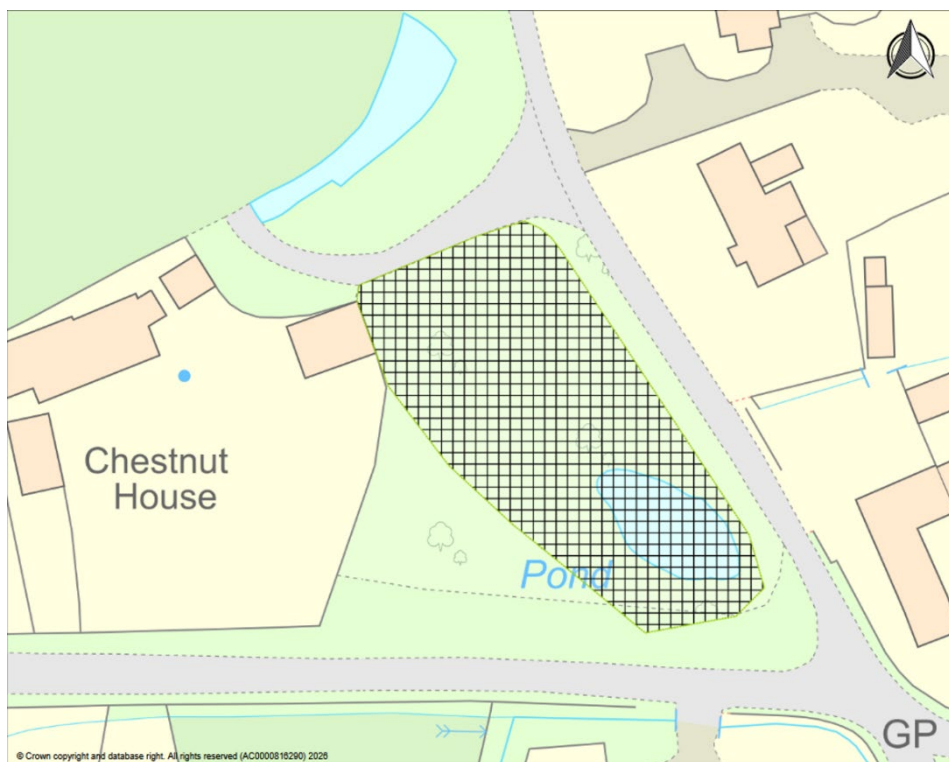
WA4 – Outer Banks



WA5 – Coltsfoot Green



WA6 – Attleton Green



WA7 – Area between Tennis Courts and Bowling Green

