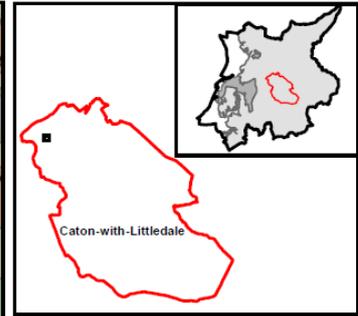


# LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION: BOWLING GREEN

## Bowling Green

Local Green Space -- Bowling Green



-  Caton with Littledale Parish
-  Local Green Space



Date: 30/07/2018

0 0.005 0.01 0.02 0.03 0.04 Kilometers

© Crown copyright and database rights 2018 Ordnance Survey 100025403.

2

## Aerial photo



This image is taken as the green is prepared for renewal of this much used turf. The boundary walls, including between the Bowling Green and Station Field Local green space, and over the wall the proximity of the Victoria Institute, are clear. The aerial view shows club house and spectator area right around the green. The family play area can be seen between the club house and the boundary wall.

**Bowling Green dimensions:**

Grid ref: OS 531646

Hectares 0.128, acres 0.317

Perimeter 0.147 km 0.09 miles

**Location and boundaries**

The Bowling green is situated in a prominent location at the centre of Caton. It is bounded by Brookhouse Road opposite the Victoria Institute, Caton, by the back of Station Hotel, Caton, one of the two well used pubs in the parish, and to the east, Station field.



To the north are a row of Victoria houses. It is easily accessed from the village centre through the car park of Station Hotel and through the beer garden, with a gated entrance. The two Parish Council car parks are opposite on Hornby Road. On all four sides the Bowling Green is bounded by an old gritstone wall, sufficiently high to protect the players against wind, but affording a fine

view past the Victorian houses on Brookhouse Road and Hornby Road, of Caton Moor and other uplands of the Forest of Bowland. Several species of lichen, and small ferns grow on and between the stones of the wall. To the west, the Victoria Institute appears above the wall, and bus stops indicate potential transport for players without cars for competing bowling teams from up or down the Lune Valley.

### **Local in character, not an extensive tract of land**

The area occupied by the Bowling Green is self-contained with clearly-defined edges.

**The Bowling Green is in very close proximity to the community it serves** at the centre of Caton Village and within half a mile walk of Brookhouse homes.

### **Ownership**

**Ownership** of Bowling green as that of Station Hotel, with lease to Bowling club

### **Maintenance**

**Maintenance** by Bowling club, supported by volunteers and small local grant funding as required

### **Why the Bowling Green is demonstrably special: NPPF Criteria**

#### **Historic significance**

The land should provide a setting for, and allow views of, heritage assets or other locally-valued landmarks.

#### **Historical significance**



Old maps show that the area was enclosed continuously but not exactly when it became a



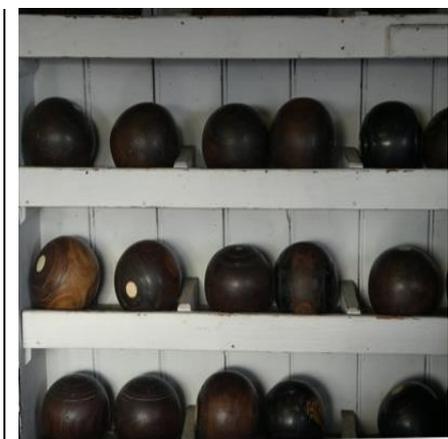
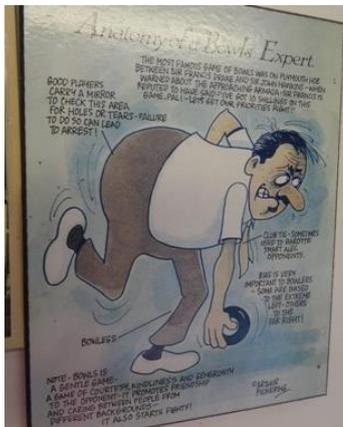
bowling green. The boundaries were in place in a map of

1847, although the land appears to have been used as a small market garden. By 1895 the Victoria Institute has been built opposite, and the area has been marked as a different use, although it is not clear what. On the map published in 1919 the Bowling Green is marked as part of the 'public house', Station Hotel, and was almost certainly being used for playing bowls. By 1931 the War Memorial appears opposite, and the Bowling Green is clearly at the heart of the growing village.



The bowling green is one of the oldest of the locally based village organisations, with origins closely linked to the Station Hotel, and is a classic village bowling green with traditional facilities. Overlooking the green at first storey height is the stone built pavilion, an atmospheric club room, from which matches may be observed. It is suitably spacious and equipped for a 'brew', with the walls lined with shelves of historic bowls; and framed and other photos of players and teams over the years, images of the many cups, shields and trophies won; two humorous posters, membership and club rules, current match details, a special clock donated by a well wisher. (Below: Winter players practice their skills - and longstanding local families are among members)





## **Maintenance - historical legacy:**

The green itself is always immaculately maintained along traditional guidelines and is the envy of other bowling clubs - it is a popular venue with teams from other villages. A certificate for the Best Kept Bowling Green is on the wall (Caton has not entered the competition for some years). For many decades, maintenance has been undertaken with pride by a member of a village bowling family who lives opposite the green (he has just retired). The esteem with which the bowling green is held links the old community and the new.

The community legacy includes provision of ample spectator seating all around the green,



including two covered shelters. There is a family friendly area between the green and Station Hotel ensuring that children are welcome to accompany adults playing bowls.



## **Recreational value**

It must have local significance for recreation, ... and be of value to the community.



The Bowling green is a distinctive and iconic presence to the whole community of living history at the centre of Caton, important to village identity, and symbolic of a thriving community. The noise of bowls games and laughter from the green brings the village centre alive day and night - especially when floodlit, so Brookhouse Road feels a friendly place for passers by walking between Caton and Brookhouse or to Victoria Institute, shops, or other facilities. The sight and

noise of the community outdoor games and spectator fun and cheering are reminiscent of a historical period illustrated in old photos when traffic was sparse and village identity centred round the Victoria Institute, Bowling Green, War Memorial, station hotel and the traditional stone residence of Moor Platt fronted by formal gardens.

Membership entitles players to use the green, but the amount of seating, covered and free standing, and the family corner, cater for the popularity of the green with spectators, friends and families, for local people and other teams. The green is used throughout the week during the daytime, and for evening play and matches. The green is lit by floodlights for evening play. The photos show the membership of well known local families, including farmers, over the years.

The club is very welcoming to anyone who expresses an interest in playing and can accommodate varied skill levels in the various sessions. This welcome has made many newcomers to the village feel instantly at home, with new friends, so it is easy to find out what else is going on in the



community. A female enthusiast described how when she and her husband moved up from the south of England, our bowling green enabled her to immediately join the activity she loves and feel at home at once. In turn, this couple have brought in new ideas for our community.

Older images show a predominantly male composition of teams, but in 1995 women were welcomed, and an image of the event held to celebrate, shows much interest from women of all ages!

**Wellbeing:** The location near to the Victoria Institute and the Station Inn, adds to the social dimension of the green for players. The Victoria Institute has historically offered indoor bowling in the main hall during the colder winter months, which ensures continuity for player skills and continued camaraderie for players. Outdoor bowls also complements the varied range of physical activities organised at the Victoria Institute as a 'health hub'.

The Bowling Green offers an opportunity for all ages to enjoy the well-being and health benefits of an outdoor game using physical skills, eye hand co-ordination. flexibility of movement and promoting strength. The Bowling Green is an increasingly valuable asset as our village community. Bowls is a social games, and the fun and laughter add to well-being.

### **Beauty**

The Bowling Green is a superb example of a village bowling green, with a corresponding beauty. It abuts Station field, site of Caton Gala and village football. Views of the green, field and Forest of Bowland moors behind form a continuous vista from various points accessible to the public, including the pavilion.

## Sustainability

### Contribution towards sustainability of our community

- ❖ The Bowling Green provides outdoor exercise which complements other outdoor sports in the community (tennis, football) and the many and varied indoor physical activities.
- ❖ Bowling as a game is social, both for players and their families, and helps people feel welcome and make friends especially for newcomers to parish, the newly retired, those in other changed circumstances.
- ❖ For the whole community who frequent the centre of Caton for the shops, pubs, etc, the Bowling green is part of the distinctive identity of village centre, redolent with an historical sense of place.
- ❖ Local bowling offers healthy, physical exercise which promotes well-being. Although enjoyable for all ages, it is a sport which is attractive to, and feasible for, older people, who form a larger than average and growing proportion of our parish population.

*One of the basic conditions for neighbourhood plans is achieving sustainable development. The social, community, economic and environmental benefits of green spaces help to make local places sustainable. From Locality toolkit*

The Bowling Green contributes to quality of place, the key factor in attracting investment, jobs and growth to an area. The Bowling Green is especially important in making our local community an attractive place to live, work and spend leisure time. So, it has real economic value to the surrounding area, in addition to creating community well-being.