

PLANNED

ATTRACTIVE

SAFE

IMPROVED



**PLYMOUTH
POLICY AREA***
**LOCAL GREEN
SPACE**

SECURE

MANAGED

PROTECTED

ACCESSIBLE

DESIGNATION CRITERIA FEBRUARY 2020

* AS DEFINED BY THE PLYMOUTH AND SOUTH WEST DEVON JOINT LOCAL PLAN

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. What is a Local Green Space?	3
3. Local Green Space DPD Production Stages	3
4. Why are we preparing a DPD?	4
5. Criteria for Allocation	5
6. Assessment Methodology	8
7. APPENDIX I	15

LOCAL GREEN SPACE DPD

Designation Criteria Consultation Document

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this consultation paper is to seek views on the methodology and the criteria that the Councils are proposing to use to assess whether or not green spaces in the city should be designated as 'Local Green Spaces'. We are particularly interested in your views on questions that are set out within this document.
- 1.2. This consultation document forms the first stage (Regulation 18¹) in the preparation of a Local Green Space Development Plan Document (LGS DPD) for what is known as the Plymouth Policy Area (as defined in the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan²). In addition to the area administered by Plymouth City Council, the Plymouth Policy Area also includes some land within South Hams and facilitates the need for Plymouth City Council and South Hams District Council to prepare a joint plan.
- 1.3. The effect of the LGS DPD will be to introduce a Local Green Space Policy in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework³ (NPPF), specifically paragraphs 99, 100 and 101 of that document, and to allocate important green spaces in the Plymouth Policy Area for Local Green Space protection.
- 1.4. In addition to NPPF legislative requirements, both Councils are very conscious of the need to tackle climate change and will therefore, take the opportunity to assess the value that urban green spaces can offer in terms of mitigating and becoming more resilient to climate change.

2. WHAT IS A LOCAL GREEN SPACE?

- 2.1 Local Green Spaces are a particular type of planning designation that helps to protect land from inappropriate development. The designation can be appropriate for sites that the local community identifies as particularly important to them, subject to certain rules set out in the NPPF. Once land is formally designated as Local Green Space, the protection of the land becomes very important when Local Planning Authorities are making decisions on planning applications.

3. LOCAL GREEN SPACE DPD PRODUCTION STAGES

- 3.1 This consultation stage is the first of a series of proposed stages in the production of the LGS DPD that will be prepared in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012⁴ as set out below:
 1. Regulation 18, Consultation 1 – On the 'Criteria for Allocation' and green space 'Assessment Methodology'. Primarily, we will be looking for comments on the approach being taken and on the details in the criteria and methodology. (February 2020)
 2. The Councils will carry out an update of the 'Plymouth Open Space Assessment' evidence base using the criteria and assessment methodology after taking on board comments from the first consultation.

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

² <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/PoliciesMapPPA.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁴ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made>

3. Regulation 18, Consultation 2 – On the evidence gathered through assessment of green spaces against the ‘Criteria for Allocation’ using the ‘Assessment Methodology’, and on sites that we propose are suitable for Local Green Space allocation. Primarily, we will be looking for comments on whether the suggested Local Green Spaces are appropriate and seeking comments from the local community about which green spaces are important to them and why (autumn 2020).
 4. Taking into account the outcomes from the aforementioned consultations, the Councils will draft the LGS DPD. This document will identify sites to be designated as Local Green Space and will set out policy on how these sites will be considered in planning terms (autumn – winter 2020).
 5. Regulation 19, Consultation 3 – On the draft LGS DPD. Primarily, we will be looking for comments on the wording of the document itself. These comments will accompany the DPD if we choose to submit to the Inspectorate without any significant amendments (winter 2020).
 6. The Councils will then submit the LGS DPD to the Inspectorate for them to consider through a public examination where they will decide whether the plan is ‘sound’.
 7. Subject to the LGS DPD being found sound, the Councils would be able to adopt the document, which is anticipated in the winter 2022.
- 3.2 We will be engaging with stakeholders throughout the preparation stages of the DPD, including local communities, businesses and from an early stage, we will take particular care to ensure that landowners are contacted and notified during consultations. This will include land owners for green spaces that were previously put forward as Local Green Space during the first consultation and all the land owners for green spaces put forward in the second and third consultations.

4. WHY ARE WE PREPARING A DPD?

- 4.1 We are preparing the LGS DPD to provide the opportunity for local communities to identify green spaces that are special to them. All designations within the LGS DPD will have been suggested by local communities during periods of consultation. Green Spaces in Plymouth are well protected by existing policy from a planning perspective, but allocation as a Local Green Space will add additional importance and recognition of their role to local communities.
- 4.2 Our primary objective for the LGS DPD is to facilitate the bringing forward of local community aspirations for protecting green spaces in the city through the formal designation of ‘Local Green Space’.
- 4.3 Within this context the LGS DPD will aim to:
 - Identify the sites that are appropriate for Local Green Space allocation;
 - Ensure that important Local Green Spaces in the Plymouth Policy Area are sufficiently protected from inappropriate development;
 - Clearly articulate why the green spaces we put forward for allocation are exceptional to the satisfaction of the Inspector at the examination;
 - Consider whether green spaces can help make Plymouth and the wider area more resilient to climate change challenges; and
 - Consider the benefits of green space in helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- 4.4 The Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (JLP) was adopted in March 2019 following examination. During the examination the Inspectors were not satisfied with the JLP

approach to LGS⁵; consequently, through ‘main modifications’, the Councils revised the Plan and removed all Local Green Space designations and any associated text.

- 4.5 The Inspectors confirmed these amendments did not prevent the allocation of local green spaces through Neighbourhood Plans or another DPD. In response to this, we are now able to commence the process of preparing this DPD, which will offer communities the opportunity again to have their suggestions for Local Green Space allocations assessed. This is particularly important in the City, where currently, there are fewer Neighbourhood Plans coming forward than in rural areas.

Consultation Question 1:

Do you think it is a good idea to create a Local Green Space DPD for the Plymouth Policy Area?

5. CRITERIA FOR ALLOCATION

- 5.1 There are no specific guidelines on the type and size of green space which can be allocated as Local Green Space, but they cannot be ‘extensive tracts of land’. The key characteristic for the designation should be that it is demonstrably special to the local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife.
- 5.2 The NPPG⁶ advises that land already subject to a designation could be proposed as Local Green Space, as different designations are intended to achieve different outcomes. However, consideration has to be given to whether the additional designation would deliver any additional benefits. We believe there would be no additional benefit in allocating Local Green Space sites within the following existing designations (Assessment 2):
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) are designated to protect those habitats and species considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds). Each SAC contributes to the Bern Convention’s Emerald Network of protected areas. Due to its international importance and associated legislation, it is considered to have sufficient protection in place to protect these sites from inappropriate activities and development.
 - Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) are designated to protect rare and vulnerable birds (as listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive) and regularly occurring migratory species. Each SPA contributes to the Bern Convention’s Emerald Network of protected areas. Due to its international importance and associated legislation, it is felt sufficient protection is in place to protect these sites from inappropriate activities and development.
 - Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) protected under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is a national habitat and biodiversity designation that is usually attributed to areas of particular scientific interest. The NPPF sets out the following test: development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. Therefore, we have concluded a Local Green Space designation for these sites is unlikely to deliver any additional benefits.

⁵ Document EXC15 ‘PSWD JLP Inspectors’ post hearing advice note’

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/plymouthandsouthwestdevonjointlocalplanexamination#EXC15>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

- Registered Parks and Gardens are protected by the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953. The NPPF (paragraphs 194 & 195) states that substantial harm to grade II registered parks or gardens should be exceptional and to grade I and II* registered parks and gardens should be wholly exceptional. Due to the green space nature of this national designation, it was felt that sites already registered as Parks and Gardens would not benefit further from a Local Green Space designation.
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR) are protected by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These sites are owned, leased or managed by Plymouth City Council and therefore, safeguarded against inappropriate development. They are not only designated for their wildlife value, but also for the access to nature they can deliver. Due to the aforementioned, it was considered there is no additional benefit to designate LNRs as Local Green Space sites.
- Registered village greens and common land are protected by the Commons Act 2006 and it is a criminal offence to undertake any act which interrupts the use or enjoyment of a green as a place for exercise and recreation or to cause any damage to the green. Common land registration means a third party has a right over the land, often allowing the public access to the land, disturbing this right is a criminal offence. Both designations mean development on those sites is highly unlikely, therefore, it was considered there was little additional benefit in designating these types of sites as Local Green Space.
- Strategic Green Spaces are designated within the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (2019). There are 6 designations for new and existing Strategic Green Spaces across the Plymouth area including Central Park, Saltram Community Park, Sherford Community Park, Derriford Community Park, The Plym Valley and Woolwell Community Park. The 6 Strategic Green Spaces have been identified due to their multi-functional nature that will deliver benefits for communities, wildlife and growth projects. As these sites are allocated within the JLP, it is considered there is no additional benefit to designate Strategic Green Spaces or land within them as Local Green Spaces.

Consultation Question 2:

Do you agree that the designations listed in paragraph 5.2 afford sufficient protection so that Local Green Space Designation is not necessary? If not, why?

5.3 We consider that land with the following designations would still be further protected by the effect of a Local Green Space allocation.

- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are protected under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act). AONBs are extensive areas designated for their landscape and scenic beauty. The designation does not prevent development and therefore, it is considered where a green space is located within an AONB, it would meet the tests set out in the NPPF and a Local Green Space allocation may deliver additional benefits.
- Green spaces within Conservation Areas are likely to form part of the designated area as they contribute positively to it, however, this offers no safeguard against development. It is therefore considered that additional benefits could be gained from designating Local Green Spaces within conservation areas, if such green spaces meet the tests of the NPPF.
- Playing Pitches are protected under JLP policy DEV4, however, they only protect the playing pitch function. It is therefore considered that additional benefits could be gained from designating playing pitch sites as Local Green Spaces, if the green space meets the tests of the NPPF.

Consultation Question 3:

Do you agree that designations listed in paragraph 5.3 do not afford sufficient protection so that Local Green Space Designation may be appropriate? If not, please explain why?

Consultation Question 4:

Have we missed any other designations of relevance in paragraphs 5.2 or 5.3? If yes, please identify which ones?

5.4 A site proposed as Local Green Space must meet the criteria set out within the NPPF and the following is adapted from paragraphs 99 and 100:

- demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of one or more of the following characteristics:
 - beauty;
 - historic significance;
 - recreational value;
 - tranquillity; and
 - wildlife.
- (see Assessments 5 and 6);
- reasonably close proximity to the community it serves (see Assessment 3);
 - local in character (see Assessment 4);
 - not an extensive tract of land (see Assessment 4); and,
 - be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period (see Assessment 1), for example, not an area with extant planning permission within which the LGS, or a policy allocation, that would conflict with a LGS allocation.

5.5 Furthermore, allocating land as Local Green Space should:

- be consistent with local planning of sustainable development; and,
- compliment investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.

5.6 To ensure the requirements of paragraph 5.5 are met, the LGS DPD will be prepared having regard to the JLP and other relevant planning documents.

Consultation Question 5:

Do you agree that we have reflected on and addressed requirements in the NPPF correctly in the 'Criteria for Designation section'? If not, please explain why?

6. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

6.1 The following section details our proposed Local Green Space assessment methodology. Assessments 1 to 6 have been prepared in response to legislation, specifically the NPPF's criteria for designation. Assessment 7 demonstrates that we are aware of climate change and will consciously take this into account when assessing potential green space allocations.

6.2 Assessment 1: Is there a planning permission or policy allocation conflict with a Local Green Space allocation?

Method	Assessment 1
Check for allocations in the adopted Local Plan. Check site planning history. Check Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).	Local Green Space will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development, therefore sites with extant planning permission will be scoped out unless the proposed development is no longer capable of being implemented or the approved development would be compatible with the Local Green Space allocation. Because allocation as Local Green Space has to be consistent with local planning policy, sites which have been allocated for an incompatible alternative use will also be scoped out.

Consultation Question 6:

Do you agree with this principle that where there is a current allocation or extant planning permission that the site should not be LGS?

6.3 Assessment 2: Is the site already subject to a sufficient designation?

Method	Assessment 2
Check GIS mapping.	Scope out any sites which are wholly designated as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special Areas of Conservation; ▪ Special Protection Areas; ▪ Site of Special Scientific Interest; ▪ Registered Parks and Gardens; ▪ Local Nature Reserves; ▪ Registered village greens; ▪ Common land; or ▪ Strategic Green Space.

The questions that relate to Assessment 2 are asked above in Consultation Questions 2, 3 and 4.

6.4 Assessment 3: Is the site within reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?

Method	Assessment 3
<p>Officer assessment based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check GIS mapping. ▪ Accessibility standards 	<p>What is the community that the Local Green Space serves? What evidence is there that this particular site meets the needs of that community? In reviewing these two points we will taking into account our accessibility standards in figure 3.2 of the Local Plan.</p>

Consultation Question 7:

Do you agree that Assessment 3 is an appropriate way of assessing whether the green space is within reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?

6.5 Assessment 4: Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?

Method	Assessment 4
<p>Officer review of Open Space Assessment information.</p> <p>Site visit where required.</p>	<p>The NPPF is clear that the Local Green Space allocation should only be used where the site is not an extensive tract of land. Planning Practice Guidance further states: ‘blanket designations of open countryside will not be appropriate’.</p> <p>Whilst there is no size limit on how small or large a Local Green Space can be, a judgement will need to be made to ensure that the proposed space is of a size that reasonably relates to the community that it serves. Therefore we have defined the following key tests:</p> <p>How does the site relate to the local area? Does the site feel part of the local area? If yes, how? Does the site connect physically, visually and/or socially to the area? Is the site distinct from its context by virtue of its size, land type or landscape features, e.g. what are its boundary conditions?</p> <p>Is the site an extensive tract of land? How large is the site in comparison to the community it serves and areas of land in the vicinity? In any event, we propose a maximum size limit of 10ha, including cumulative areas of adjacent green spaces.</p> <p>How has the size of the site been decided? Does the site follow natural features or existing constraints? Does the whole site justify allocation as Local Green Space or is some of the site unnecessarily included? Is the site unusually large for its use?</p>

Consultation Question 8:

Do you agree that Assessment 4 is an appropriate way of assessing whether the green space is an extensive tract of land?

6.6 Assessment 5: The proposed allocation must be based on evidence that shows why the green space is of particular local significance. To meet this requirement an area must fulfil one or more of the criteria below:

Method	Assessment 5.1 - Beauty
<p>Officer assessment based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plymouth and Plymouth’s Urban Fringe Landscape and Seascape assessment will be used as the key evidence base (PPULSA). ▪ Plymouth Policy Area Open Space Assessment (POSA). ▪ Conservation area appraisals (CAAs). ▪ Site Visit to confirm characteristics. 	<p>This criterion relates to the visual attractiveness of a site. To meet this criterion the site must be beautiful in its own right. To determine whether the site holds local significance due to its beauty, we will use the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the site discernibly beautiful or more beautiful than the surrounding areas? Can you articulate the specific beauty characteristics of the site? – Site visit. ▪ Site visibility - Is the site visible from a public place? Are there views of the site from any key locations? - Fig.4.2 of the PPULSA & site visit. ▪ Is the site (or type of landscape) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments, conservation area appraisals or similar documents? – PPULSA, CAAs & POSA. ▪ Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? – TPO records, PPULSA & POSA. ▪ Are there any cultural references to the site’s scenic quality? ▪ Does the site bring interest from further afield to the local area? ▪ Does the green space help to improve the overall appearance of the area by means of its features? – PPULSA, CAAs & POSA.

Consultation Question 9:

Do you agree that Assessment 5.1 is an appropriate way of assessing whether the green space is of particular significance in relation to beauty?

Method	Assessment 5.2 – Historic Significance
<p>Officer assessment based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plymouth and Plymouth’s Urban Fringe Landscape and Seascape assessment will be used as the key evidence base (PPULSA). ▪ Plymouth Policy Area Open Space Assessment (POSA). ▪ Conservation area appraisals (CAAs). ▪ GIS mapping & Historic maps. ▪ Site Visit. 	<p>In order to meet this criterion, there must be evidence to demonstrate that the site is of historic importance to the Community. To determine whether the site holds any local historical significance, we will use the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Are there any historic buildings, features or remains on the site? For example, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, and war memorials. – PPULSA, CAAs, POSA, GIS mapping & Historic maps. ▪ Are there any historic landscape features on the site? For example, old hedgerows, ancient trees, historic ponds, historic garden features, ancient woodlands. – TPO records, PPULSA, POSA, CAAs, GIS mapping & Historic maps. ▪ Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? For example, part of the grounds for the manor house, site of an old railway station, village green. – PPULSA, CAAs & Historic maps. ▪ Did any important historic events take place on the site? Is there a longstanding event which takes place on the site? For example, fete’s, well-dressing, maypole dancing, pace egg rolling, plays, market – POSA.

Consultation Question 10:

Do you agree that Assessment 5.2 is an appropriate way of assessing whether the green space is of particular significance in relation to historic significance?

Method	Assessment 5.3 – Recreational Value
<p>Officer assessment based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plymouth Policy Area Open Space Assessment (POSA). ▪ Playing pitch strategy. ▪ Play strategy. ▪ GIS mapping. ▪ Site Visit. 	<p>There must be evidence to show that the space has local significance for recreation and is of value to the community.</p> <p>Whilst a large number of green spaces will offer some form of recreational value, it will be necessary to identify why a particular space offers something unique that could not realistically be accommodated on other spaces that would serve the same community.</p> <p>To determine whether the site holds any recreational value for its community, we will use the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for playing sport or is it included in the playing pitch strategy to deliver sports provisions? GIS mapping, POSA & Playing Pitch Strategy. ▪ Which sport? Is this sports provision free or is club membership required? Is it good quality? Are there better facilities nearby? GIS mapping, POSA & Playing Pitch Strategy. ▪ Does the Green space incorporate play provision or is it included in the play strategy to deliver new play provision? - GIS mapping & Play Strategy. ▪ What is the quality of the play area? – POSA & Play Strategy. ▪ Are there any other play provisions within a 240m for local playable space or 600m for strategic play space? – GIS mapping & Play Strategy. ▪ Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for informal recreation? Can the site be accessed easily? Are there desire-lines present on site? – POSA & Site Visit. ▪ Does the site incorporate any recreational routes, e.g. bridleways, Public Rights of Way (ProW), National Cycle Routes, key pedestrian and cycle links (these need not be legally designated)? - GIS mapping & POSA.

Consultation Question 11:

Do you agree that Assessment 5.3 is an appropriate way of assessing whether the green space is of particular significance in relation to recreational value?

Method	Assessment 5.4 – Tranquility
<p>Officer assessment based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plymouth and Plymouth's Urban Fringe Landscape and Seascape assessment will be used 	<p>There must be evidence to show that the site is viewed to be of importance to the local community because of the tranquility it provides offering a place for reflection and peaceful enjoyment. This is a subjective assessment and the Council will provide a clear justification as to why an area is considered of a particular value, based on the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the site considered to be tranquil? - PPULSA, POSA, GIS mapping & site visit.

Method	Assessment 5.4 – Tranquility
<p>as the key evidence base (PPULSA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plymouth Policy Area Open Space Assessment (POSA). ▪ GIS mapping. ▪ Site Visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What features make it feel tranquil? - PPULSA, POSA, GIS mapping & site visit. ▪ Does it enhance the feeling of tranquillity within the local area through a feeling of remoteness? - PPULSA, POSA, GIS mapping & site visit. ▪ Does it provide an area of tranquillity within a busy setting by hiding man-made structures such as roads, power-lines or lighting and by reducing the appearance of noise and light impacts? - PPULSA, POSA, GIS mapping & site visit.

Consultation Question 12:

Do you agree that Assessment 5.4 is an appropriate way of assessing whether the green space is of particular significance in relation to tranquility?

Method	Assessment 5.5 – Richness of Wildlife
<p>Officer assessment based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plymouth Policy Area Open Space Assessment (POSA). ▪ JLP Biodiversity Network Map. ▪ GIS mapping. ▪ Site Visit. 	<p>There must be evidence to show that the site is viewed to be of local significance because of the wildlife it is home to. To determine whether the site holds any specific wildlife value for its community, we will use the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? -POSA & GIS mapping. ▪ If the site is not formally designated, is there any evidence that there are important habitats or species found on the site? - POSA & GIS mapping. ▪ Have ecological surveys been undertaken on or close to the site? ▪ Has the site been defined as part of the JLP biodiversity network? Is the site adjacent to a designated site? – POSA, JLP Biodiversity Network Map & GIS mapping. ▪ Is there any evidence, or is it likely that other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? Are there ancient hedgerows, woodland, veteran trees on the site? - POSA & GIS mapping.

6.7 Where additional evidence bases then those listed above were used, these will be clearly stated within the justification for an allocation for Local Green Space.

Consultation Question 13:

Do you agree that Assessment 5.5 is an appropriate way of assessing whether the green space is of particular significance in relation to richness of wildlife?

6.8 Assessment 6: Is the site demonstrably special to the local community and of particular importance to them?

Method	Assessment 6
<p>Evidence of local support. Previous Consultation Responses. Officer Assessment based on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment 5 Information. ▪ GIS mapping. ▪ Site Visit. 	<p>The initial Local Green Space nomination process information and consultation responses will be used to demonstrate importance to the local community. This assessment will have regard to alternative green space provision with the same offer of characteristics that serves that community. Information relating to this assessment will be supplemented by a further consultation process on sites that meet the criteria of assessments 1-5.</p>

6.9 Assessment 6 is an opportunity to collate our current understanding of what communities have said about the importance of green spaces to them. It is not a criteria that is necessary for green spaces to be put forward in future consultations. However, it is considered necessary to meet this assessment for a green space to be put forward as an allocation in the LGS DPD.

Consultation Question 14:

Do you agree that Assessment 6 is an appropriate way of assessing whether the green space is demonstrably special to the local community and of particular importance to them?

Consultation Question 15:

Do you agree that the assessment methodology is a robust method, with appropriate thresholds, for appraising green spaces against the NPPF requirements for Local Green Space? If not, what would you suggest would be an appropriate alternate approach?

6.10 Assessment 7: Could the site help to mitigate against the effects of climate change?

Method	Assessment 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GIS mapping ▪ Site Visit 	<p>Urban green spaces can contribute towards the mitigation of climate change by helping to cool the climate through evapotranspiration from plants, shading effects and rainfall interception and percolation. In addition, green spaces can provide opportunities for local food cultivation, tree planting and offer breathing spaces in built up areas. Urban green space may also have secondary benefits, for example, a green space may facilitate local recreation that could negate travel to the countryside and reduce energy consumption.</p> <p>Whilst not a specific criteria on its own for designating Local Green Space, the provision of LGS can bring benefits to the local community in terms of opportunities to tackle climate change. The Council will also assess sites to see if the characteristics of the site provide any opportunities to mitigate for climate change. This is a subjective assessment and the Councils will provide a clear justification as to why an area is considered of a particular value, based on the following key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What natural features are within the green space? E.g. trees, vegetation, groundcover, soil type, topography, site orientation, etc.? What is the landscape character of the site? ▪ What size are the trees and to what extent would the leaves provide a canopy for shading? ▪ What surfacing is within the green space? Could it facilitate percolation and drainage? ▪ Would the green space facilitate a range of recreational activities that could reduce the likelihood of people travelling to the countryside? ▪ Is there scope to integrate low carbon technologies within the green space? E.g. ground heat pump underneath sport pitches, water collection, etc.

Consultation Question 16: Do you agree that Assessment 7 is an appropriate way of assessing whether green spaces can help mitigate the impacts of climate change? If not, please explain why.

Consultation Question 17: Are there any other ways in which urban green spaces can help to address Climate Change?

7. APPENDIX I

Draft template for collecting Local Green Space assessments against criteria

LOCAL GREEN SPACE DESIGNATION FORM

1. Planning History

Does it meet
LGS criteria?

- Does the sites have an extant planning permission, which can still be implemented and would conflict with a Local Green Space designation?

If yes, the site is considered not suitable for Local Green Space Designation

- Has the site been allocated for an incompatible Local Green Space use?
If yes, the site is considered not suitable for Local Green Space Designation

Any further points to raise from the Strategic Land Availability Assessment?

2. Other Designations

Does it meet
LGS criteria?

- Is the site covered by any of the following designations?

- Special Areas of Conservation;
- Special Protection Areas;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- Registered Parks and Gardens;
- Local Nature Reserves;
- Registered village greens;
- Common land; or
- Strategic Green Space.

If yes, the site is considered not suitable for Local Green Space Designation

3. Proximity to Community

Does it meet
LGS criteria?

- Is the site within 240m radius of 10 dwellings or more?

If yes, the site is considered suitable for Local Green Space Designation due to its proximity to the community it serves

4. Local in Character & Not Extensive Tract of Land

Does it meet
LGS criteria?

- Is the site, or adjacent green spaces appropriate for Local Green Space taken together, larger than 10ha?
If yes, the site is considered not suitable for Local Green Space Designation

How does the site relate to the local area? Does the site feel part of the local area? Does the site connect physically, visually and/or socially to the area? Is the site distinct from its context by virtue of its size, land type or landscape features, e.g. what are its boundary conditions?

Please provide justification below

The site should not be an extensive tract of land. How large is the site in comparison to the community it serves and areas of land in the vicinity?

Please provide justification below

Is the extent of the size reasonable for its potential designation as a Local Green Space - How has the size of the site been decided? Does the site follow natural features or existing constraints? Does the whole site justify allocation as Local Green Space or is some of the site unnecessarily included? Is the site unusually large for its use?

Please provide justification below

5. Particular Local Significance	Does it meet LGS criteria?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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5.1 Beauty	Does it meet LGS criteria?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the site discernibly beautiful or more beautiful than the surrounding areas?
Please provide justification below

Site visibility - Is the site visible from a public place? Are there views of the site from any key locations?
Please provide justification below

Is the site (or type of landscape) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments, conservation area appraisals or similar documents?

Please provide justification below

Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations?
Please provide justification below

Are there any cultural references to the site's scenic quality?
Please provide justification below

Does the site bring interest from further afield to the local area?
Please provide justification below

Does the green space help to improve the overall appearance of the area by means of its features?
Please provide justification below

5.2 Historic Significance	Does it meet LGS criteria?	
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Are there any historic buildings, features or remains on the site? For example, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, and war memorials.
Please provide justification below

Are there any historic landscape features on the site? For example, old hedgerows, ancient trees, historic ponds, historic garden features, ancient woodlands.
Please provide justification below

Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? For example, part of the grounds for the manor house, site of an old railway station, village green.
Please provide justification below

Did any important historic events take place on the site? Is there a longstanding event which takes place on the site? For example, fete's, well-dressing, maypole dancing, pace egg rolling, plays, market

Please provide justification below

5.3 Recreational Value	Does it meet LGS criteria?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for playing sport or is it included in the playing pitch strategy to deliver sports provisions?

Please provide justification below

Which sport?

Is this sports provision free?

Is it good quality?

Are there better facilities nearby?

Does the Green space incorporate play provision or is it included in the play strategy to deliver new play provision? What is the quality of the play area?

Please provide justification below

Are there any other play provisions within a 240m for local playable space or 600m for strategic play space?

If yes, please provide details below

Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for informal recreation? Can the site be accessed easily? Are there desire-lines present on site?

If yes, please provide details below

Does the site incorporate any recreational routes, e.g. bridleways, PRoWs, National Cycle Routes, key pedestrian and cycle links?

If yes, please provide details below

5.4 Tranquillity	Does it meet LGS criteria?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the site considered to be tranquil? If yes, what features make it feel tranquil?
Please provide justification below

Does it enhance the feeling of tranquillity within the local area through a feeling of remoteness?
Please provide justification below

Does it provide an area of tranquillity within a busy setting by hiding man-made structures such as roads, power-lines or lighting and by reducing the appearance of noise and light impacts?
Please provide justification below

5.5 Richness in Wildlife	Does it meet LGS criteria?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value?
If yes, please provide details below

If the site is not formally designated, is there any evidence that there are important habitats or species found on the site?
If yes, please provide details below

Have ecological surveys been undertaken on or close to the site?
If yes, please provide details below

Has the site been defined as part of the JLP biodiversity network? Is the site adjacent to a designated site?

If yes, please provide details below

Is there any evidence, or is it likely that other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? Are there ancient hedgerows, woodland, veteran trees on the site?

If yes, please provide details below

6. Evidence of Local Support and Alternate Green Space Provision

Is there sufficient current evidence of Local Support?

If yes, please provide details below

7. Could the site help to mitigate against the effects of climate change?

Does the site have sufficient landscape qualities that could help tackle climate change?

If yes, please provide details below

8. Does the site include any landscape features that could help build resilience to climate change challenges?

Does the site have sufficient landscape features that could build resilience to climate change?

If yes, please provide details below

9. Conclusion	Should site be considered for allocation	
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Please provide any concluding remarks below



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