

## **North Lincolnshire Local Green Space Assessment (Updated – July 2019)**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 North Lincolnshire Council is preparing a new Local Plan as a framework for future development, which will cover the period to 2036. As part of this, the Council must consider the designation of Local Green Space (LGS) as part of the Council's 'Call for Sites' consultation process which accompanied both the 'Initial' and 'Issues & Options' Local Plan public engagement exercises. At these stages an invitation was made to suggest sites for LGS designation.

1.2 LGS is a new national designation that has been introduced by the Government through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Local communities have the opportunity through the development of the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans to identify green areas for special protection that are particularly important to them.

1.3 The NPPF is clear that LGS designation will not be appropriate for most green areas of open space. Principally, they must be locally special and unique in the benefits that they provide to local communities. Paragraph 100 of NPPF sets out the criteria for designating LGS sites.

1.4 The Government defines Local Green Space designation as:

*“a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities.” (DCLG, 2014)*

### **2. Methodology**

2.1 **Step 1: Site Submissions** – The NPPF is clear that it is local communities that should identify potential LGS's, through Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Local communities were given the opportunity to submit LGS's during the 'Call for Sites' period opened at the Initial Consultation (Regulation 18) between late February and mid-April 2017 and Issues & Options (Regulation 18) in February and March 2018. They were asked to provide a map of the site and supporting information as to how they believe the site meets the criteria for LGS designation.

2.2 **Step 2: Site Sieve** – Sites submitted for consideration as LGS were assessed by officers in the Place Planning team on a site by site basis. All the sites proposed for LGS have been mapped out on a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and given a unique reference number. Unfortunately, on some occasions it was not possible to identify LGS nominations from the information provided. Reasons for this include the omission of a clear site map or general statements provided for proposed land use, such as open space. These sites were removed from the assessment process.

2.3 **Step 3: Site Assessment** – The sites that remained were assessed via an Assessment Framework (Appendix 1) according to the criteria of the NPPF and Government guidance as detailed below.

2.4 The NPPF stipulates the conditions of Local Green Space designation:

*“The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:*

- a) *in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves*
- b) *demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c) *local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

2.5 Therefore, proposed Local Green Spaces must be assessed against these criteria, however there are areas of ambiguity within the NPPF. For the purposes of this Local Green Space Assessment, the Council has defined the following characteristics in accordance with the NPPF.

- For the purposes of this Local Green Space Assessment the following criteria will apply: “Reasonably close proximity” is defined as no more than 1.5km from the boundary of the settlement in question.
- “Demonstrably special to a local community” will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, each site will be assessed as to its aesthetic, historic, natural, recreational and tranquillity value. To be designated as Local Green Space each site must be shown to have value in at least one of these areas and that this is significant in the context of the settlement in question. The Council can only assess sites based on the evidence that we can directly gather thus anecdotal evidence cannot be utilised in the assessment of the proposed site.
- “Local in character” will be defined as “Reasonably close proximity” as above.
- “Extensive tract of land” will be defined as a plot of land over 3 hectare in area.

2.6 The aesthetic, historic, natural, recreational value of proposed sites will be assessed as follows:

- Aesthetic - Is assessed via the knowledge and experience of officers in the Place Planning team.
- Historical - Whether the site contains or contributes to the setting of a listed building or scheduled monument.
- Natural - Judgement of Council ecologist of biodiversity value of site, if unable to assess from existing knowledge and unable to designate on other characteristics the landowner was asked for permission for a site visit and ecological survey.
- Recreational - Is the site of special recreational importance to the local community based on supply of local amenities?

2.7 The NPPF also stipulates the relationship between Local Green Space and the development needs of an area:

*“The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to*

*them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.” (NPPF Para 99)*

- 2.8 The above makes it clear that Local Green Space designation cannot take priority over the development or service needs of an area. The purpose of Local Green Space is not to stop development within an area. Therefore a general desire to stop development within an area cannot be used as a justification for the designation of a site as Local Green Space. The justification must relate to the site in question and specify why this site in particular is justified for Local Green Space Designation.
- 2.9 Local Green Space is not the only potential way of conserving areas of green space. The Council has options to designate areas of recreation, natural or amenity importance at its own discretion. This is not subject to the same strict criteria of Local Green Space, but also is likely to provide a lesser degree of protection. Therefore, if a proposed site fails to be designated as Local Green Space it may be considered for other designations under the new North Lincolnshire Local Plan which could offer other forms of protection (e.g. playing fields, important open amenity areas).
- 2.10 The designation of sites for Local Green Space should be undertaken on a case-by-case basis, in some cases, other designations may negate Local Green Space designation; e.g., Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are already protected and there would be no merit in designating such a site as Local Green Space.
- 2.11 In most cases, designation of Local Green Space would not be appropriate for sites, which already have planning permission granted.
- 2.12 Local Green Space sites must already exist prior to designation, e.g. proposed green space forming part of plans for a new residential development would not be considered for Local Green Space Designation.
- 2.13 Local Green Spaces must be accessible for use by the general public.
- 2.14 **Step 4: Selecting Sites for LGS Designation** – A detailed assessment for each site (Assessment Framework) was created based on the information submitted during “Call for Sites”. A list of suitable sites has been established from this framework along with a justification as to why each site was suitable or why it has been rejected. A total of 17 sites are recommended for designation as LGS. It is important to note that this process will be replicated after each new “Call for Sites” engagement exercise.
- 2.15 Table 1-1 below identifies the assessment process utilising the agreed methodology and the recommendation using a RAG rating.

### **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 Sites recommended for designation as LGS Listed in Table 1-1 are shown on the Policies Map that accompanies the Local Plan. Those sites not considered to meet the LGS criteria may still be protected under other policies in the Local Plan and/or other

European / National legislation. Members of the public, landowners and organisations will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed LGS designations as part of the Local Plan consultation process.

**Table 1-1: LGS Assessment Framework**

Site	Is the site under 3 ha in area?	Is the site 1.5 km or less from the community which it serves?	Does the site currently have planning permission or current applications for any developments?	Has the site been in existence before the date of this assessment?	Is the site demonstrably special from an aesthetic perspective?	Has the site been proposed for alternate designation in the Local Plan?	Is the site publicly accessible?	Is the site demonstrably special from a historical perspective?	Is the site demonstrably special from a recreational perspective?	Is the site demonstrably special from a biodiversity perspective?	In the context of the community which it serves is the site demonstrably special (e.g. unique) according to the characteristics listed above?	Should the site be designated as Local Green Space?
Initial Consultation Reg 18												
Land on east side of Front Street, Elsham (WXIMM)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes			No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Hood field and 2 pieces of associated land to west of Haxey, Upper Thorpe Road Westwoodside (TACME)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes			Yes	Yes	No	Survey required	Yes	Yes
The Paddock, adjacent to Churchside, Appleby (RGNW0) (IPANA)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes			Yes	Yes	No	Survey required	Yes	Yes
Playing Field, Appleby (TTCYP)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Land adjacent to The Hill, Worlaby (6MPOM) *SITE JOINED WITH W8258 to form single site	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Land at the junction of The Hill, Worlaby and Middlegate Lane. (K7QU4)	Yes	Yes	No		No		Yes	No	Yes	Survey required	Unsure	No
Woodland adjoining the south side of The Hill, Worlaby and being contiguous with a wetland area to the south and to Hillside Plantation to the east. (KFOBT)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Top Road, Worlaby (KQKKO)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes			Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Land to the north of the track leading to Ladysmith Cottage, Top Road, Worlaby (TE9Y1)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Land within the Hurds Farm Estate, Worlaby (TO2O8)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
The Hill, Worlaby, (W8258) *SITE JOINED WITH 6MPOM to form single site	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Top Field, Barton on Humber adjacent to Ferriby Road and the slip road leading into the roundabout on the A15 (4OUBJ) (MX72S)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Land at Thornton Curtis - No map or information available.												No Information
Thornton Curtis (KL1CF)	No	Yes	No	Yes			No	No	No	Yes		No
Blakeys Field, Barrow Upon Humber (BDIMB)	No	Yes	No	Yes			No	No	Yes	No		No

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Sites submitted at Issues & Options												
The Green Kirton in Lindsey (X5H2A)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Whipping Post / Sunny Hill Triangle, Kirton in Lindsey (RJL2)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Cemetery, Grove Street, Kirton in Lindsey (GKQKS)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
KLASSIC, Ings Lane. Kirton in Lindsey (WY556)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Ash Well, Kirton in Lindsey (7JRKJ)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Former RAF Kirton Playing Fields, Kirton in Lindsey (KOXG1)	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Dartmouth Road Open Space, Dartmouth Road, Scunthorpe x2 (F1034) (HRGCK)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Playing field to the rear of former Brumby Hospital, East Common Lane, Scunthorpe x2 (NJAHF) (7X4K2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
The Hollows, Worlaby	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Area 8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Survey Required	No	No