

Appendix A

Extract from The Draft Final Sustainability Appraisal in Annex A, Appendix 5

Assessment criteria used for Local Green Space

The criterion used by Council officers in assessing the sites is based on the guidance provided in the National Planning Policy Framework. All the sites have been assessed using these criteria and the following table indicates how the Council has interpreted the particular criteria.

| NPPF Criteria | |
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| 1. The green area must be demonstrably special to a local community; | Site must pass this criterion to be considered. Added weight if submitted by Parish Council representing their local community. |
| 2 .The green space must hold a particular local significance, for example because of <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Its beauty,• Its historic significance,• Its recreational value (including as a playing field),• Tranquillity or• Richness of its wildlife; | A green space must have one of these - <u>Beauty</u> – Enhances rural character of village. Adds to setting of groups of buildings. <u>Historic significance</u> – Listed building near or on site – setting of said building / Green with war memorial or local asset whose setting needs protecting. <u>Recreational</u> – Play area, allotments, sports fields, informal grassy area within housing estate. Relates to an event in village such as a fete. <u>Tranquillity</u> – Near a church, open space with seating and views of village or wider countryside beyond. Green space that allows for quiet enjoyment. <u>Richness of Wildlife</u> – Provides for biodiversity, protecting community woodlands, meadows, known protected species. Not just general presence of wildlife. |
| 3 .The green space must be in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves; | The site needs to relate to a particular village. It must be either within a village or on edge. If it is at a distance there should be a public footpath to access it from the village. Needs to be closest to the parish that has submitted site. |
| 4. The green area must be local in character and not be an extensive tract of land | It cannot be just an area of green grass – must have something else from criterion 2 to meet the tests. Large fields on the edge of villages have not been designated unless they have an additional reason within criterion 2 for meriting |

| NPPF Criteria | |
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| | designation. Extensive areas between settlements have also not been designated - LGS should not be used as a means of creating a green separation/ buffer between villages. |
| 5. Most green areas or open space will not be appropriate. Must be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. | Need to ensure that designation is not over used so that a village ends up with no future space for growth. |

There are other policies that give existing protection to green space within the Local Plan and it is not the intention of the Council to double protect such sites by identifying them as LGS. Therefore all sites that are currently protected as Sites of Biodiversity or Geological Importance which includes County Wildlife sites; Local Nature Reserve; Site of Special Scientific Interest; Scheduled Monuments and Historic Parks and Gardens have not been designated as LGS.

Playing fields relating to schools also have protection and therefore have not been designated. Designation could also have a detrimental impact on local education provision if it were to prevent or delay the construction of new school buildings.

Important Countryside Frontages are designated along edges of some of the proposed LGS. This policy protects the views across a site into open countryside and therefore some sites have not been designated as LGS as the ICF policy will protect the open land from development.

LGS designations are not required to protect a public right of way.

Since LGS has the same level of protection as Green Belt any sites that were proposed within the existing Green Belt have not been identified as LGS. If at a future date the Green Belt is reviewed there will be an opportunity for the local community to put forward sites that could be considered and assessed as LGS.