



## **Local Green Space Promotion: Guidance Note**

### **Introduction**

Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. The designation of land as Local Green Space (LGS) through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Planning policies for managing development within LGSs are consistent with Green Belts and therefore the level of protection afforded through designation is high.

Local Green Spaces must be demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife.

Through the council's Local Plan Update Issues and Options consultation, communities are invited to promote sites they consider meet the below criteria which are set out in national planning policy. All sites submitted will be assessed against the criteria and considered for designation through the Local Plan Update. LGS can only be designated when a Plan is prepared or updated.

### **What are the minimum requirements for site promotions?**

If you wish to submit a site to be considered for designation, the site promotion form must be used. Please use a separate form for each site you wish to promote. This form must be completed in full, where information is known, and a map showing the precise site boundary must be provided for a site to be considered.

Completed site submission forms should be returned using one of the following methods:

Email: [local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Post: Planning Policy Team, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4AH

## Criteria for designation

In line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) a LGS designation should only be used where the green space is:

- in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- 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
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

Furthermore, national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) states that:

- a LGS designation must not be a green area where the land has planning permission for development unless the development is compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented.
- if the land is already protected by another designation (e.g. AONB, SSSI, Scheduled Monument, Conservation Area), a LGS designation would not be necessary unless additional local benefit would be gained by designation.

A number of sites have already been designated in the borough as Local Green Spaces through Neighbourhood Plans. Neighbourhood Plans can be viewed on the council at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>. A number of potential sites have also been identified in the council's Green Infrastructure Strategy which will be considered further through the Local Plan Update. The Strategy can be viewed on the council at:

[https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/rte.aspx?id=354#elem\\_27396](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/rte.aspx?id=354#elem_27396).

## Frequently Asked Questions

*What does the NPPF mean by 'is not an extensive tract of land'?*

Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements is not appropriate. LGS designation should not be proposed as a way to try to achieve what would amount to a new area of Green Belt by another name.

*Is there a lower size limit for LGS?*

Provided the criteria of the NPPF are met, there is no lower size limit for LGS.

*How close does a LGS need to be to the community it serves?*

The proximity of LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special, but it must be reasonably close. For example, if public access is a key factor, then the site should be within easy walking distance of the community served.

*What does it mean for the site to endure beyond the end of the plan period?*

The Local Plan Update is planning for a period up to at least 2038. Although LGS will be designated through the future adoption of the updated Plan, such designations should be able to last indefinitely beyond this time period. There must be no foreseeable reason why the Local Green Space designation would be undermined in the future.

*Does land designation as LGS have to be publically accessible?*

Land can be considered for designation even if there is no public access if the green area is valued because of wildlife, historic significance and/or scenic quality. Designation does not in itself confer any rights to public access over that exists at present.

*Does land designation as LGS need to be in public ownership?*

Designated land does not need to be in public ownership, however, the council will contact landowners at an early stage about proposals to designate their land as LGS. At this point landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in the draft Local Plan Update.

*Can land designated as LGS be crossed by Public Rights of Way?*

Local Green Space may be crossed by Public Rights of Way. There is however no need to use LGS designation to protect Public Rights of Way as they are already protected against development by legislation.

### **Keeping up to date**

The best way to keep up to date with the assessment of your promotion and updates relating to the Local Plan Update is by registering your contact details on our planning policy consultation database. If you'd like to be added to our database please email us at [local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:local.plan@basingstoke.gov.uk)