

# Thurrock Borough Council

Local Development Framework Task Force

## Designating Local Green Space Guidance Document

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# Aims of the Designating Local Green Space (LGS) Guidance Document

- To set out The Council's intended approach to identifying, assessing and designating sites as LGSs across the borough as part of the evidence base informing the new Local Plan.
- To outline the national and local policy position for LGSs.
- To set out the criteria and a step-by-step process for LGS designation.
- To develop consistent guidance and advice to LGS sites proponents (what information/evidence is required).
- To provide additional support in identifying, evidencing and proposing LGS for designation to help shape a consistent approach.

# National Planning Policy Framework

- LGS designation was introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012 (updated July 2021).
- Paragraphs 101 to 103 introduce a Local Green Space designation (LGS) to protect local green areas of special importance to local communities.
- This designation should be consistent with wider planning policy for an area including the provision of new homes and employment opportunities, and it should not be seen as means to stop wider development needs.

# What are the 'particular circumstances' that qualify a piece of land for Local Green Space Designation protection?

NPPF states that the Local Green Space 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

The bar for LGS designation is set at a very high level and it is clear from the national policy that LGS designation should be the exception rather than the rule.

## Criteria for assessing Local Green Space

- *Criterion 1: Land is not subject of a planning permission for development*
- *Criterion 2: The space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighborhood Plan*
- *Criterion 3: The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character*
- *Criterion 4: The space is within close proximity of the community it serves*
- *Criterion 5: The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance*

The Council will consider any evidence submitted against the sub-criteria and come to a judgement as to whether or not to propose a site as LGS giving clear reasons as to why.

# Local Green Space Designation Process

## Methodology – How we will undertake this work

### Work already undertaken:

#### **Step 1: Consultation with stakeholders groups as part of the Local Plan process Issues and Options (Stages 1 and 2)**

- Between February and April 2016 the Council consulted formally on Local Plan Issues and Options (stage 1). This consultation only generated 34 responses.
- The Council reopened the nomination process as part of Local Plan - Issues and Options (Stage 2) consultation, December 2018. This consultation, generated several responses with very limited supporting evidence provided.

# Local Green Space Designation Process

## Methodology – How we will undertake this work

**Step 2: Identifying possible sites for Local Green Space designation using the variety of sources of information, i.e.:**

- Landscape Character Assessment;
- The Council's Green Infrastructure Plan;
- Review of adopted Proposals Maps showing formally designated sites, such as Sites of Local Nature Conservation Value, Local Wildlife Sites, Roadside Nature Reserves, etc.;
- Conservation Area Management Plans;
- Consultations with stakeholder groups as part of the Local Plan process; and,
- Local knowledge.

# Local Green Space Designation Process

## Methodology – How we will undertake this work

### Step 3: Assessing the identified sites

- Sites will be assessed against the 5 criteria and included in the assessment document accompanying Local Plan.
- The Council will review the evidence provided through the site assessment forms and will evaluate whether each site is suitable for designation as a LGS or whether any additional evidence is required.
- If the evidence to be found sufficiently robust and the site satisfies all the criteria necessary for designation, provided the site is not already sufficiently protected by other designations, then the site will be proposed for LGS designation in the above Assessment document.



# Local Green Space Designation Process

## Methodology – How we will undertake this work

### **Step 4: Consult with councils, landowners, and other organisations**

- The Council will contact landowners prior to the Regulation 18 public consultation so to ensure that landowners of sites proposed for designation are made aware that their site or sites are being proposed

### **Step 5: Consult the community on proposed designations (Regulation 18 and 19 public consultations)**

- LGS designations will be tested through public consultation as part of the Local Plan process.

# Local Green Space Designation Process

## Methodology – How we will undertake this work

### **Step 4: Consult with councils, landowners, and other organisations**

- The Council will contact landowners prior to the Regulation 18 public consultation so to ensure that landowners of sites proposed for designation are made aware that their site or sites are being proposed.

### **Step 5: Consult the community on proposed designations (Regulation 18 and 19 public consultations)**

- LGS designations will be tested through public consultation as part of the Local Plan process.

### **Step 6: Examination and adoption**

- All consultation responses received during the Regulation 18 consultation will be considered and sites reassessed accordingly prior to the Regulation 19 consultation.

# Green Space Designation Process

## Site Assessment Form

### Submitting the site for LGS designation

- The LGS promoters are advised to contact planning officers with the request for LGS designation for the site with accompanying evidence to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the five criteria set out in the Guidance Document, Section 4.
- The LGS promoters will be required to fill out the Appendix 1 site assessment form when proposing the site for LGS designation accompanied by the map with the proposed site boundary.

# Local Green Space Designation Process

## Site Assessment Form

### Appendix 1: Site Assessment Form

In order for us to assess your site, please provide as much information as possible. All submissions must be accompanied by a map showing the site boundaries.

Table 1: Assessment Form - Site Details

Site details	Response
Description of the site	
Address of site (Please attach location plan on an Ordnance Survey base clearly showing site boundaries, access to the site and area that the site will serve.)	
Site area (ha)	
Current use of the land	
Owner of the site	
Is the owner aware of this application? (If yes, are they in favour of this application?)	

Table 2: Assessment Form - Criteria

Criteria	Response	Evidence provided Y/N	Guide notes
<p><i>Criterion 1:</i> <u>Land is not subject of a planning permission for development</u></p> <p>Does the proposed space</p>			<p>The Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land already has planning permission for development or where it is allocated for development in the adopted Local Plan. The first stage in the assessment will be to assess the past planning history of</p>

**Thank you!**

**Any Questions?**