

Campton & Chicksands Green Infrastructure Plan

Appendix 3

Local Green Space Assessment

1. Background

The Local Green Space Designation was introduced by the National Planning Policy Framework (2011) as “a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities”. Paragraph 77 of the NPPF sets out the criteria that green space must meet in order to be designated as ‘Local Green Space’:

“The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
- Where the green area is 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
- Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land”.

In addition to these criteria, National Planning Practice Guidance states:

“Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented”.

Other existing designations, such as Green Belt or Conservation Area status, do not necessarily preclude or support designation as Local Green Space, but it is necessary to consider whether the additional designation is necessary and would serve a useful purpose.

The Pre-Submission Central Bedfordshire Local Plan makes provision for Local Green Spaces to be designated through a Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore the Campton & Chicksands Neighbourhood Plan includes this assessment of green spaces for consideration as LGS, and provides recommendations for those that should be designated through the Neighbourhood Plan. The assessment follows a process developed by the Greensand Trust and the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Council, working alongside Central Bedfordshire Council, included in full as **Annex 1** of this document.

2a. The Desktop Assessment – Stage 1

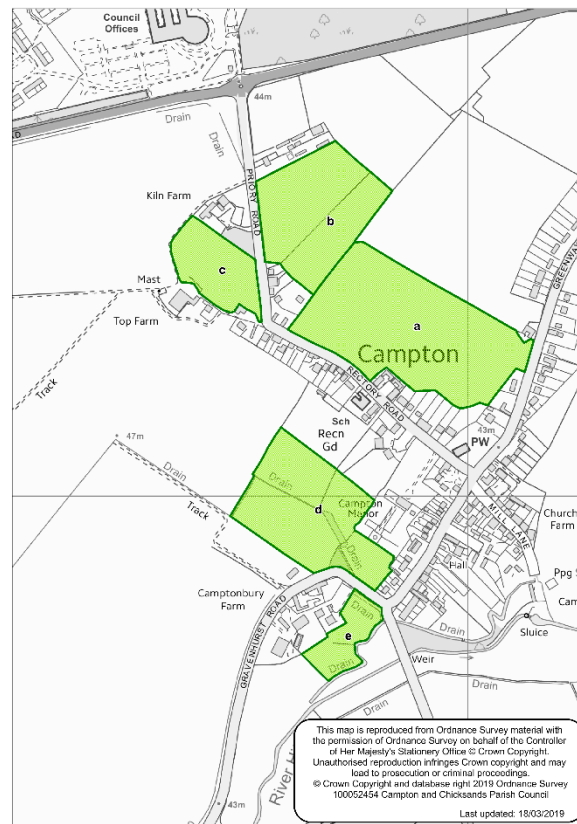
The first stage is a desktop assessment which results in a shortlist from the list of greenspaces created as part of the GI Plan. This list was supplemented with further sites suggested through the consultation activities. These were:

- Fields adjacent to Campton Manor
- Fields adjacent to Camptonbury Farm
- Field at Kiln Farm

The first two of these sites have been allocated numbers 18 and 19 respectively. The third was allocated number 20 but this is not reflected anywhere in the GI Plan other than this appendix, as it

was not proposed as a potential LGS. It is illustrated on Figure 1 below as site 'c', alongside the other sites. The two core areas that became the Glebe Fields site are also shown (a & b).

Figure 2 – Additional sites for LGS consideration



Because a space has to meet all of the criteria to be proposed for designation, those that do not meet one or more can be rejected at this stage. It is possible to identify whether a site has an existing planning permission, is allocated in a development plan or has an existing designation that would mean LGS designation would add little or no additional protection as part of desktop research.

Where it is possible to identify where the site does not meet any of the other criteria in Stage 2 during desktop analysis it is possible to reject the space at Stage 1. **Table 1** below demonstrates this process, with **Figure 5** (within the main GI Plan document) showing the location and relative size of each site.

Table 1 – Desktop Analysis

No.	Name	Not subject of a Planning Permission	Not allocated for development	Not already Designated	Pass to Stage 2?
1	Chicksands Wood CWS	✓	✓	✓	X Possible to exclude at this stage on basis of being remote from community and extensive (104ha of a 130.6ha site in the parish).
2	Chicksands Grassland CWS	✓	✓	✓	X Possible to exclude at this stage on basis of being remote from the community.
3	Speedsdairy Wood CWS	✓	✓	✓	X Possible to exclude at this stage on basis of being remote from the community.
4	Temple Grove CWS	✓	✓	✓	X Possible to exclude at this stage on basis of being remote from the community.
5	Druids Grove	✓	✓	✓	X Possible to exclude at this stage on basis of being remote from the community.
6	Sandy Smith Nature Reserve	✓	✓	✓	X Possible to exclude at this stage on basis of being extensive (94.7ha)
7	Amenity Greenspace	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Orchard	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Play Area	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	Sport Island Playing Field	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	River Flit CWS	✓	✓	✓	X Possible to exclude at this stage on basis of being extensive (18.67ha of a 39ha site in the parish)
12	Campton Plantation/Lower Alders	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Amenity Space	✓	✓	✓	✓

14	Beadlow Golf Club	✓	✓	✓	X Possible to exclude at this stage on basis of being extensive (57ha of a 109ha site in the parish)
15	Campton Recreation Ground	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	All Saints Church Cemetery	✓	✓	X Consecrated.	X
17	Glebe Fields	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Fields adjacent to Campton Manor	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Field adjacent to Camptonbury Farm	✓	✓	✓	✓

2b. Assessment Stage 2 – Field Assessment

Further analysis, including field visits carried out in 2018 and early 2019, looked at those sites that had been passed at Stage 1. The sites being proposed as LGS are also illustrated in **Figure 2** of this appendix (Figure 5b in the main report) and the detailed justification is recorded in the individual site summaries (Section 4 below). The field visits were supplemented with additional visits to some sites that were considered to be ‘borderline’ following initial field assessment as part of the ‘Walking Workshop’ carried out with the Environment Group in March 2019. This proved a very useful exercise in arriving at final decisions.

Table 2: Stage 2 – Field Survey results

Site No.	Name	Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special and Locally Significant*	Recommend Designation?
7	Amenity Greenspace	✓	✓	X	No
8	Orchard	✓	✓	Not possible to ascertain.	No
9	Play area	✓	✓	X	No
10	Sport Island Playing Field	✓	✓	✓ c, d	Yes
12	Campton Plantation/Lower Alders	✓	✓	✓ a, b, c, e	No
13	Amenity Space	✓	✓	✓ c	Yes
15	Campton Recreation Ground	✓	✓	✓ a, c, d	Yes
17	Glebe Fields	✓	✓	✓ a, b, e	Yes
18	Fields adjacent to Campton Manor	✓	✓	✓ a, b	Yes
19	Fields adjacent to Camptonbury Farm	✓	✓	✓ a, b	Yes

* The matrix should record which of the ‘Locally Significant’ sub-criteria (a-f) the site meets the requirement with, and be accompanied by a written commentary to justify this. Only one of the sub-criteria needs to be met for a site to be scored positively.

a beauty

b historic

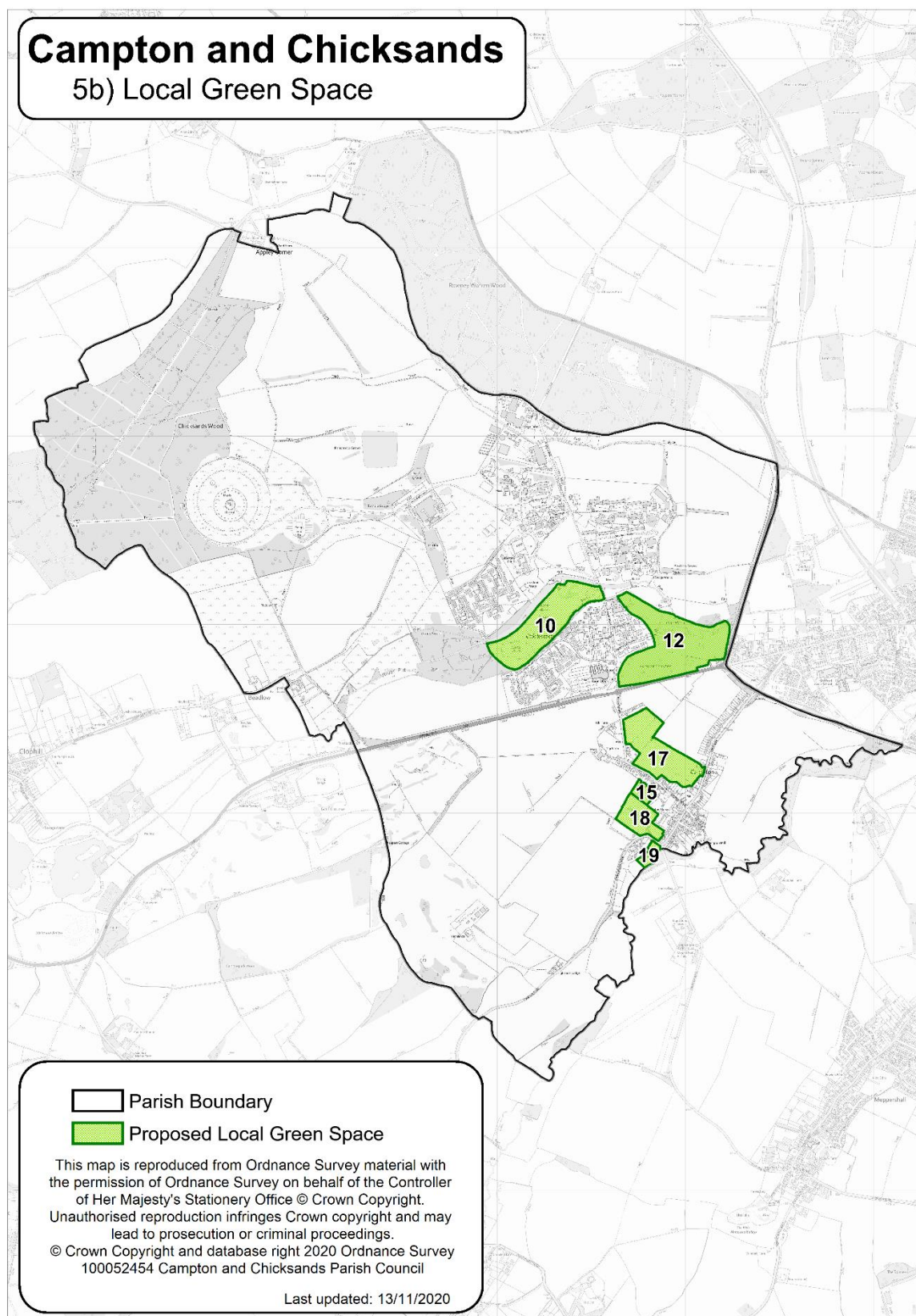
c recreation

d tranquillity

e wildlife

f other

Figure 2 – Candidate Local Green Spaces



2c. Reasons for Rejection:

It was possible to reject several sites on the basis of extensiveness or (lack of) proximity at the desk study stage: Sites 1-6 were rejected on either or both of these grounds. Sites 11 (18.6ha of an overall site of 39ha within the parish) and 14 (57ha of an overall site of 109ha within the parish) were rejected on the basis of being extensive. While there is no guide figure, the size and nature of the sites and the context of the parish are taken into account. Although site 11 was rejected at the desktop analysis stage, this decision was ratified in the field.

Site 16 (Cemetery) was rejected on the basis of the churchyard being consecrated and considered to have significant protection.

Further sites were rejected at the field survey stage, usually on the basis of not being able to demonstrate that the community specifically values or that they are demonstrably special. Site 7 is an example of this, being very small in size and essentially part of a road verge. Although similar sites have been proposed as LGS elsewhere, they have demonstrated a degree of community value – this site did not. Site 8, the orchard within the Chicksands military base (part of the grounds of Chicksands Priory) most likely meets the criteria, on the basis of the historic and wildlife value. However, as it was not possible to visit as part of this exercise, and the site is within a Registered Park and Garden and not subject to any threat of development, it has not been proposed. Site 9 is also within the military base and not possible to visit, but given the lack of feedback about it in the consultation it was considered to be unlikely to meet the criteria.

3. Next Steps

This assessment has resulted in a list of sites recommended for designation as Local Green Spaces, as part of the Haynes Green Infrastructure Plan. As noted above, the power to designate is through the Neighbourhood Plan, and not the Green Infrastructure Plan.

Therefore the role of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is to:

- a) Discuss with landowners
- b) Assess the list of proposed LGS and the justification for them, and include in the Neighbourhood Plan those that they feel are appropriate;

It should be noted that although landowner consent is not required to designate, it is considered fair and appropriate to discuss with landowners prior to designation. Any discussion should highlight what LGS designation means to the site in question.

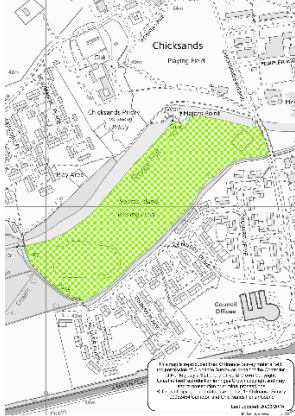
Although site 13 (Chicksands Private Estate amenity space) was felt to meet the criteria, the result of further consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan demonstrated that neither the owners, nor residents, supported the proposed designation. This has therefore not been pursued.

Further information on the sites and the reasons for proposed designation are included in the individual site summaries below.

4. Individual Site Summaries

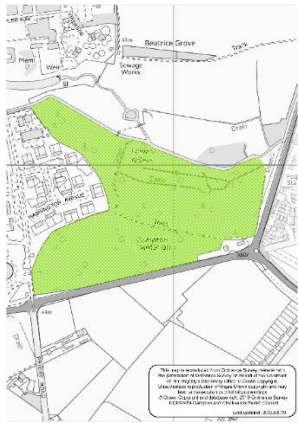
The following summaries cover all of the sites proposed for Local Green Space designation, and include the justifications for their designation.

Site 10: Sport Island Playing Field



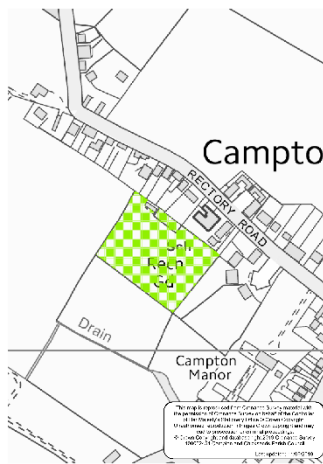
Site Owner	Ministry of Defence
Location	Between the Annington Estate and River Flit on the Chicksands military base.
Status/Designations	None
Size	10.69ha
Description	Sports fields in a natural setting.
Boundaries	River Flit, hedges with chain link fence.
Distance from Village	Adjacent to JFC Chicksands.
Uses	Sports
Quality	High – appears well-managed.
Facilities	Sports facilities – small pavilion.
Visual Attractiveness	High – very attractive setting.
Historical Significance	Part of former Chicksands Estate.
Recreational Value	Moderate – not publicly accessible.
Tranquillity	High
Wildlife Value	High – includes the River Flit (County Wildlife Site) and extensive hedgerows and mature trees.
Recommend as a LGS?	Yes, on basis of setting and wildlife value.

Site 12: Campton Plantation/Lower Alders



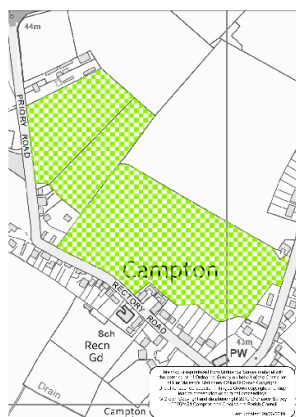
Site Owner	Central Bedfordshire Council
Location	Immediately to east of JFC Chicksands entrance road off A507.
Status/Designations	Part of the site is County Wildlife Site.
Size	15.21ha
Description	An area of mixed woodland, with mature plantation woodland on the southern (higher) part of the site, and an area of ancient woodland on the northern (lower and damper) part of the site.
Boundaries	A507 to south, A600 to east, JFC Chicksands to west (all fenced), River Flit to north.
Distance from Village	Immediately adjacent to base, nearest houses in Campton within 200m and nearest houses in Shefford on other side of A600.
Uses	Quiet recreation, dog walking, visits by adjacent pre-school.
Quality	Moderate/High – site is well-managed, although there is a reasonable amount of recreational pressure that has led to reduction in ground flora around busiest paths.
Facilities	Benches, wood sculptures celebrating the parish and its history.
Visual Attractiveness	High, added to by sculptures.
Historical Significance	High – includes significant area of ancient woodland.
Recreational Value	High – very popular.
Tranquillity	Moderate – better at northern end away from busy roads.
Wildlife Value	High – especially ancient woodland CWS and River Flit (also CWS).
Recommend as a LGS?	Yes, especially on basis of its recreational, wildlife and historic value.

Site 15: Campton Recreation Ground



Site Owner	Campton Parish Council
Location	Behind houses/school on Rectory Road
Status/Designations	Recreation Ground
Size	0.91ha
Description	A recreation ground focused around a football pitch with play area.
Boundaries	Trees/hedge on 2 sides, fenced on another, school and garden fences.
Distance from Village	Immediately adjacent.
Uses	Sports, quiet recreation, dog walking. Used by adjacent school and by Shefford Town & Campton FC for fixtures.
Quality	Moderate/High – well managed
Facilities	Play area, benches, small sports pavilion (not in good condition) – relatively limited.
Visual Attractiveness	High – a pleasant green space with attractive views over open countryside to north and west from one end. Significant mention as a 'favourite view' in consultations.
Historical Significance	Has been village recreation ground for some time – it was gifted to the parish and its residents just after WWII.
Recreational Value	High – the only accessible green space in Campton village. Strong evidence of use and value from community consultation.
Tranquillity	High
Wildlife Value	Moderate – mature, mixed species hedge on part of boundary provides habitat.
Recommend as a LGS?	Yes, particularly on the basis of its recreational value. Not to include pavilion and immediate surrounds.

Site 17: Glebe Fields



Site Owner	Privately owned
Location	In centre of Campton village, adjacent to Rectory Road and Shefford Road.
Status/Designations	None
Size	8.29ha A much wider area is considered to be the true 'Glebe Fields', extending up to the A507 to the north. This would be considered extensive. However, it was possible to identify an area that is sufficiently distinct as 'Site 17' which forms the core. This area consists of those fields that have the least evidence of cultivation and the greatest parkland character.
Description	Pasture fields forming part of the historic core of the village, with a strong parkland feel.
Boundaries	Fence/hedge.
Distance from Village	Immediately adjacent.
Uses	Agriculture (grazing).
Quality	High – grazing intensity is just right.
Facilities	None.
Visual Attractiveness	High – gently undulating fields with significant ancient trees and hedgerows providing attractive and peaceful views for residents and recreational walkers. Many people cited as the key feature of their 'favourite view' through consultation. A core element of the village landscape and integral to its sense of place. It is also noteworthy that when part of the Glebe Fields was put forward as a potential development allocation in the CBC Local Plan consultation they received 97 specific objections.
Historical Significance	High – historically part of wider Estate and a key component of the historic core of Campton village. Also includes potential site of former brick kiln (note Kiln Farm nearby).
Recreational Value	Moderate. Although not accessible it is visible from significant parts of adjacent roads.
Tranquillity	Moderate/High (some audible background noise from A507 to north).
Wildlife Value	High – low intensity grazing, little evidence of use of chemicals, unlikely to have been deep ploughed, veteran trees (locally surveyed) and ancient hedgerows.
Recommend as a LGS?	Yes – particularly on the basis of its landscape and historic value.

Site 18 – Fields adjacent to Campton Manor



Site Owner	Privately owned.
Location	Immediately adjacent to Campton Manor and the Gravenhurst Road.
Status/Designations	None.
Size	3.28ha
Description	Fields adjacent to Campton Manor with a strong parkland feel.
Boundaries	Hedges/fences. The area is distinct from surrounding farmland.
Distance from Village	Immediately adjacent.
Uses	Agriculture. Important to setting of Campton Manor.
Quality	High – well managed.
Facilities	None.
Visual Attractiveness	High – strong parkland feel, contributing strongly to the local 'sense of place' – core to the setting of the village. Good views from Gravenhurst Road and Campton Recreation Ground.
Historical Significance	High – association with Campton Manor. Old pond possibly part of wider, old 'canal' system.
Recreational Value	Low.
Tranquillity	High. The adjacent road was lightly used at the time of visiting.
Wildlife Value	High – in addition to ancient hedgerows and trees there is also an old pond.
Recommend as a LGS?	Yes, particularly on the basis of its landscape and wildlife value.

Site 19 – Fields adjacent to Camptonbury Farm



Site Owner	Privately owned.
Location	Adjacent to Camptonbury Farm and Gravenhurst Road.
Status/Designations	None
Size	0.78ha
Description	An enclosed area of pastoral farmland on the village edge.
Boundaries	Hedges/fences. The south-eastern boundary is a ditch, but this is actually the original course of the River Hit (as is evident from the map above).
Distance from Village	Immediately adjacent.
Uses	Horse paddock.
Quality	High – well-managed.
Facilities	None
Visual Attractiveness	High – the site is made up of gently rolling pasture with strong hedgeline. It is particularly prominent as the view to motorists, riders and walkers stopping at the T-junction of Gravenhurst Road and Campton Road. Although used for horse grazing there are no visible structures evident that impact other similar landscapes. Alongside the nearby area around Campton Manor this site contributes significantly to the ‘sense of place’ of this part of Campton.
Historical Significance	Moderate/High – bounded by original course of Hit and includes an area of former orchard.
Recreational Value	Low – but does offer attractive views to walkers, riders and drivers.
Tranquillity	Moderate/High – some occasional road disturbance.
Wildlife Value	High – hedgerows, former river channel, low intensity management.
Recommend as a LGS?	Yes, particularly in terms of its landscape value and contribution to local sense of place.

Site 20: Land at Kiln Farm

For map see Figure 1 above.

Site Owner	Privately owned.
Location	Adjacent to Kiln Farm and Priory Road.
Status/Designations	None
Size	1.34ha
Description	An agricultural field used for grazing.
Boundaries	Fences
Distance from Village	Immediately adjacent to northern tip of Campton.
Uses	Grazing livestock
Quality	Moderate.
Facilities	None
Visual Attractiveness	Moderate – the field itself is relatively sterile, but views across it are attractive, and the consultation noted this is especially so at sunset.
Historical Significance	None identified.
Recreational Value	Moderate – there is an adjacent public footpath.
Tranquillity	Moderate – some background noise from A507.
Wildlife Value	Low.
Recommend as a LGS?	No. Although views and therefore local landscape has been highlighted, this relates to views <i>across</i> the field, and the field itself contributes nothing other than openness. It is felt that the views are best protected through policy in the Neighbourhood Plan, and the area is within one of the key views identified in the GI Plan.

Annex 1

Process for Identifying Potential

‘Local Green Spaces’ in Central Bedfordshire

Background

The following has been developed (using local experience in Bedfordshire and best practice from elsewhere in the country) as a methodology for identifying spaces that should be considered for designation as Local Green Spaces (LGS) according to the criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and subsequent Government guidance (Planning Practice Guidance: Local Green Space designation).

The approach is currently being piloted in Central Bedfordshire, as part of the Neighbourhood Planning support offered by Central Bedfordshire Council (in Central Bedfordshire, currently LGS can *only* be designated through a Neighbourhood Plan). It is, however, not restricted to Central Bedfordshire in terms of applicability.

The LGS Designation:

The National Planning Policy Framework (2011) introduced the Local Green Space designation as “a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities”. Paragraph 77 of the NPPF sets out the criteria that green space must meet in order to be designated as ‘Local Green Space’:

“The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves
- Where the green area is 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
- Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land”.

In addition to these criteria, National Planning Practice Guidance states:

“Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented”.

Other existing designations, such as Green Belt or Conservation Area status, do not necessarily preclude or support designation as Local Green Space, but it is necessary to consider whether the additional designation is necessary and would serve a useful purpose.

The draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan makes provision for Local Green Spaces to be designated through a Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore this GI Plan includes an assessment of green spaces for consideration as LGS, and provides recommendations for those that should be designated through the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Process

The criteria to be used are listed below, along with guidance on how they can be addressed and key questions to support an assessment. All criteria must be met, therefore simple scoring matrices based on 'Yes/No' answers are illustrated. Some elements can be assessed via desktop research, which means that it is possible to carry out an initial sift of a list of potential sites against these 'Stage 1' questions and create a shortlist for on-site evaluation (Stage 2). It may also be possible to sift out other spaces during the Stage 1 analysis where it is clear that they would not meet one of the Stage 2 criteria, however if there is any doubt then the space should be carried forward for field analysis.

The scoring of sites against the criteria, to cover the eventuality of multiple sites being proposed for designation where it is felt they all meet the criteria, was considered. However, with several of the key questions being straight 'yes/no' questions, a scoring system would be relatively limited in scope. Ultimately the requirement is for a high level of rigour in answering the questions, and only 'passing' those sites that demonstrably meet the criteria without question. It is not appropriate to artificially restrict the number of LGS being designated in any particular parish or area – if a site meets the criteria then it should be put forward for designation, recognising that some parishes will include several sites that meet the criteria, and others very few or even none.

In carrying out an assessment, evidence of how a site does/does not meet the criteria must be recorded, along with site plans (at an appropriate scale, showing clear boundaries for the site) and photographs.

The Criteria – Stage 1 (Desktop Analysis)

If any of the key questions in Stage 1 is answered with a "yes" then the space should not be recommended for designation.

1. Land is not the subject of a planning permission for development.

Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the designation would be compatible with the planning permission or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented. (NPPG Paragraph: 008)

Information on planning permissions is available from local authority websites/Planning Portal

Key question:

Does the proposed space have an existing planning permission?

2. Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.

(Unless it can be shown that the Local Green Space could be incorporated within the site as part of the allocated development)

Local Green Spaces should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. (NPPF Paragraph 76)

Designating any Local Green Space will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making. (NPPG Paragraph: 007)

The space should be capable of enduring beyond the plan period. (NPPF Paragraph 76)

Further information on the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan is available from:

<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk>

Key question:

Is the proposed space a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan allocation or proposed site?

3. The space is not covered by another designation of equal weight

If the space is already covered by another designation of equal weight such as SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), Scheduled Ancient Monument, Registered Historic Park or Garden or Green Belt then it is not appropriate to put it forward for LGS designation as this will not add any greater degree of protection.

Key question:

Is the proposed space covered by an existing designation of equal or greater weight?

Stage 1 Assessment Matrix – Example

The following provides an example of a matrix recording assessment against the criteria for ‘sample’ sites:

	No current Planning Permission?	Not allocated for Development	Not already Designated	Pass to Stage 2
Site 1	✓	✓	✓	Yes
Site 2	✓	✗	✓	No
Site 3	✓	✓	✗	No
Site 4	✗	✓	✓	No
Site 5	✓	✓	✓	Yes
Site 6	✓	✓	✓	Yes

In the example above only sites 1, 5 and 6 are progressed to Stage 2 assessment.

Stage 2 – Field Analysis

4. The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character

Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green area is not an extensive tract of land. Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. (NPPG Paragraph: 015). Proportionality is an important consideration – for example, a site of less than 10ha could still be considered extensive, particularly in the context of a small village or where it

resembles the open countryside in character (agricultural use does not preclude designation). However, this does not imply that for larger settlements larger sites automatically qualify – this will only be the case where all of the criteria are demonstrably met.

Key questions:

Does the proposed space have clearly defined edges?

Does the space feel local in character and scale?

How does the proposed space connect physically, visually and socially to the local area?

Is the space clearly distinct from surrounding farmland?

5. The space is within close proximity of the community it serves

The proximity of a Local Green Space to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, but it must be reasonably close. For example if public access is a key factor, then the site would need to be within easy walking distance of the community served. (NPPG Paragraph: 014). If it is important because of its landscape value, views need to be accessible from the community/settlement.

As with the criteria above, ‘close proximity’ can be a relative concept and will depend on the settlement, terrain and accessibility. Therefore a specific maximum distance from where people live is not suggested,

Key questions:

How close is the space to the community it serves?

Where are the nearest centres of population?

How does it relate to accepted access standards e.g. Natural England’s ANGSt, Local Authority Greenspace/Leisure Strategy

6. The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.

Local green spaces may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or a neighbourhood in a town. (NPPG Paragraph: 009). The space must also be demonstrably locally significant by meeting at least one of criteria a-f below:

Key questions:

Is the proposal to designate supported by any of the following: A friends group, local community groups, a parish plan, the Town/Parish Council, the Ward member(s)?

Is the space the focus of locally important events and/or activities?

Has the community previously demonstrated its views about the space?

a. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty

Does the space contribute to the visual attractiveness of the townscape or character / setting of the settlement?

Is the space covered by other landscape or townscape designations? (e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Conservation Area, Local Landscape Designation)

b. The proposed space is of particular local historic significance

Further information on heritage is available from: Central Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record

Does the proposed space or elements of the space have local historical significance? (e.g. Conservation Area)

Are there any historic buildings or structures in the space? (e.g. listed building or scheduled monument)

Is the space important in terms of the context of a historic building, structure or feature?

Are there any important historic landscape features on the space? (e.g. veteran trees or old hedgerows)

Does the space have a cultural (e.g. historic literature or art) connection?

c. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value

What variety of recreational activities does the space support? (e.g. the space is used for playing sport or for informal recreation). How is it accessible for recreation? (e.g. public or permissive footpaths?)

Is the space already identified in the Council's Leisure Strategy or Outdoor Access Improvement Plan?

Note: There is no need to designate linear corridors as Local Green Space simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation. (NPPG Paragraph: 018) but linear corridors can be proposed if they meet the criteria.

d. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity

Why is the space considered to be tranquil? Has any tranquillity mapping been carried out covering the area?

Is the space used for quiet reflection? Is there background noise?

e. The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its wildlife

Are there records of wildlife, especially species or habitats considered to be rare or threatened? Has the site been designated because of its wildlife value e.g. County Wildlife Site, Local Nature Reserve (note – if the site has SSSI or NNR status then LGS designation will not add any further protection, and it should not have passed Stage 1).

f. The proposed space is of particular local significance for another reason

There may be a reason why the space is considered to be of particular local significance but not covered by the above, nevertheless considered to be of significance.

The answers to these questions should be recorded systematically for each site, along with photographs and maps/plans. A matrix should be created as a quick and simple reference guide.

Stage 2 - Example matrix:

Note only those 'sample' sites that made it through the Stage 1 assessment are included.

	Not Extensive	Close Proximity	Demonstrably Special/Locally Significant*	Recommend for Designation?
Site 1	✓	✗	✓ (b)	No
Site 5	✓	✓	✓ (c)	Yes
Site 6	✗	✓	✗	No

* The matrix should record which of the 'Locally Significant' sub-criteria (a-f) the site meets the requirement with, and be accompanied by a written commentary to justify this. Only one of the sub-criteria needs to be met for a site to be scored positively.

Site (5) is therefore (in this example) the only space recommended for designation

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