Appendix A4 - Local Green Space Assessments

The Neighbourhood Plan designates two areas as Local Green Space (LGS). The designations reflect the particular importance of these spaces to the communities they serve and seek to ensure that their value is recognised and protected over the long term.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that Local Green Space designation should only be used where the land is in close proximity to the community it serves; is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance; and is local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

The evidence for each designation is set out below.

LGS1 – Burford Green

WNP Ref	Description / evidence	Locally bounded, not extensive (Yes/No)	Proximity (0–5)	Beauty (0–3)	Tranquillity (0–2)	Recreational value (0–5)	History (0–5)	Wildlife (0–5)	Total /25
121	**Burford Green outdoor court** Burford Green Outdoor Basketball Initiative	Yes	5	0	0	5	0	0	10
122	**Burford Green play area** Field with mostly hedging for property boundary and mostly newly planted trees. Fenced-off LEAP play area. HDC OSSR in 2015 Assessment	Yes	5	1	0	3	0	1	10
123	**Burford Green recreation ground** Large playing field with all-weather pitches with basketball hoops. Lots of newly planted trees, a couple of established trees and some hedging and shrubbery. Very slight ridge and furrow. HDC OSSR in 2015 Assessment	Yes	5	1	0	5	2	1	14

Proximity to the community

Burford Green is located within the Southern Estate and is readily accessible to a substantial residential population. It is approximately a 15-minute walk from Market Harborough town centre and occupies a central position within the neighbourhood. Its proximity to surrounding homes means that it serves an everyday local population rather than functioning simply as a destination open space.

Why the space is demonstrably special

Burford Green is a large, open green space at the heart of the Southern Estate. Its open setting provides a significant contrast to the surrounding densely built-up area and gives residents access to green space close to home.

The importance attached to Burford Green by the local community was clearly demonstrated during the 2026 Burford Green Visioning consultation. Initial proposals for the future of the site, including a new community centre and associated car parking, generated considerable concern about the potential loss of open space, resulting in a petition which attracted more than 1,200 signatures. The community subsequently

moved from opposing potential development towards identifying positive improvements that would retain and enhance the Green for local people.

Burford Green has particular recreational value. It is used informally for walking, dog walking and informal sport, including rounders, basketball and football, and provides opportunities for people of different ages to enjoy open space close to their homes. Residents have identified opportunities for improved paths, seating, informal sports and other facilities which would enhance its everyday recreational use.

The Green also has value as an open, accessible landscape within a densely settled part of the town. Although much of the existing grassland currently has limited biodiversity value, it has considerable potential for enhancement through wildflower areas, native trees, woodland copses, hedgerows and wetland features. The community's vision is for these measures to create a more diverse and resilient green space while retaining its openness and accessibility.

Local character

Burford Green is an established green space within the built-up area of Market Harborough. Its function and character are local rather than strategic, serving principally the surrounding neighbourhood and wider Welland ward. The designation relates to the existing green space and does not constitute an extensive tract of land.

Conclusion

Burford Green meets the NPPF tests for Local Green Space designation. It is in close proximity to the community it serves; it is demonstrably special to that community and has particular local significance, particularly through its recreational use, open character and strong community attachment; and it is local in character and not an extensive tract of land. The designation recognises the established importance of Burford Green to the local community and its value as an enduring neighbourhood green space.



LGS2 – Farndon Fields Green Infrastructure Network

WNP Ref	Description / evidence	Locally bounded, not extensive (Yes/No)	Proximity (0–5)	Beauty (0–3)	Tranquillity (0–2)	Recreational value (0–5)	History (0–5)	Wildlife (0–5)	Total /25
2041 LP 01	**Farndon Fields (North & Northwest)** Green buffer, amenity open space, attenuation pool and walkways. HDC OSSR in 2021 Assessment	Yes	5	2	1	3	0	2	13
WNHF02	**Farndon Fields perimeter path Measham Close to bridleway A105** Area of linear park with pathway, adjacent to an open watercourse. Plenty of established trees, hedging and shrubbery.	Yes	5	1	0	3	0	2	11
WNHF01	**Farndon Fields perimeter path Charley Close to Measham Close** Area of linear park with pathway, adjacent to an open watercourse. Plenty of established trees, hedging and shrubbery.	Yes	5	1	0	3	0	2	11
499	**Farndon Fields (south) open space** Area of linear park with an open watercourse, potential walkway through a wooded area, and playpark. Plenty of established trees, hedging and shrubbery. HDC OSSR in 2021 Assessment	Yes	5	1	0	4	0	2	12

Location and relationship with the community

The proposed Local Green Space comprises the network of open spaces associated with the Farndon Fields development, including the perimeter path, areas of open space adjacent to the River Welland corridor, storm attenuation ponds and open land around the perimeter of the built development. The area is closely associated with the Farndon Fields community and provides an accessible green setting around the development.

Why the space is demonstrably special

The particular significance of this area lies in the combination of its recreational, landscape and ecological functions and, importantly, its role as a connected network of green infrastructure.

The open spaces around Farndon Fields provide a transition between the built-up area and the wider countryside. The network of paths, open land, attenuation ponds and areas associated with the River Welland corridor provides continuity through and around the development, rather than comprising isolated areas of incidental open space.

The area has established recreational value. The perimeter route is used by walkers, dog walkers, runners and cyclists and provides opportunities for informal recreation and everyday access to green space. Its location means that these opportunities are available directly from the surrounding residential areas.

The network also provides habitat and movement opportunities for wildlife. Species recorded or observed in the area include green woodpecker, blackcap, reed warbler, red kite, otter, great crested newt, muntjac deer, badger and fox. The presence of this

range of species demonstrates the value of the green infrastructure network beyond its recreational function.

The River Welland corridor and associated open spaces are particularly important in maintaining ecological connectivity. Together with the attenuation ponds, perimeter open space and paths, they provide a continuous green setting which links the built-up area with open countryside beyond.

The value of the area therefore derives not from any single feature, but from the way these elements work together as a connected local green infrastructure network. This provides an important green framework for the Farndon Fields community and helps maintain a physical and visual connection between the neighbourhood, the River Welland corridor and the wider countryside.

Local character

The proposed designation is local in character and closely related to the Farndon Fields neighbourhood and the River Welland corridor. It comprises the established green infrastructure associated with the development and its immediate surroundings rather than an extensive tract of undeveloped countryside. Its designation would recognise the existing recreational, landscape and ecological functions of this network and the contribution it makes to the character and setting of the neighbourhood.

Conclusion

The Farndon Fields Green Infrastructure network meets the NPPF tests for Local Green Space designation. It is in close proximity to the community it serves; it is demonstrably special and of particular local significance through its established recreational use, biodiversity and role as a connected green infrastructure network; and it is local in character rather than an extensive tract of land.

