

LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN HISTON & IMPINGTON

INFORMATION ON SITE “South Road Playground”

3 June 2019

INTRODUCTION

This template is for the compilation of information relevant to the designation of a particular site as a Local Green Space (LGS) in the Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan. It serves to inform decisions about LGS designation, to provide supporting evidence to the District planning authorities and to inform specific policies and management plans for the site. It is based on the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and draws on other guidance documents, as explained in the Histon and Impington LGS Framework paper. It is organised into sections, as listed below, but most sites will be significant for only a couple of the criteria covered.

1. General Information
2. Planning history and legal status
3. Size, scale and “local nature”
4. Need for and proximity/accessibility of Local Green Space
5. Evidence that it “is demonstrably special to a local community”
6. Evidence that it “holds particular local significance for its beauty or tranquillity”
7. Evidence that it “holds particular local significance for its historical or cultural value”
8. Evidence that it “holds particular local significance for its recreational value”
9. Evidence that it “holds particular local significance for the richness of its wildlife”
10. Evidence that it holds particular local significance for other ecosystem services
11. Evidence about the site’s connectivity to other green areas for ecological or recreational purposes
12. Evidence that the green space holds particular local significance for any other reason

REFERENCE NUMBER OF THIS LOCAL GREEN SPACE = V24

WORKING NAME OF THIS LOCAL GREEN SPACE = “South Road Playground”

DATE of most recent amendment / addition to the dossier = 1 June 2019

IN A NUTSHELL (recommend up to 100 words), the case for this Local Green Space:

This area is natural green space for southern Impington residents. It is used daily by villagers for playing on the playground equipment, playing outdoor games and sports, picking fruit or foraging, for annual / regular events, connecting to nature, picnicking, bird watching and walking. It is a very important asset, especially given the shortfall of spaces for children's recreation relative to District minimum standards. A covenant requires that the site will be used for this purpose. Many people also take dogs there, as there are very few alternative spaces in this part of the village. Many residents would like the area for public use to be expanded but this will only be possible if NIAB is willing to make land available.

Contributors to this dossier (with initials to facilitate reference in the sources column):

All inputs are by first contributor, except where indicated otherwise

Robert Bensted-Smith RBS

Sarah Udin (SU)

	STATEMENTS ABOUT EACH TOPIC	EVIDENCE / SOURCES
		What evidence supports statement? References? Also provide the initials of the contributor and other relevant people for follow-up queries.
1	GENERAL INFORMATION	
1.1	Name(s) and location/address of site. <i>Some sites have several names, in which case mention all known names.</i>	
	South Road playground South Road play area South Road Rec South Road Recreation Ground South Road Pocket Park	SU
1.2	Site location map(s) and photographs <i>The plan can be at any scale but must show location and boundaries of the site. Indicate the scale. Add explanatory text about site location and boundaries in box below.</i>	Has a map been provided? YES Have photos been provided? YES Attach the map(s) and photo(s) separately.
	South Road playground is located at the southern end of South Road, the western end of Mill Road.	Please see attached map and photos
1.3	Ownership of site Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry or local knowledge.	
	Ownership of South Road playground is by Histon & Impington Parish Council	SU
1.4	Is the owner aware of the potential designation as LGS? Do they support the designation? <i>Support is highly desirable, but it is possible for a site to be designated as a LGS, even if there are objections from the site owners.</i>	
	Yes, they are proposing it.	
1.5	Organisation(s) or individual(s) proposing the site for LGS designation <i>e.g. the Parish Council itself, a specific community group, or an informal group of residents</i>	
	H&I Parish Council	
1.6	Community served by the candidate LGS <i>Does the site serve the whole village or a particular geographic sector of it or a particular interest group?</i>	
	The site is most heavily used by residents of the southern half of Histon & Impington, and it is important as there are fewer local green spaces in the southern half of the village.	RBS
	A survey of households in nearby roads (South Road, Mill Road, College Road, Cooke Walk, The	SU

	Crescent) shows that over 50% of them use the space at least once a week in the summer and 35% in the winter. The majority of the survey participants (59.84%), use the space for playing on the playground equipment, playing outdoor sports and games, and fruit picking or foraging. Other users (families and dog-walkers) come from further afield within Impington.	
2	PLANNING HISTORY AND LEGAL STATUS	
2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If permitted, could part of the overall site still be used as a Local Green Space?	
	No current planning applications for the site exist.	
2.2	Is the site currently allocated for development in the draft Neighbourhood Plan? If development were permitted, could part of the overall site still be used as a Local Green Space?	
	No, it is not allocated for development.	
2.3	Does the site have any existing legal protection of any kind and since when? Or has it ever been proposed for legal protection? e.g. <i>Local Nature Reserve, Village Green, land designated as open access in agreement with the landowner. Also Protected Village Amenity Area PVAA, which is similar to LGS but not as strong in restricting development.</i>	South Cambs PVAA - LGS Right of way and open access land - GOV.UK Cambridgeshire LNR Open Spaces Society describes options www.oss.org.uk
	Covenant requires it to be used as a play area. PC bye-law of 1989 on "pleasure grounds" applies to this site.	SU RBS – <i>Mis-reading of maps led – temporarily - to the mistaken impression that the site is in the Green Belt. One consequence was that the introductory text of the survey mentions green belt status. However, it is not the case.</i>
3.	SIZE, SCALE AND “LOCAL NATURE” OF CANDIDATE LGS	
3.1	Area of proposed site (preferably in hectares)	(No fixed limits. Cotswold District suggests an upper limit of 20ha for LGS designation.)
	0.2 hectares	SU
3.2	Is the site an “extensive tract of land”? Extensive tracts can’t be designated as LGS but “extensive” is not defined. How large is it in comparison to other groups of fields or areas of land in the vicinity? Does it feel like a local H&I site or something on a larger scale?	
	No it is not an extensive tract of land. It is a small site, surrounded by housing and agricultural land.	SU
3.3	What makes the site “local in character”? <i>How does the site connect physically, ecologically, visually and socially to the local area?</i>	To avoid repetition you may be able to simply refer to other sections of this template e.g. on recreation.
	The site’s local character is reflected in the heavy use by local residents and is confirmed in the	See survey results document – attached

	systematic survey organised and implemented by one resident. Of 39 households responding, 100% said they wanted the site to be protected and 97% said they would care a lot if the site were built on and the communal space lost. 11% of survey respondents stated they use the space for annual / regular events.	
4.	NEED FOR AND PROXIMITY/ACCESSIBILITY OF GREEN SPACE	
4.1	Is there a particular need for a Local Green Space in this location? <i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible green space in this location? Has the need been identified in other assessments or surveys?</i>	Make this specific. General shortage in H&I is described in the NP and in the framework document.
	In the context of the shortage of publicly accessible, open green space in H&I, people in the south-west of the village are especially deprived because they are hemmed in by the totally inaccessible NIAB land and the A14. As the only accessible recreational green space in the south-west, the South Road Rec is extremely important to them.	SU
4.2	How far is the site from the community it serves? <i>It should be in "reasonably close proximity" but this is not defined.</i>	It may be helpful to attach a map or diagram showing proximity and access.
	There are over 80 residences within 200m of the space. The area is adjacent to the residential area, with one pedestrian access point. Many more homes are within walking distance and the rec is only 800m from the main road.	RBS
4.3	Are there any barriers to the community accessing the site from their homes? If so, how could they be overcome? <i>e.g. a busy road to be crossed</i>	
	No	SU
5.	EVIDENCE THAT IT IS SPECIAL TO THE COMMUNITY	
5.1	List the community organisations, societies, local leaders, schools, organisations concerned with health and well-being, groups of residents or other groups, who have expressed support for the protection of this site?	Attach evidence, which could be letters of support, petitions, surveys, council resolutions etc.
	A survey was carried out with 39 local houses responding, with 84.7% saying they would care a lot "if South Road Rec were to be built upon and there was no longer any communal outdoor space for you to use?" 97.44% saying they would care "a lot if South Road Rec were to be built upon and there was no longer any communal outdoor space for your neighbours with children to use?" and 100% of the respondents saying "yes they want to protect South Road Rec and Playground from being built on?"	SU See survey results document
	The fact that a South Road resident designed, implemented and wrote up the survey is in itself	RBS

	evidence of a highly motivated local community.	
6.	EVIDENCE OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR BEAUTY OR TRANQUILLITY	
6.1	Is this criterion relevant for this site?	If no, go on to the next section
	YES	
6.2	If yes, describe briefly the views and other characteristics that contribute to this beauty and/or tranquillity. Why do local people consider it to be of particular significance?	If possible, provide photographic or other evidence.
	9% of Survey responders use the space for connecting to nature. 3.28% use it for bird watching. Quotes from respondents include: The convenience and peacefulness of its location” “Secluded, well away from traffic” “I stand at the far end and look back and see the size of this green are with all the trees around - that's a pleasure each time I do it. Also to see and hear the children having fun and knowing most live not too far away”	See Survey
7.	EVIDENCE OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL OR EDUCATIONAL VALUE	
7.1	Is this criterion relevant for this site?	If no, go on to the next section
	Many residents (including 2 survey participants) have enjoyed South Road Annual Cricket Match in the Rec in the past.	See Survey
7.2	Describe the associated historic buildings, memorials, gardens, landscape features (e.g. old hedgerows, trees or ponds), cultural activities or relevance to the historic development of the village (e.g. fruit and jam production).	If possible, provide references or other evidence.
	None	
7.3	Is the site used for educational purposes, either by schools or by other community groups?	
	The Public Art Group & Ladybirds Toddler Group used the Rec for their activities as part of the “Well-being Trail” organised by the Histon & Impington Sustainability Society for Mental Health Awareness week (May 2019).	SU
7.4	Does the site have other social uses, for example as an area where people get together, for example for picnics, communal children’s play or teenage socialising? <i>Consider various age groups. For example, is it a site where young people hang out together or where older people meet up with friends.</i>	
	It is an area heavily used for children’s play (see recreation section 8.4 below). As such, it is common for young children (and their parents) to meet up there, play together, have picnics together and so on. To quote one respondent: “...Good for neighbourhood events eg street	See survey results

	parties”	
8.	EVIDENCE OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR RECREATION	H&I Walking Group, Histon Hobblers, Cycling Group, youth groups and others could compile this section, where relevant.
8.1	Is this criterion relevant for this site?	If no, go on to the next section
	Yes	
8.2	Is the site used for playing sport? <i>If so, which sports, involving which sections of the community? Since when has it been used for sport? Is it free or does it require club membership?</i>	
	Cricket – Annual South Road Cricket Match, Football – using the goalposts	
8.3	Is the public able to physically access the site? <i>e.g. public rights of way across or adjacent to the site. Has access been allowed hitherto on a discretionary basis? Is there access to the whole site or just part of it? Is there good disabled access? (A site can still be designated even if there is no public access).</i>	
	Yes there is access on the corner of South Road and Mill Road	SU See attached map
8.4	Is the site used for walking, dog-walking, foraging (berries etc), birding, nature observation, horse-riding, cycling, children’s games or other informal recreation? <i>If so, how much is it used and by which parts of the community? Since when has it had these uses?</i>	
	Yes – see survey. It is an area mostly used for playing on the playground equipment (27%), and playing outdoor games and sports(20.5%). 12.3% of survey respondents pick fruit or forage in the Rec, and 11.5% use the Rec for annual / regular events such as “playing out socials”. The rest use the space for connecting to nature, picnicking, bird watching and walking. To quote one respondent: “Very close. Children can play there safely away from traffic & unsupervised....”	See survey results.
9.	EVIDENCE OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE	
9.1	Is this criterion relevant for this site?	If no, go on to the next section
	3.28% survey respondents use the space for birdwatching	See survey results
9.2	What wildlife of interest to the community has been found on the site? <i>Include plants, fungi, mammals, birds, amphibians, invertebrates etc. Explain briefly the use of the site by the species concerned and the conservation requirements. Mention any population trends, supported by monitoring data or anecdotal evidence.</i>	Consider sightings within the past five years. To organise species information, a checklist of potential species will be made available. Additional species can be added, as needed. The checklist and other evidence should be provided as an attachment.
	Not known	

9.3	Are any of the habitats or species found on the site considered to be of special importance? <i>e.g. habitats or species in national or regional lists of priorities or in a biodiversity action plan. Explain briefly the use of the site by the species concerned and the conservation requirements, if not already covered above.</i>	For national and county priority species, see CPbiodiversity . Consider sightings within the past five years. Elaborate further in an attachment, if necessary
	Not known	
9.4	Are there trees with preservation orders in the site? If so, how many, which species and what special characteristics?	Parish Council tree warden could provide the information for this question. South Cambs Local Plan policy NH/7 (paras 6.32-6.33) on ancient woodlands and veteran trees is relevant on this question.
	Not known	
9.5	What has been the involvement of community members in studying, observing or simply enjoying the wildlife of this site? <i>Have local people been monitoring the site or recording its species and, if so, for how long? Have they produced any data sets, articles, reports, blogs, talks, exhibits etc about any of the wildlife present at the site?</i>	You could attach copies of materials produced, if appropriate.
	Not known	
10.	EVIDENCE OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR OTHER ECOSYSTEM SERVICES	There is unlikely to be quantitative data on ecosystem services, but you can make qualitative arguments – as specific as possible. In some cases there may be supporting anecdotal evidence (e.g. of pollinator activity).
10.1	Is this criterion relevant for this site?	If no, go on to the next section
	Not known	
10.2	Does the site contribute significantly to flood prevention, absorption of rainwater or maintenance of water quality (by reducing run-off of silt, agrochemicals and other pollutants into water courses)? If so, describe briefly the function and how significant it is likely to be.	Attach supporting documents, diagrams etc, if needed.
	Unknown	SU
10.3	Does the site provide significant habitat for pollinators or for predators valuable in controlling plant pests (especially if near allotments, orchards, gardens)? If so, describe briefly the pollinators and/or predators concerned.	Attach supporting documents, diagrams etc, if needed.
	Unknown	SU
10.4	Does the site contribute significantly as a barrier to noise pollution or air pollution, as a windbreak, or in maintaining a favourable microclimate (e.g. a moist, cool area during hot, dry periods)?	Attach supporting documents, diagrams etc, if needed.
	Unknown	

11.	CONNECTIVITY TO OTHER GREEN AREAS	As explained in the Framework document, ecological connectivity is essential for long-term sustainability of the other local values, while connecting sites with vegetated paths greatly enhances recreational value.
11.1	Is this criterion relevant for this site?	If no, go on to the next section
	Yes.	SU
11.2	Is the site connected – or potentially connected – ecologically to other green areas? If so, which other areas? Which kinds of wildlife benefit from the connectivity? <i>The connectivity could be physically continuous, e.g. a hedgerow, or depend on sites being close enough for birds or insects to move between them. If the connectivity is weak or only potential, indicate briefly how it could be enhanced e.g. by restoring vegetation alongside a drainage ditch.</i>	Attach a map or diagram to illustrate the connectivity.
	Yes – see attached map. It is adjacent to extensive tracts of agricultural land and countryside stretching west and south providing connectivity for insect, bird and mammal species which is an essential attribute to enable the maintenance of sustainable populations. Thus, the South Road rec is important habitat for species on the agricultural land and, at the same time, provides a place where people – especially children – can see species associated with farmland margins and trees.	SU
11.3	Is the site connected – or potentially connected – for recreational purposes to other green areas? If so, which other areas and for which kinds of recreation? Which parts of the community use the connected green areas and how much? <i>This will generally be about walking, dog-walking, running, horse-riding and cycling routes, which link green areas in a loop. If the connectivity is only potential, indicate briefly how it could be achieved e.g. by establishing an additional permissive way.</i>	Attach a map or diagram to illustrate the connectivity, or simply cross-refer to the ecological connectivity, if the links are similar.
	Not at present. It could become so, when Darwin Green is linked to Impington, as required by the adopted Local Plan.	RBS
12.	EVIDENCE OF ANY OTHER SPECIAL LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE	
	If there is any other special characteristic or local significance relevant to the site’s designation as a Local Green Space but not covered above, please state it here.	
	“The convenience and peacefulness of its location” “Secluded, well away from traffic” “I stand at the far end and look back and see the size of this green are with all the trees around - that's a pleasure each time I do it. Also to see and hear the	

	children having fun and knowing most live not too far away” “Very close. Children can play there safely away from traffic & unsupervised. Good for neighbourhood events eg street parties”	
--	---	--

Attached documents:

- Map of the area
- Survey results questionnaire
- Survey results spreadsheet