

LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN HISTON & IMPINGTON
INFORMATION ON LGS SITE “Cawcutt’s Lake and Adjacent Fields”
With additional information on “Fields North of Cawcutt’s Lake”

Version 3 June 2019

Certain sections of this dossier also include information about the adjacent A14 Mitigation Site, “Fields North of Cawcutt Lake” (V27). This is made clear in each section. It made sense to report on the two sites together, because of the closely connected wildlife, recreational uses and A14 mitigation functions.

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 = V33

WORKING NAME OF THIS LOCAL GREEN SPACE = Cawcutt’s Lake and Adjacent Fields

DATE of most recent amendment / addition to the dossier = 3 June 2019

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

This site, together with the adjacent A14 Mitigation Site site to the north of it (“Fields North of Cawcutt’s Lake”) are very important as by far the largest and most significant green space open (courtesy of the landowners) to people in the southern half of the village, which has an extreme shortage of green spaces. The lake itself is important for birdlife, including cormorants, duck, coots, geese and Great Crested Grebe, as well as for fishing. The lakeside trees and the patch of mature woodland (just north of the Holiday Inn driveway) of this LGS, together with the dense hedgerows, ditch and lightly managed hayfield of the “Fields North of Cawcutt’s Lake” site (V27), support abundant wildlife (rabbit, fox, woodpecker, kestrel etc) and make a wonderful location for walkers, dog-walkers, runners, nature lovers and foragers (plum, blackberry, elder, mushroom). They also provide connectivity with the Feldsted Farm woodland and Impington Coppice. In 2018 the expansion of the A14 required felling of woodland and scrub on land adjacent to the LGS by the roundabout and along the southern bank of the lake. Highways England will restore this. Furthermore, a local action group is collaborating with landowners, SCDC and Highways England to expand woodland and enhance the landscape of this

LGS and the adjacent fields (A14 Mitigation Site V27), and hence increase their diverse values to the community (wildlife, recreation, visual screening, air quality and maintaining the green gateway that is essential to the village character of Histon & Impington).

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).

	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>	
	Cawcutt's Lake and adjacent fields (including woodland adjacent to Holiday Inn driveway). Where indicated, this dossier also includes information on the site "Fields North of Cawcutt's Lake" (V27), also known as the Holiday Inn field and Easy's field.	
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 / NO Have photos been provided? YES / NO Attach the map(s) and photo(s) separately.
	The LGS site comprises the lake and associated property of the Chivers family. It encompasses the lake and surrounding footpath, and the fields between the Holiday Inn and the A14/B1049 including the paddocks and the broad-leaved woodland north of the Holiday Inn driveway. It excludes the strip acquired by Highways England, which they will restore after the works. Where indicated, this dossier also includes information on the site "Fields North of Cawcutt's Lake" (V27), which comprises the large field between the lake and the busway, and its hedgerows.	Maps of both sites: Google maps.
1.3	Ownership of site Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry or local knowledge.	
	The LGS is privately owned (Chivers family). The "Fields North of Cawcutt's Lake" (V27) is in two sections: a 3.6 hectare rectangle, next to the Holiday Inn and the lake, which is owned by the Holiday Inn, and the surrounding field and paddock, owned by the Easy family (9.2 ha)	
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. Also, they are planning with community members about establishing additional woodland in	

	<p>the area, in order to help restore the “green gateway” and village identity of H&I, as well as enhance other values (recreation, biodiversity, screening, A14 impact mitigation).</p> <p>The Holiday Inn, who own part of the “Fields north of Cawcutt’s Lake” A14 Mitigation Site, are also part of this collective effort.</p>	
1.5	<p>Organisation(s) or individual(s) proposing the site for LGS designation</p> <p><i>e.g. the Parish Council itself, a specific community group, or an informal group of residents</i></p>	
	H&I Parish Council	
1.6	<p>Community served by the candidate LGS</p> <p><i>Does the site serve the whole village or a particular geographic sector of it or a particular interest group?</i></p>	
	The site draws a large number of users, mainly from Impington, but some from Orchard Park and some from further afield, including fishers. Plus, of course, the hotel guests.	
2	PLANNING HISTORY AND LEGAL STATUS	
2.1	<p>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?</p>	
	There is no planning application.	
2.2	<p>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?</p>	
	It is not allocated for development.	
2.3	<p>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></p>	<p>South Cambs PVAA - LGS Right of way and open access land - GOV.UK Cambridgeshire LNR Open Spaces Society describes options www.oss.org.uk</p>
	It is Green Belt.	
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.)
	The total extent of the LGS is approximately 12 ha (excluding the area acquired by Highways England). Of this 6 ha is the lake and 6 ha is land.	
3.2	<p>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?</p>	

	<p>Not extensive. The land part of 6ha is by no means extensive in the context of the large expanse of farmland on this side of the village.</p> <p>Note that the “ extensive tract of land” criterion was a key factor in the decision not to include the field between the lake and the busway (V27) in the LGS, despite its considerable value to the community for recreation and as part of the mixed lake/woodland/hedgerow/ditch/hayfield habitat. It would have added 13 hectares to the total area.</p>	
3.3	<p>What makes the site “local in character”? <i>How does the site connect physically, ecologically, visually and socially to the local area?</i></p>	To avoid repetition you may be able to simply refer to other sections of this template e.g. on recreation.
	<p>The LGS site has been well used by local residents for recreation for many years. Their connection with it is clear from the voluntary initiative to enhance its natural values, in coordination with the restoration by Highways England of the adjacent area they acquired. People care especially about the site’s role as a “green gateway”, helping to maintain the distinct village character despite proximity to highway and city outskirts. Ecologically the woodland is an important piece of the southern cluster of woodland habitat (with The Coppice, Feldsted Farm and Crossing Keeper’s Copse), which straddles the settlement boundary.</p> <p>The Fields North of Cawcutt’s Lake site (V27) has also been used by residents for recreation for many years and part of it is included in the voluntary initiative mentioned above.</p>	
4.	NEED FOR AND PROXIMITY/ACCESSIBILITY OF GREEN SPACE	
4.1	<p>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></p>	Make this specific. General shortage in H&I is described in the framework document.
	<p>Even in the context of H&I’s severe deficit of green spaces, quantified by the SCDC 2013 study, the southern part of the village has an extreme shortage of publicly accessible natural areas. Together with the field north of Cawcutt’s Lake (V27), this site comprises for these residents the only accessible open green space of any size, where the owners permit access.</p>	SCDC 2013 study of open spaces relative to the Council’s standards for the minimum requirement.
4.2	<p>How far is the site from the community it serves? <i>It should be in “reasonably close proximity” but this is not defined.</i></p>	It may be helpful to attach a map or diagram showing proximity and access.
	<p>This site is accessible on foot for residents throughout the southern part of the village.</p>	
4.3	<p>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></p>	

	For most users it is necessary to cross the B1049 to get to the site, using the traffic island opposite the Holiday Inn. Those who come from Orchard Park have to cross the A14/B1049 roundabout (which has pedestrian lights). A path is to be constructed to provide a short route from OP to the corner of the roundabout.	
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.
	Use of the area is intensive: walkers and dog-walkers go there every day, all year round. Fishers use the lake all year, especially at week-ends. As explained in Section 7.2 below, it makes an important contribution to H&I's village identity. That the site is very special for the people of Histon & Impington is evidenced by the massive reaction by the whole community (on-line and in meetings and documented in the media) to the loss of the woodland on adjacent Highways England land by the roundabout, due to the A14 works. Consequently, the community formed a special landscape working group not only to ensure full restoration of the HE area but also to work with landowners (of the LGS and of the adjacent A14 Mitigation Site i.e. Holiday Inn) to establish additional wooded habitat. The aim is to plant the first trees in autumn 2019. This substantial, ongoing effort by the community proves it is a special site.	
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.
	The lake offers a beautiful scene. However, it no longer offers tranquillity, because of the road noise.	
7.	EVIDENCE OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL OR EDUCATIONAL VALUE	H&I Historical Society could compile this section, where relevant.
7.1	Is this criterion relevant for this site?	If no, go on to the next section
	Yes	
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.
	A central aim of the NP is to maintain the character of H&I as a village surrounded by greenery, clearly	

	separated from the city and the A14 highway. This site, with its woodland and horse paddocks, is crucial for maintaining village identity, as it forms part of the “green gateway” between city/A14 and village. This is why people throughout H&I reacted with shock to the sudden destruction in March 2018 of the woodland and other vegetation on adjacent Highways England land.	
7.3	Is the site used for educational purposes, either by schools or by other community groups?	
	No	
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>	
	Formerly the lake was used frequently for picnics and similar gatherings but this use has declined since the lake was fenced off for fishing. In “Fields North of Cawcutt’s Lake” the Holiday Inn field is used for large social events with marquees, principally commercial events for external clients but also some events of Histon & Impington organisations.	
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>	
	No	
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>	
	The site is privately owned but is easily accessible through a permissive path (temporarily disrupted by Highways England machinery use) and also from the Holiday Inn field just north of the lake. Expanded access may be agreed with the owners as part of the collaborative landscape restoration post-A14 works. The lake is physically accessible only to fishers, but all can enjoy its wildlife and views. The Fields North of Cawcutt’s Lake site is similarly	

	accessible, by kind permission of the owners.	
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>	
	The site – and the adjacent “Fields north of Cawcutt’s Lake” A14 Mitigation Site, are heavily used, especially for walking, jogging, dog-walking, foraging (blackberries, plums, elderberries, mushrooms), bird-watching and other nature appreciation, and greeting the ponies in the paddocks.	
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
	YES	
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.
	We do not have systematic survey data, but the lake supports plenty of birdlife, including cormorants, various duck species, coots, great-crested grebe, greylag and Canada geese. There is no information on sub-aquatic biodiversity. The lakeside trees, mostly willow, and the patch of mature woodland (just north of the Holiday Inn driveway) of this LGS, together with the dense hedgerows (hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, sycamore, dog rose), ditches and lightly managed hayfields of the “Fields North of Cawcutt’s Lake” site, support abundant rabbits and foxes are often seen. Green woodpeckers are ever present, while kestrels and buzzards are frequently seen (the latter less frequent since the A14 tree felling).	
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
	Broad-leaved woodland is a priority habitat and is in extremely short supply in H&I and in South Cambridgeshire (0.72% of land cover in District). This site includes about 0.7ha of mature broad-leaved woodland. This will be increased substantially by the community-led tree landscape enhancement	The DEFRA Magic Map is at http://magic.defra.gov.uk/ Land cover analysis https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/news/nr/land-cover-atlas-uk-1.744440

	mentioned above on this property and the Holiday Inn field. In terms of habitat management of the “Fields north of Cawcutt’s Lake”, the Holiday Inn mows its field from time to for events while hay is obtained from the larger part of the field.	
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.
	Within the LGS a TPO covers the whole of the patch of woodland north of the Holiday Inn drive: Beech, Elm, Horse Chestnut, Maple, Pine, Sycamore and Sweet Chestnut. The huge Copper Beech by the B1049, just next to the LGS, is also protected by a TPO and is an important feature.	
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.
	As mentioned above, community volunteers are participating in planning (and implementing) the enhancement of the LGS site, as well as the adjacent Holiday Inn field. A community member also did a survey of the stumps following the felling by Highways England in March 2018, in order to ensure that replanting commitments on their land adjacent to the LGS are met in full.	
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
	YES	
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.
	The woodland in particular has some role in absorbing rainwater.	
10.3	Does the site provide significant habitat for	Attach supporting documents,

	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.	diagrams etc, if needed.
	Not known.	
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.
	Both the LGS and the adjacent “Fields North of Cawcutt’s Lake” site are designated as A14 Mitigation sites. As stressed above, one function is to mitigate the threat to the essential village character of Histon & Impington by reinforcing the green gateway separating village from highway and town. For people living in the southern and eastern parts of Impington, and for the many recreational users of both sites, the sites trees and hedgerows provide a visual screen, blocking the 24-hour-a day traffic. They also reduce perception of noise (though actual decibels of noise may not be reduced until dense woodland is re-established). Depending on prevailing wind and other factors, dense vegetation in these sites may also reduce exposure to particulate pollution for people living nearby or using the lake or adjacent fields or the Rec and IVC playing fields. The beneficial effect of vegetation in deflecting, trapping or absorbing various pollutants is complex and modelling it is beyond the scope of the NP team! However, Highways England acknowledges that the A14 expansion will worsen pollution in this location and emerging research has highlighted the severe health risks, especially for children and especially where PM2.5 pollutants are involved (as here). The designation of these sites as A14 Mitigation sites in the NP allows for a precautionary approach to such health risks, as well as the other, more visible impacts of the highway.	
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	
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</i>	Attach a map or diagram to illustrate the connectivity.

	<i>briefly how it could be enhanced e.g. by restoring vegetation alongside a drainage ditch.</i>	
	Ecologically, the LGS site is part of the southern cluster of inter-connected sites of woodland and fields designated Important Natural Habitat in the Neighbourhood Plan. It is an especially important component, because it contains a substantial piece of woodland, hedgerows and lines of mature trees (with willows, hawthorn, blackthorn), adjacent to the hayfield of the “Fields North of Cawcutt’s Lake” site and, of course, the lake itself. It connects with other woodland across the B1049 (Impington Coppice, Crossing Keeper’s Copse) and with the Feldsted Farm woodland across the busway.	See INH map of Neighbourhood Plan.
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.
	Yes. In terms of recreation, many walkers and dog-walkers combine this site with the fields north of Cawcutt’s Lake and also the Impington Coppice.	
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.	