

LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN HISTON & IMPINGTON

INFORMATION ON SITE: “Manor Park Field - Histon Wood”

Version 27 May 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 = V12

WORKING NAME OF THIS LOCAL GREEN SPACE = Manor Park Field - Histon Wood

DATE of most recent amendment / addition to the dossier = 27 May 2019

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

The Manor Park field, Histon Wood and St Audrey’s Close woodland are used heavily by villagers from all over H&I for walking, running, dog-walking and birdwatching, and are connected ecologically and for recreation to the Girton Wood and other sites beyond. Histon Wood was planted by local residents with help from the Cambridgeshire Federation of Women’s Institutes in 1994, while the Community Orchard was planted by residents over 2013-15 in different sections – one representing various East Anglian fruit trees (bred between 1600 and 1980) and another a typical early 20th Century orchard. The orchard is also used by community groups, such as scouts and guides, and for numerous social events. Wildlife thrives at the site, thanks in part to the connectivity to the dense factory scrubland and other nearby habitat, and includes eight priority vertebrate species in Cambridgeshire’s Biodiversity Action Plan: Bullfinch, House Sparrow, Lesser Redpoll, Reed Bunting, Song Thrush, Yellowhammer, Common Lizard and Brown Long-eared Bat.

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

David Chandler

Dan Mace (DM)

Rob 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>	
	Manor Park Field including the Histon and Impington Community Orchard. Plus adjacent/contiguous areas: Histon Wood, Scrub Triangle (NE of Histon Wood) and St Audrey's Close Woodland Strip (running NE between Manor Park and St Audrey's Close).	D Mace D Chandler
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.
	The Manor Park field lies to the south of Somerset Road and Manor Park, to the north of the Cambridgeshire Guided Busway, and east of the Hain Daniel factory. The Histon and Impington Community Orchard lies in the southern part of the field. The Scrub Triangle is to the NW of Manor Park Field, and Histon Wood to the SW. St Audrey's Close woodland strip reaches NE from the W corner of the Scrub Triangle.	D Mace D Chandler.
1.3	Ownership of site Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry or local knowledge.	
	Manor Park Field is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council and leased to Histon & Impington Parish Council, who have granted Histon & Impington Community Orchard Project a Licence to Occupy. Histon Wood and St Audrey's Close woodland are owned by Cambridgeshire County Council. The Scrub Triangle is privately owned.	D Chandler RBS
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>	
	The County Council is aware and raised no objection to the proposed LGS. The owner of the scrub triangle lives elsewhere in the UK and the Parish Council were unable to obtain contact information for her, so she is not aware.	
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>	
	Histon and Impington Community Orchard Project	
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 easily accessed and serves the whole village, especially residents of more westerly parts of Histon.	D Chandler
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.	D Chandler
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.	
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? <i>e.g. 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
	Histon Wood is green belt. No other protection.	D Chandler
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)
	Estimated at 6 hectares, of which Manor Park Field is 1.7 ha.	
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. The largest part of the LGS is Histon Wood, which is a small piece at the edge of a much larger area of agricultural fields.	D Chandler
3.3	What makes the site “local in character”? <i>How does the site connect physically, ecologically,</i>	To avoid repetition you may be able to simply refer to other sections of this

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.
	Responses obtained at the stand outside Tesco's during the consultation showed that this site, along with Girton Wood and Buxhall Farm, are the most important green spaces in the Parish (after the Village Green). The field is used by residents, particularly dog walkers and picnickers in the summer. The Community Orchard is used informally by residents, and is also used by the local schools, nursery, and groups such as the Scouts, Guides, Brownies, and Woodcraft folk. The Schools, nursery and Brownies have taken part in growing wildflowers from seed and planting them in the orchard. These groups have also used quizzes on the orchard trees. As mentioned above, this part of the village is used for walking, running, dog-walking and birdwatching. A footpath running through it connects Histon to Girton.	Written submissions received at the Saturday morning stand outside Tesco's during the consultation.
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 Community Orchard, enclosed by a native hedge, provides a peaceful space in a relatively busy area, between the factory, guided busway and housing. It is screened by its hedge, and taller nearby trees. The views across the orchard, with its 72 local trees are not only beautiful, but are historically significant, being examples of orchards that were once commonplace in the area. Once across the busway, dog-walkers enjoy the peace and quiet of Histon Wood (and from there many go on across the fields).	
7.	EVIDENCE OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL 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.
	Histon and Impington used to be a significant fruit growing area. It used to be the case that one could walk from Histon to Swavesey along the railway line (a distance of 11km) without leaving an orchard. Today only a few scraps remain. The Community Orchard has been planted in different sections – one representing a wide range of fruits, flavours, and vintages of East Anglian fruit trees (bred between	
	1600 and 1980). Another section has been planted as an orchard would have looked in the early 20 th Century, using the varieties that were grown then.	
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 The site is used by the schools and Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Woodcraft Folk. It is also used informally by picnickers and frisbee throwers.	
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>	
	A public right of way runs along the north-east side of Manor Park Field, facilitating access from the south and east, as well as passage on by the St Audrey's Close woodland. The path across the field to the Community Orchard was improved to enable wheelchair access, and the gate to the orchard is also wheelchair accessible. Wheelchair and mobility scooter users visit the orchard. The Guided Busway, which is very popular with walkers, runners and cyclists, enables access to Manor Park Field at two points and to Histon Wood, also at two points.	

8.4	Is the site used for walking, dog-walking, foraging (berries etc), birding, nature observation, horse-riding, cycling, youth gatherings, 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 whole site is in constant use for walking, especially dog-walking. Manor Park Field is also used for informal youth gatherings, particularly on summer evenings. The Community Orchard is used by schools and other groups as mentioned previously.	
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.
	A site survey was carried out on 5 th May 2012, prior to establishing the Community Orchard, and there was a study in 2014 by the Cambridge Natural History Society. The LGS site as a whole has a variety of habitat types, supporting the following priority species in Cambridgeshire's Biodiversity Action Plan: Bullfinch (presumed breeding), House Sparrow (used by breeding populations), Lesser Redpoll (wintering), Reed Bunting (wintering), Song Thrush (presumed breeding), Yellowhammer (wintering), Common Lizard, Brown Long-eared Bat (one found dead by Guided Busway - presumably feeding in area). (All tbc). Other species of note include Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat. A mini Bioblitz in Histon Wood on 11 th May 2019, done mainly as an educational activity, recorded 134 species of plants, invertebrates and vertebrates. It was supported by experts from BugLife and RSPB.	Survey report, 2012 Cambridge Natural History Society (CNHS) did a survey in 2014 Bioblitz spreadsheet (uploaded to Dropbox) D Chandler RBS
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
	See above.	

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.
	No	
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.
	The Community Orchard was planned and developed by a local group of villagers. It was planted (between 2013 and 2015) at three Community Planting events which were well attended by local villagers. Many years earlier, in 1994, there was much local participation in the planting of Histon Wood. David Chandler, a local author of bird and wildlife books, and contributor to Bird Watching magazine, has been watching birds and other wildlife in this area for many years. Recently the Junior School have constructed 'bug hotels' to attract insects. One of these has a thriving population of common lizards. The May 2019 Bioblitz was undertaken as part of Mental Health week. Well over 100 people attended during the 4-hour event - despite rain!	D Chandler
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.
	Not known. Occasional flash flooding has occurred in nearby streets. Maintaining areas that can absorb rainwater can help to prevent this.	D Chandler

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.
	Yes, but not known in detail. Sites are near gardens and the community orchard. Includes scrub, woodland, hedges and grassland, therefore likely to provide food/shelter for a range of pollinator species.	David Chandler
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.
	Yes. The site acts as a visual screen and barrier to perceived noise between the Cambridgeshire	
	Guided Busway and housing. The busway is screened from Manor Park Field by a tall hedge.	David Chandler
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 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.
	The LGS site is itself a mosaic of inter-dependent habitats. Ecologically it is closely connected to the dense scrub within the Hain Daniel jam factory site, which is believed to provide safe habitat for a variety of birds, reptiles and invertebrates (a study would be valuable to detail this). The paddock to the north-west, though excluded from the LGS designation, is also part of the ecological mosaic. Through walking routes and hedgerows there is important longer range connectivity - ecological and for walkers - to Girton Wood and beyond.	D Chandler

11.3	<p>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?</p> <p><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></p>	<p>Attach a map or diagram to illustrate the connectivity, or simply cross-refer to the ecological connectivity, if the links are similar.</p>
	<p>The site is adjacent to Histon Woods, and beyond this agricultural fields. There is a network of footpaths connecting Histon and the adjacent village of Girton which start at Manor Park Field. See figure 4 in the map document.</p> <p>The footpath/cycleway running alongside the busway is very well used and provides connectivity for walkers and cyclists to the countryside north-west of Histon.</p>	<p>D Chandler</p>
12.	EVIDENCE OF ANY OTHER SPECIAL LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE	
	<p>If there is any other special characteristic or local</p>	
	<p>significance relevant to the site’s designation as a Local Green Space but not covered above, please state it here.</p>	