

LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN HISTON & IMPINGTON

INFORMATION ON SITE “Clay Close Lane Pocket Park”

Version 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 CANDIDATE LOCAL GREEN SPACE = V18

WORKING NAME OF THIS CANDIDATE LOCAL GREEN SPACE = Clay Close Lane Pocket Park

DATE of most recent amendment / addition to the dossier = 2 June 2019

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

The Park is highly accessible, with the college and houses a stone’s throw away, and very compact, yet somehow it seems to pack everything into this small space. The biodiversity is extraordinary, with 17 tree species, 12 butterflies and 37 birds recorded, including six red-listed birds. Ecologically it is connected with Doctor’s Close Pocket Park and the woodland of Feldsted Farm. With its simple log seating Clay Close Park is a favourite place for play and for relaxation, especially for nearby residents and students of IVC. It is also heavily used by walkers and dog-walkers, as it is one of very few sites readily accessible for people in the eastern part of the village. The Park is also surrounded by village history, being the site of the old Percheron horse Sale Room and next to the former Tithe Barn. The area was one of the stops on the Village Society’s Millennial Walk.

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)

Pene Nudds (PN)

Sam Boden (SB)

Nigel Butcher (NB)

| | 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. |
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| 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> | |
| | Clay Close Lane Pocket Park It is the small park bounded by Clay Close Lane and Burgoynes Road | |
| 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. |
| | Map from Google Maps (street map and satellite imagery). Additional map showing connectivity on east side of Impington | Map - Yes Photos - Yes |
| 1.3 | Ownership of site Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry or local knowledge. | |
| | The site is owned by the H&I Parish Council, to whom it was donated in 1992. | |
| 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, the Parish Council owns the site and is proposing the designation. | |
| 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 used throughout the year, especially (i) residents living east of the LGS along Burgoyne's Road / Milton Road, (ii) residents in the triangle bounded by Impington Lane, New Road and the B1049, and (iii) IVC students. | |

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| 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? | |
| | There is no planning application. | |
| 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? | |
| | 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 |
| | It is within a Conservation Area in the adopted Local Plan. The Local Plan also designates Important Countryside Frontage along the Clay Close Lane and Burgoyne's Road boundaries of the LGS. | |
| 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.) |
| | 0.22 hectares | NB |
| 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? | |
| | Not extensive (as the name suggests!). | |
| 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 Park is highly accessible, with the college and houses a stone’s throw away, and very compact, yet somehow it seems to pack everything into this small space. The species lists show the abundance of wildlife, it’s an area for play and for relaxation, and it is surrounded by village history. It is a very special corner of Impington. | |

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| 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 framework document. |
| | This park is especially important because of the shortage of publicly accessible green spaces in the eastern part of the village. It also forms part of a safe, attractive back way round for cyclists and pedestrians, avoiding the perilous blind S-bends of Burgoyne's Road. | |
| 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. |
| | It is close to its user community: within easy walking distance for people from Clay Close Lane., Burgoyne's Road, Impington Lane, Merrington Place, IVC and the network of roads opposite IVC. | |
| 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 barriers for most users. Most people have to cross Impington Lane. | |
| 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. |
| | Histon & Impington Enviro Volunteers have adopted the Park as one of the sites tended by their working parties. This is a priority site for the Environment Committee of the Parish Council. The Clay Close Lane Pocket Park was one of the sites on the "Well-being Trail" organised by the Histon & Impington Sustainability Society for Mental Health Awareness week. Activities included live music and interactive story-telling. | PN See photos of Well-being activities. |
| 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. |

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| | Despite the proximity to Impington Lane, the Park's natural environment makes it a haven of tranquillity for residents and a place where walkers and passers-by pause and rest. | |
| 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. |
| | The LGS is part of an area rich in village history. It is the site of the former Percheron horse Sale Room | https://hisonandimpingtonvillagesociety.wordpress.com/history/hison-impington/hison-impington-millennium-walk/ |
| | and adjacent to it are the old stables and Tithe Barn. In fact there are plans to mount in the Park a replica tithe barn on top of an old aisle post from the original Tithe Barn, which was demolished over 50 years ago. There are also connections with Impington Hall and the Pepys and Merrington families, who figured prominently in the history of Impington. The Village Society have at least two booklets about the area. Location #22 on the Village Society Millennium Walk (see link opposite) was: "Medieval Impington Manor Farm and Church enclosure: Now Burgoyne's Farm Close. Site of Burgoyne Tithe Barn: Possible 13th century Impington Manor of Peter de Chauvent who entertained Edward I c1298." The trees in the Park include two apple trees of the Chivers Delight variety. | |
| 7.3 | Is the site used for educational purposes, either by schools or by other community groups? | |
| | It has been used occasionally for tree species identification as part of training courses. | |
| 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> | |
| | Every lunchtime and afternoon in term-time IVC students come to the Park to socialise. It is of great benefit to them and to the village that there is a place to get together that is close to the school and naturally calming. | |

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| 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 whole site is open and accessible. Disabled access is possible, if a bit rough, along the mown paths. | |
| 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 Park is heavily used by dog-walkers, who have very few options in this part of the village. In fact, it is also good for dog training, because it is a small, contained area. It is a popular site for birdwatching and many people – adults and children – come just enjoy nature. And in early autumn there are apples to be gathered from the Chivers apple trees. | |
| 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. |

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| | <p>Pene Nudds has listed tree species at the site, while bird and butterfly species have been recorded by resident naturalist, Sam Boden, over the past 2.5 years:</p> <p>Birds (SB)</p> <p>Long tailed tit Great tit Blue tit Song thrush Wren Blackbird Chaffinch Collared Dove Robin House sparrow Dunnock Magpie Wood pigeon Trecreeper Redwing Fieldfare Spotted Flycatcher Greater Spotted Woodpecker Green Woodpecker Tawny Owl</p> | <p>SB PN</p> |
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| | <p>Carrion Crow Jackdaw Rook Starling Jay Red Kite Greenfinch Goldfinch Grey Heron Swallow Swift Black headed gull Common Gull Pheasant Peregrine Falcon Sparrow hawk Mistle thrush</p> <p>Butterflies (SB) Red Admiral Small Tortoiseshell Ringlet Meadow Brown Large White White letter hairstreak Small blue Small white Gatekeeper Speckled wood Brimstone Orange tip</p> <p>Tree species (PN): English Oak (Quercus Robur) Horse Chestnut (Aesculus Hippocastanum) Common Hawthorn (Crataegus Monogyna) Lime (Tilia Platyphyllos) Walnut (Juglans Regia) Hornbeam (Carpinus Betulus) Silver Birch (Betula Pendula) Sycamore (Acer Pseudoplatanus) Field Maple (Acer Campestre) Alder (Alnus Glutinosa) Elder (Sambucus Nigra) White Willow (Salix Alba) (dead) Apple (Malus Domestica) (Var.xx) Apple (Malus Domestica) (Var.Chivers Delight) Cherry (Prunus Sp.) Myrobalan Plum (Prunus Cerasifera)</p> <p>Other species: Pipistrelle bat</p> | |
| 9.3 | Are any of the habitats or species found on the site | For national and county priority |

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| | 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> | species, see CPbiodiversity . Consider sightings within the past five years. Elaborate further in an attachment, if necessary |
| | Red-listed bird species: Spotted flycatcher Song thrush Mistle thrush Redwing Fieldfare | SB |
| 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 | https://gismaps.scambs.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=HismpPC |
| 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. |
| | H&I Enviro Volunteers help maintain the area by clearing the ditch, mowing paths, planting wildflowers and bulbs, etc. The species lists above are evidence of the regular bird monitoring by Sam Boden over 2.5 years. | https://hisimpenviro.wordpress.com/project-locations/clay-close-lane/ (partial record of activities) |
| 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 Park is surrounded by an exceptionally deep ditch, which has an important function in draining rainfall running off from the road and built-up areas around. Water from the ditch flows all the way | |

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| | around to join the Histon brook. Along the way there is an area where the flow widens out and water gathers during periods of heavy rainfall. This probably enhances the effect of smoothing out water flow in the brook and downstream. | |
| 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. |
| | 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. |
| | No. | |
| 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. |
| | Within the Conservation Area, described in the adopted Local Plan, there are several interconnected habitats – grass fields with hedgerows, clusters of trees and gardens. Clay Close Pocket Park is an integral part of that and hence is connected with the Doctor’s Close Pocket Park LGS and with the PVAA at the corner beside IVC. These in turn connect to the Feldsted Farm woodland, as shown on the attached map. This connectivity applies to flying species but has also been observed for terrestrial species, including hedgehogs. | In folder is a map of inter-connected sites on east of Impington from Clay Close Lane Pocket Park to Feldsted Farm as far as the busway. (NB) NB PN |
| 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</i> | Attach a map or diagram to illustrate the connectivity, or simply cross-refer to the ecological connectivity, if the links are similar. |

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| | <i>potential, indicate briefly how it could be achieved e.g. by establishing an additional permissive way.</i> | |
| | Dog-walkers in particular combine this site with Doctor's Close Pocket Park and/or Homefield Park. | |
| 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. | |
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