

LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN HISTON & IMPINGTON

INFORMATION ON SITE: “Doctor’s Close”

Version 31 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 = V19

WORKING NAME OF THIS CANDIDATE LOCAL GREEN SPACE = “Doctor’s Close”
(also known as Doctor’s Close Pocket Park)

DATE of most recent amendment / addition to the dossier = 31 May 2019

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

This site is one of very few areas of green space at the eastern end of the village. The public field, adjacent paddock and small lake surrounded by trees contribute to a picture postcard scene. The field supports many feeding birds and the lake is home to dragonflies, ducks and amphibians. Frogs and toads were numerous in the area until 2011 where large number of road casualties appears to have significantly reduced their numbers. Bird species of conservation significance include linnets and song thrush. The lake connects via ditches to another in Percheron Close and together these provide habitat for amphibians such as toads, which are SCDC priority species. The Parish Council, in consultation with the landowners, aims to conserve the site’s biodiversity while expanding the area available for recreation and nature study.

Contributors to this dossier (with initials to facilitate reference in the sources column):
All inputs are by first contributor, except where indicated otherwise

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	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>	
	Doctor's Close or Doctor's Close Pocket Park Northern corner of field at Doctor's Close (i.e. the established play area), opposite St Andrew's, Impington, plus the adjacent field and small lake.	
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 – Yes
1.3	Ownership of site Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry or local knowledge.	
	Ownership of the park is by the Parish Council and the paddock by Chivers farms.	
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 aware and supportive.	
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>	
	Doctor's Close Pocket Park is especially used by families in the eastern section of the village, who have few publicly accessible green spaces i.e. residents of Woodcock Close, out along Milton Road, Burgoyne's Road, Impington Lane, IVC and the many houses to the west of New Road. It provides a green open space where people can go to sit and relax and enjoy the natural surroundings. It is used especially for children's play - the small size of the current accessible area limits scope for additional leisure activities.	

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.	
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 Green Belt. It is within a Conservation Area in the adopted Local Plan. The Local Plan also designates Important Countryside Frontage along the north-western boundary (Burgoyne's Road / Doctor's Close) 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.)
	0.84 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.	
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 is bordered on two sides by residential areas . This area is Impington's equivalent to the Brook (in the village centre) with it sitting opposite the splendid church. It is a source of pleasure not only for those who visit it but also for the many people who pass by - walking, cycling or by car - and see the horses/sheep and the green space.	

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 area and the even smaller Clay Close Lane Pocket Park are the only open and accessible green spaces in this part of the village.	
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.
	The area is easily accessed from Doctor's Close and houses surround two sides of the site.	
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	
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.
	This site is especially important for children in the east of the village. For example, one written comment received at the stand outside Tesco was "Doctor's Close Park - used to use this with the grandchildren". At the same time, as mentioned above, it is a characteristic feature for all, as the following comment illustrates: "Opposite old historic church. Lovely to see horses/live stock in green space. Keeps it like a village and not like a town." The Parish Council has explored possibilities of expanding the publicly accessible space.	RBS
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.
	It looks across to Impington Village church and with its animals in the paddock and ducks in the pond, this provides a quintessential village scene.	

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 lake was reportedly one that was part of the old Impington Hall.	
7.3	Is the site used for educational purposes, either by schools or by other community groups?	
	Not known but unlikely.	
	Especially with IVC close by, it has high educational potential, if public access is expanded.	
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>	
	Observations of its use are limited but the site is ideal for play or picnics.	
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 Chivers paddock is used for sheep or horse grazing by the local community so access to this is limited. Pocket Park is accessible at all times from Doctors Close. The field is a little uneven which makes it more difficult for disabled access.	

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>	
	Berries have been foraged here and some nature watching occurs.	
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.
	The field supports many feeding birds and the lake is home to dragonflies, ducks and amphibians. Frogs and toads were numerous in the area until 2011 where large number of road casualties appears to have significantly reduced their numbers.	
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
	Bird species of conservation significance include; linnet and song thrush. The lake at the back connects via ditches to another in Percheron Close. Historically this has been good for amphibians such as toads which are included in the SCDC priority species.	
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	<p>What has been the involvement of community members in studying, observing or simply enjoying the wildlife of this site?</p> <p><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></p>	You could attach copies of materials produced, if appropriate.
	No (as far as we are aware).	
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.
	Possibly as Burgoynes Close is prone to significant levels of water at certain times.	
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.
	Dragonfly species (which eat some pests) are present every summer as well as insectivorous birds.	
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	<p>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?</p> <p><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></p>	Attach a map or diagram to illustrate the connectivity.
	<p>The ditches/lake connect through to those in Feldsted farm and lake in Percheron Close making a good corridor for water dwelling taxa.</p> <p>In addition, the Conservation Area, described in the adopted Local Plan, contains several interconnected habitats – grass fields with hedgerows , clusters of trees and gardens. Doctor’s Close Pocket Park is an integral part of that and hence is connected with the Clay Close Lane Pocket Park LGS and with the PVAA at the corner beside IVC.</p>	
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>	Attach a map or diagram to illustrate the connectivity, or simply cross-refer to the ecological connectivity, if the links are similar.
	No	
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.	