

# Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Review Local Green Spaces Review

March 2022



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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2017) designated a number of Local Green Spaces within Policy LP23 Local Green Spaces and other Important Open Space. At the time, the LGS designation was a new national designation, introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in March 2012. The ability to designate LGS has been carried forward into the revised NPPF:

Paragraph 101 states:

*“The designation of land as a Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.”*

Paragraph 102 states:

*“The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:*

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.”*

- 1.2 The NPPF is clear that LGS designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. Principally, they must be locally special and unique in the benefits that they provide to local communities, as set out in Paragraph 102 of the NPPF.
- 1.3 Further national guidance on LGS is provided in the National Planning Practice Guidance.

## 2. Methodology

- 2.1 As the sites submitted during the preliminary draft and further draft consultation stages of the 2017 Local Plan were subject to a detailed and thorough assessment process, it is not proposed to undertake a full reassessment of existing designated LGS's. However, each LGS will be checked to ensure there have been no losses in area or changes of use to ensure the designation as an LGS remains correct and appropriate.
- 2.2 The Issues and Options consultation undertaken in June and July 2019 sought suggestions for any potential new Local Green Spaces, as well as providing an opportunity for suggestions of any currently designated LGS's that are not considered appropriate to carry forward. Any sites submitted will be subject to the same site appraisal methodology that was used for the 2017 Local Plan. Any sites already designated as LGS within Neighbourhood Plans will not be considered as the Neighbourhood Plan designation carries the same weight as a Local Plan designation, and it is unnecessary to duplicate a designation.

## Step 1 - Site Sieve

- 2.3 Any suggestions for new LGS's will be subject of a site sieve, as not all sites suggested, or their boundaries, are identifiable from the information supplied. Reasons for this include the omission of a site map clearly showing the location of the open space and site boundaries and general statements such as all open space in a particular village or parish or just the name of a village. These sites will be removed from the assessment with a justification.
- 2.4 As a part of this site sieve process, a sieve will be undertaken of any sites that are considered to be an extensive tract of land, not in close proximity to the community they serve, sites that are not accessible and sites that are considered to be linear corridors to protect public rights of way. These sites will also be removed from further assessment, with a justification.
- 2.5 Any site that is not removed as a part of the 2 part site sieve process will be subject to the site assessment process.

## Step 2 - Site Assessment

- 2.6 For each remaining site, information will be obtained on planning history, existing designations and status of the site in relation to emerging allocations in the Local Plan. Each site will then be visited by a planning officer and observations will be recorded against the criteria in Table 1.
- 2.7 The criteria set out in Table 1 will be used to assess LGS submissions in order to be consistent in approach with those sites carried forward. The criteria are those consulted upon and used for the site assessment process during the preparation of the 2017 Local Plan. The LGS criteria have also remained unchanged within the revised NPPF published in 2019. It was therefore not considered appropriate or necessary to amend the criteria.

**Table 1.** Explanation of Criteria for designation LGS in Central Lincolnshire

Local Green Space Criteria	Explanation
1. Are they in close proximity to the community they serve	<p>The NPPF does not define 'close proximity'.</p> <p>The Central Lincolnshire Authorities have defined this as a Local Green Space should be in an easy walking distance (up to 300m or a 5 minute walk) from the local community it serves and must not be isolated or distant from communities.</p>
2. Are local in character and not an extensive tract of land	<p>The NPPF doesn't define what is considered to be 'an extensive tract of land'.</p> <p>The Central Lincolnshire Authorities have not set a specific size limit for a Local Green Space. Blanket designations of swathes of open countryside adjacent to settlements or long distance linear routes would not be appropriate (for example Green Wedges).</p>
3. Demonstrably special to the local community because of its: a. Beauty b. Historic significance c. Recreational value	<p>For an open space to be designated as a Local Green Space it must meet at least one of the demonstrably special criteria</p>

<p>d. Tranquillity</p> <p>e. Richness of its wildlife</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beauty:</b> enhances local character, adds to the setting of a building or groups of buildings;</li> <li>• <b>Historic significance:</b> listed building near or on area/open space, provide the setting of and/or views of listed building or historic assets such as a war memorial whose setting needs protecting. Also historic landscape features, such as ancient trees or old hedgerows;</li> <li>• <b>Recreational value:</b> play area, allotments, informal spaces in housing estates, sports and playing fields (not already covered by a designation);</li> <li>• <b>Tranquillity:</b> spaces that are calm and allow for quiet enjoyment and reflection;</li> <li>• <b>Richness of its wildlife:</b> provides for biodiversity, geodiversity, known protected species, and/or priority habitats.</li> </ul>
<p>4. Consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services.</p>	<p>Local Green Space designations are not normally appropriate for sites with existing planning permission/allocated in the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan for other uses unless it can be demonstrated that the site as part of the development.</p> <p>The decision to designate area for Local Green Space protection will be based on a balanced approach, considering all relevant criteria and needs within the area.</p>

### Application of demonstrably special criteria

- 2.8 In relation to the 5 demonstrably special criteria set out above in Table 1, Local Plan Officers will consider the following:

#### Beauty

Whether an open space is beautiful can be open to interpretation. Assessment against this criterion will take into account:

- The visual attractiveness of the site as a whole;
- The contribution the site makes to landscape or townscape character and local distinctiveness;
- The contribution the site makes to the physical form and layout of a settlement or neighbourhood;
- Whether the site offers long views through or beyond a settlement or neighbourhood or views of locally valued landmarks.

#### Historic Significance

The assessment of historic significance will be informed by consideration of:

- Whether the site provides a setting for heritage assets or other locally valued landmarks;

- Whether the site contains any historical features, such as ancient trees;
- Whether the site is associated with a historical figure or event;
- Whether there are any regular, historical events such as a village fete that are regularly held on the site;
- The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record.

### **Recreational Value**

Most open spaces will meet this criteria. In general, sites should offer a variety of recreational opportunities, formal or informal.

### **Tranquillity**

The Tranquillity Map by CPRE<sup>1</sup> will be used to identify whether a site was located in an area that can be described as tranquil. Sites need to demonstrate a feeling of remoteness and quiet contemplation for the majority of the site and a general lack of artificial noise such as road traffic or nearby industry.

### **Richness of Wildlife**

Many open spaces offer some benefit to wildlife. For a site to meet this criterion, there would need to be evidence that it is rich in wildlife, such as records, ecological evidence or expert advice. Sites already designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, National or Local Nature Reserve will not be considered appropriate for LGS designation as these are considered to be adequately protected by national legislation and other policies within the plan.

- Include a priority habitat as defined in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan;
- Include important landscape features, such as veteran trees, ancient woodland or ancient hedgerows;
- Be designated as a Local Wildlife Site.

### **Step 3 - Selecting sites for LGS Designation**

- 2.9 A detailed database record for each site will be created based on the information submitted during the Issues and Options consultation identified in Step 1 above, site visits and desk based research. A list of suitable sites for LGS designation will then be recommended.

## **3. Issues and Options Consultation**

- 3.1 The Issues and Options consultation undertaken in 2019, at question 18, sought respondents views on whether existing LGS designations should be carried forward, and also whether there were any suggestions for new Local Green Spaces that would meet national policy.
- 3.2 **Question 18a** asked “Do you agree that the Local Green Spaces in the 2017 Local Plan should be carried forward in the new Local Plan? If no, please provide details.” The responses are set out below:

There were 102 responses to this question; 95 supported the proposal to keep the designated Local Green Spaces in the 2017 plan; 7 respondents disagreed with the proposal.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designation at Swaton should be revoked;</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/tranquility-map-england/>

- Designations in Neighbourhood Plans should be respected;
- Support for retention of green spaces;
- Any green space policy should be written to ensure that alteration of green spaces to provide flood risk benefits will be supported providing no significant impact on primary use;
- Need to maximise green space and vegetation to help mitigate GHG emissions;
- Various expressions of support;
- There should be greater conservation and protection of existing green belts between towns and villages, along with greater network of foot/cycle paths;
- Designation of Local Green Spaces including land alongside canals and rivers, such as towpaths will not be supported due to potential detrimental impact upon use of canals and rivers;
- Additional sites should be identified;
- Sites should be retained and actively enhanced through good environmental management and added to, to deliver net gain.
- An updated Biodiversity Opportunity Map identifying Nature Recovery networks would be beneficial and ensure NPPF (Para 31) compliance;
- Use wording which ensures that greenspace is usable with accessible points of access;
- There should be opportunities for landowners to challenge proposed/defined Local Green Spaces that do not meet NPPF criteria;
- In some specific cases, biodiversity and public access are incompatible, definition needed for public;
- Green Belts and agricultural set aside strips are considered by dog walkers as commons and shortcuts between formal paths with no, or little, enforcement.

3.3 Overall 95 of 102 respondents to this question were supportive of the proposal to carry over the Local Green Spaces from the 2017 plan. The comments provided were, overall, supportive of Local Green Spaces and the value of open, green spaces in general. Only one site was suggested for removal, which will be assessed as appropriate.

3.4 **Question 18b** asked “Additional Local Green Spaces. Do you have any suggested additional Local Green Spaces which you think meet national policy criteria, and therefore should be designated?”

19 people suggested locations to be considered for Local Green Space designation and provided additional comments or suggestions.

- A number of general areas identified, including:
  - Trentside River Environs;
  - Southern Woods;
  - Land to the west and east of Sturton by Stow;
  - Orchards in rural villages;
  - Protection to the open countryside between Thurlby and Bassingham;
  - A green wedge needs to be retained between the city and NKDC particularly because of the topography of the area and its unsuitability for housing;
- Ridge and furrow fields should be protected or built on as a last resort.
- A number of specific sites identified, including:
  - The Playing field, Ewerby
  - The triangle of land at Chapel Street/ Linwood Road, Market Rasen. Owned by Tesco, would make a good natural garden/orchard area;
  - The space in front of the church in Norton Disney, south of Main street;
  - Protection to the green spaces between Thurlby and Witham St Hughes – specifically to the west of Haddington Road and both sides of Moor Lane.

- Protection to both sides of River Witham between Thurlby Road Bridge and Old Mill Bridge, Aubourn;
- Current IOS 'The Croft', Greyingham – map supplied;
- Specific sites within Fiskerton – map supplied
- The area known as the 'Hillies' (crossing from Cross O'Cliff Court to Coningsby Crescent
- Land at the now defunct Canwick Golf Club.
- Green wedge from Bomber Command, Lincoln to Whitehall farm Bracebridge Heath;
- A review should consider this, especially for the new towns;
- Should be green corridors/buffer zones surrounding and within all new developments in Heckington;
- Should be explored in detail with Parish and Town Councils;
- An updated Biodiversity Opportunity Map that identified Nature Recovery Networks would enable this;
- Sites identified in Neighbourhood Plans
- Policy should include (or highlight) lanes or bridleways, as there are many;
- Create urban green space

3.5 The locations suggested through the consultation process will be subject to the appraisal process set out in the Methodology at section 2.

#### **Response to comments made**

- 3.6 In light of the comments made in response to questions 18a and 18b during the issues and options consultation, it has not been considered necessary, or indeed appropriate, to make any changes to the methodology. Continuing to use the methodology as set out will also ensure that any new sites are assessed consistently with those carried forward from the 2017 plan.
- 3.7 Although a number of general comments were made that were not seeking changes to the Local Green Spaces to be carried forward, or identifying new areas of open space, they made clear the importance that respondents to the consultation place on open spaces in a wide sense of the term, and the general support for these spaces that people have.
- 3.8 Only one specific site was identified and suggested for removal from the LGS designation at question 18a. This site, and any reasoning provided by the respondent, will be reviewed against the methodology, with justification for any decision made provided. In respect of other comments made in response to question 18a and 18b, it is not necessary or appropriate to duplicate Local Green Spaces identified in Neighbourhood Plans, as the designation of an LGS in a Neighbourhood Plan carries the same weight as the same designation would in a Local Plan. Comments were also made regarding green wedges, however, it was not clear from the comments made, what exactly was being sought. Green wedges are explicitly addressed in a separate policy.
- 3.9 In addition to those comments made in direct answer to the questions posed, a proportion of the comments made to both questions are general in nature, and do not specifically relate to the questions, the Local Green Space designation process or NPPF criteria for a Local Green Space. These comments, while not directly relating to the process of review and designation of Local Green Spaces, will be born in mind and considered during the policy formulation and plan drafting processes.



## **4. Review and Assessment of Proposed Sites**

### **Step 1: Site Sieve**

- 4.1 Following the Issues and Options consultation, all of the locations suggested for consideration as a Local Green Space were subject to the site sieve process to eliminate those sites that it is not possible to identify with clear boundaries or any that could be considered extensive tracts of land or not in close proximity to the community they serve.
- 4.2 The site sieve process has eliminated 17 of the locations suggested as possible Local Green Spaces. The majority of the locations were eliminated as it was not possible to determine an exact location or site boundary as no map had been supplied and in a number of cases, just a broad location had been proposed. The locations and the justification for their elimination from the site appraisal process is provided in Appendix 1.

### **Step 2: Site Assessment**

- 4.3 Following the site sieve process, a total of 3 suggested sites for designation and one suggested site for removal remain to be subject to a site assessment. A detailed database record for each site was created, in the same format as for the existing LGS's, based on information submitted from the Issues and Options consultation, site visits and desk based research.
- 4.4 Table 2 below identifies whether a site is recommended for designation or not and provides a summary of performance against the NPPF criteria. The detailed assessment for each submitted site, along with site maps can be found at Appendix 2.
- 4.5 The site suggested for removal from LGS designation at Swaton was not accompanied by a map, further investigation of records has shown that there are no LGS's within the village. There are, however, 2 sites designated as Important Open Space. These will be considered as a part of the work undertaken to review the areas designated as Important Open Spaces.

**Table 2.** Summary of LGS Recommendations and Performance against NPPF Criteria

<b>Name of Site</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Suitable for Designation?</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Beauty</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Historic Significance</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Recreational Value</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Tranquillity</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Richness of Wildlife</b>
North of Holmfield	Fiskerton	No	No	No	No	No	No
South of Holmfield	Fiskerton	No	No	No	No	No	No
Open space, The Croft	Greyingham	No	No	No	No	No	No

## **5. Next Steps for Regulation 18 Consultation**

- 5.1 Although none of the sites suggested sufficiently met the criteria to be designated as LGS, the sites proposed to be carried forward from the 2017 Local Plan will be shown on the policies map that will accompany the Draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, scheduled for consultation in mid-2021. Members of the public, landowners and organisations will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed LGS designations as part of the Local Plan consultation.
- 5.2 Following the consultation, all comments received will be considered, and any amendments to the plan or reviews of LGS proposed designations undertaken as necessary as part of the preparation of the Proposed Submission Local Plan in 2022.

## **6. Regulation 18 Consultation**

- 6.1 The Regulation 18 Consultation Draft of the Local Plan was published for consultation between 30 June and 24 August 2021. During this eight week consultation comments were received on the plan, the policies within the plan, and supporting information and evidence.
- 6.2 A small number of comments were received during the consultation that related to specific, existing Local Green Spaces, or locations for potential new ones. The locations submitted are as follows:
- Locations identified for removal
    - Keelby, Caddle Beck
    - Keelby, South End
  - Locations identified for inclusion
    - Witham Valley Park
    - Fiskerton, section of Viking Way
    - Fiskerton, Ferry Road/Ridings Close (currently Important Open Space)
    - Sleaford Recreation Ground (via IOS)
- 6.3 The locations suggested for inclusion during the consultation will be subject to the appraisal process set out in the Methodology at section 2. Two specific sites were identified and suggested for removal from the LGS designation. The locations identified relate to an Important Open Space, and therefore will be considered within the Important Open Space review. Any reasoning provided by the respondent, will be reviewed against the Important Open Space methodology, with justification for any decision made provided.

## **7. Review and Assessment of Proposed Sites from Regulation 18 Consultation**

### **Step 1: Site Sieve**

- 7.1 Following the Regulation 18 consultation, all of the locations suggested for consideration as a Local Green Space were subject to the site sieve process to eliminate those sites that it is

not possible to identify with clear boundaries or any that could be considered extensive tracts of land or not in close proximity to the community they serve.

- 7.2 The site sieve process has eliminated one of the locations suggested as possible Local Green Spaces, as it was not possible to determine an exact location or site boundary as no map had been supplied, just a broad location had been proposed. A second site was eliminated as it is a linear site made up of public highway. The location and the justification for their elimination from the site appraisal process is provided in Appendix 3. A third site suggestion is an area already designated as an Important Open Space, however, this will be assessed to establish whether it would be better designated as a Local Green Space.

## **Step 2: Site Assessment**

- 4.3 Following the site sieve process, a total of 2 suggested sites for designation and one suggested site for removal remain to be subject to a site assessment. A detailed database record for each site was created, in the same format as for the existing LGS's, based on information submitted from the Regulation 18 consultation, site visits (where appropriate) and desk based research.
- 4.4 Table 3 below identifies whether a site is recommended for designation or not and provides a summary of performance against the NPPF criteria. The detailed assessment for each submitted site that was not sieved out of the assessment, along with site maps can be found at Appendix 4.
- 4.5 Having reviewed the comments in relation to LGS's in Keelby, it appears that the two sites referred to are the same site, which currently has an Important Open Space designation, known as Caddle Beck. Therefore these comments have been considered against the Important Open Space designation and addressed in the Important Open Space Evidence Paper.

**Table 3.** Summary of LGS Recommendations and Performance against NPPF Criteria

<b>Name of Site</b>	<b>Parish</b>	<b>Suitable for Designation?</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Beauty</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Historic Significance</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Recreational Value</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Tranquillity</b>	<b>Demonstrably Special: Richness of Wildlife</b>
Sleaford, Recreation Ground	Sleaford	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Fiskerton, Ferry Road	Fiskerton	No	No	No	No	No	No

## Appendix 1: Issues and Option Site Nominations Eliminated Following Step 1 – Site Sieve

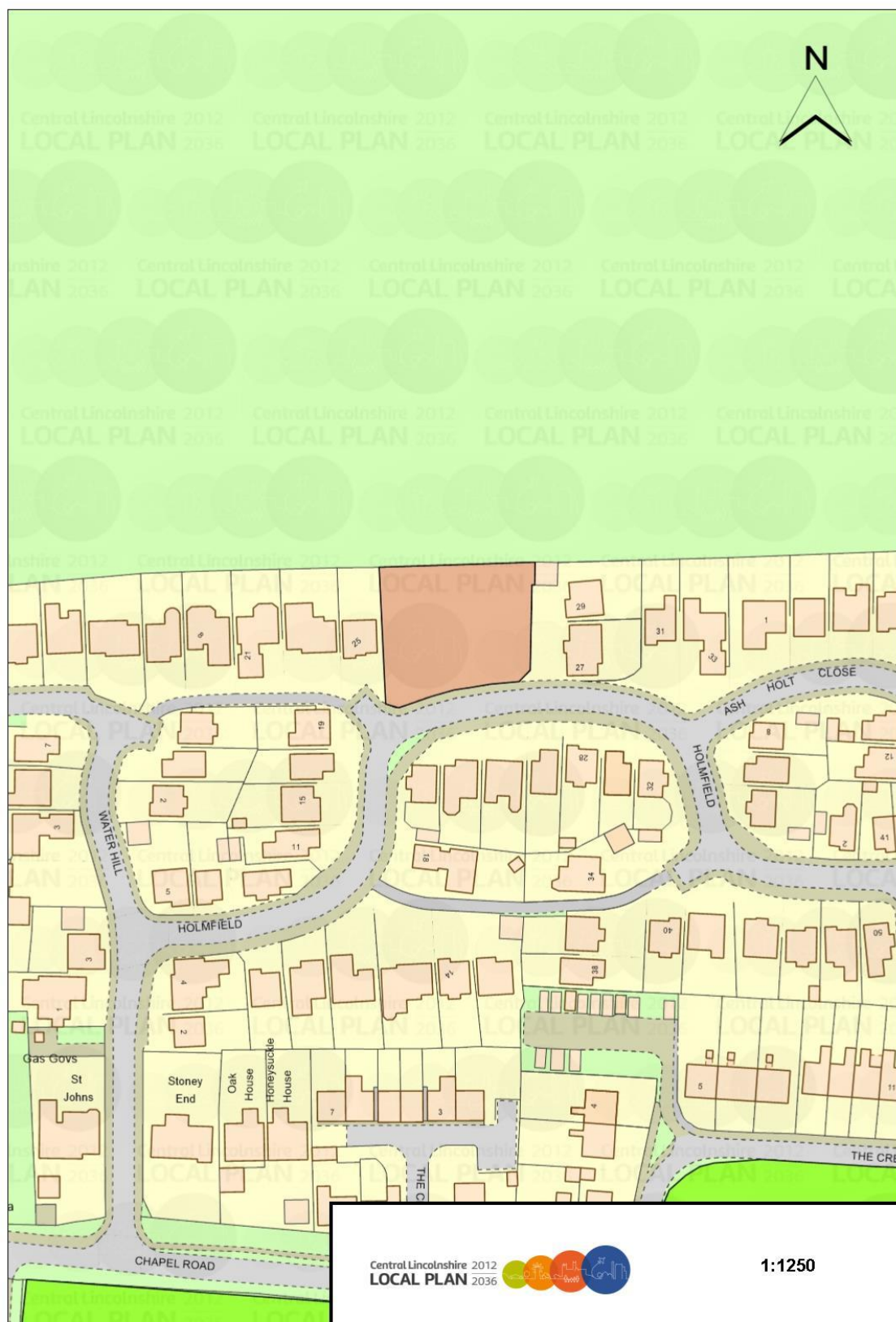
Local Plan comment ID	Local Green Space Nomination	Parish/Ward	Justification
22834913	The Trentside River environs	Morton	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map
22866561	Southern Woods	Bardney	Nomination identifies a site but doesn't include a map, therefore it has not been possible to ascertain site boundaries.
22878785	Ridge and furrow fields should be protected or built on as a last resort. Land to the west and east of Sturton by Stow.	Sturton by Stow	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map
23163137	Playing Field, Ewerby	Ewerby and Evedon	Nomination identifies a site but doesn't include a map, therefore it has not been possible to ascertain site boundaries.
23183137	The triangle of land at Chapel Street/ Linwood Road, Market Rasen. Owned by Tesco, would make a good natural garden/orchard area;	Market Rasen	Nomination identifies a site but doesn't include a map, therefore it has not been possible to ascertain site boundaries.
23356577	Orchards in rural villages	Various	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map
23192001	The space in front of the church in Norton Disney, south of Main Street.	Norton Disney	Nomination identifies a site but doesn't include a map, therefore it has not been possible to ascertain site boundaries.
23373953	The green spaces between Thurlby and the newly expanding 'large village' of Witham St. Hugh's, specifically to the West of Haddington Road and on both sides of Moor Lane.	Thurlby, and possibly Aubourn, Haddington and South Hykeham	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map. Area suggested would be considered to be an extensive tract of land.
23373953	The open countryside space between Thurlby and Bassingham.	Thurlby/ Bassingham	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map. Area suggested would be considered to be an extensive tract of land.
23373953	Both sides of the River Witham which runs between Thurlby Road bridge and the Old Mill Bridge at Aubourn.	Various, including Thurlby	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map. Area suggested would be considered to be an extensive tract of land.

23377025	The green wedge from Bomber Command, Lincoln to Whitehall Farm, Bracebridge Heath.	Canwick, Bracebridge Heath	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map. Area suggested would be considered to be an extensive tract of land.
23377025	The area known as the 'Hillies' crossing from Cross O'Cliff Court to Coningsby Crescent.	Bracebridge Heath	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map. Not suitable for further consideration. Site is considered to be an extensive tract of land.
23381281	The land of the now defunct Canwick Golf Club. A green wedge needs to be retained between the city & NKDC	Canwick	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map. Not suitable for further consideration. Site is considered to be an extensive tract of land.
23398113	Rear of Primetake, Reephram Road	Fiskerton	Site is not within close proximity to the community it serves. Although within 300m from the edge of the village, access is via an unmade path across agricultural land.
23398113	Wetland to south of Fiskerton	Fiskerton	Not suitable for further consideration. Site is considered to be an extensive tract of land.
23405025	Should include (or highlight) lanes or bridleways e.g. Somerton Gate Lane Waddington, especially from the bottom end	Waddington	Not suitable for further consideration. National Planning Practice Guidance advises there is no need to designate linear routes or corridors to protect rights of way as they are protected under other legislation. No further assessment required.
23405025	Stretches of Ermine Street between Boothby Graffoe/Naveby	Boothby Graffoe, Navenby	Not suitable for further consideration. National Planning Practice Guidance advises there is no need to designate linear routes or corridors to protect rights of way as they are protected under other legislation. No further assessment required.

## Appendix 2: Issues and Options Site Maps and Detailed Assessment

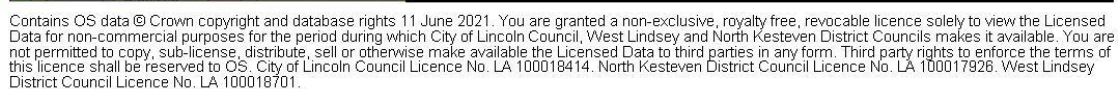
Name of site	North of Holmfield
Site address	Holmfield, Fiskerton
Parish	Fiskerton
Is the site already protected by an existing designation/s? e.g. SSSI	No
Does the site have planning permission?	No
Preferred allocation for other use in Local Plan?	No
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes
Is there a smaller area that could still be considered?	n/a
Is the site in close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes
Which community does the site serve?	Residents of surrounding streets
Demonstrably special: beauty	No. Site consists of formally mown grass with no landscaping fenced on 3 sides. There are no long views from the site.
Demonstrably special: historic significance	No. There are no historic buildings or features on site.
Demonstrably special: recreational value	No. Although may be used by local community for informal recreation. There is no provision for sport or informal recreation.
Demonstrably special: tranquillity	No. Site is adjacent to a road and surrounding housing. The site is in an area with a medium tranquillity score as shown on the CPRE Tranquillity map.
Demonstrably special: richness in wildlife	No. Site consists of formally mown grass. There are no wildlife features or priority habitats.
Suitable for designation?	No
Justification for decision	Not suitable for designation. Doesn't sufficiently meet the NPPF Local Green Space criteria.  This site has been considered and assessed as a potential Important Open Space.





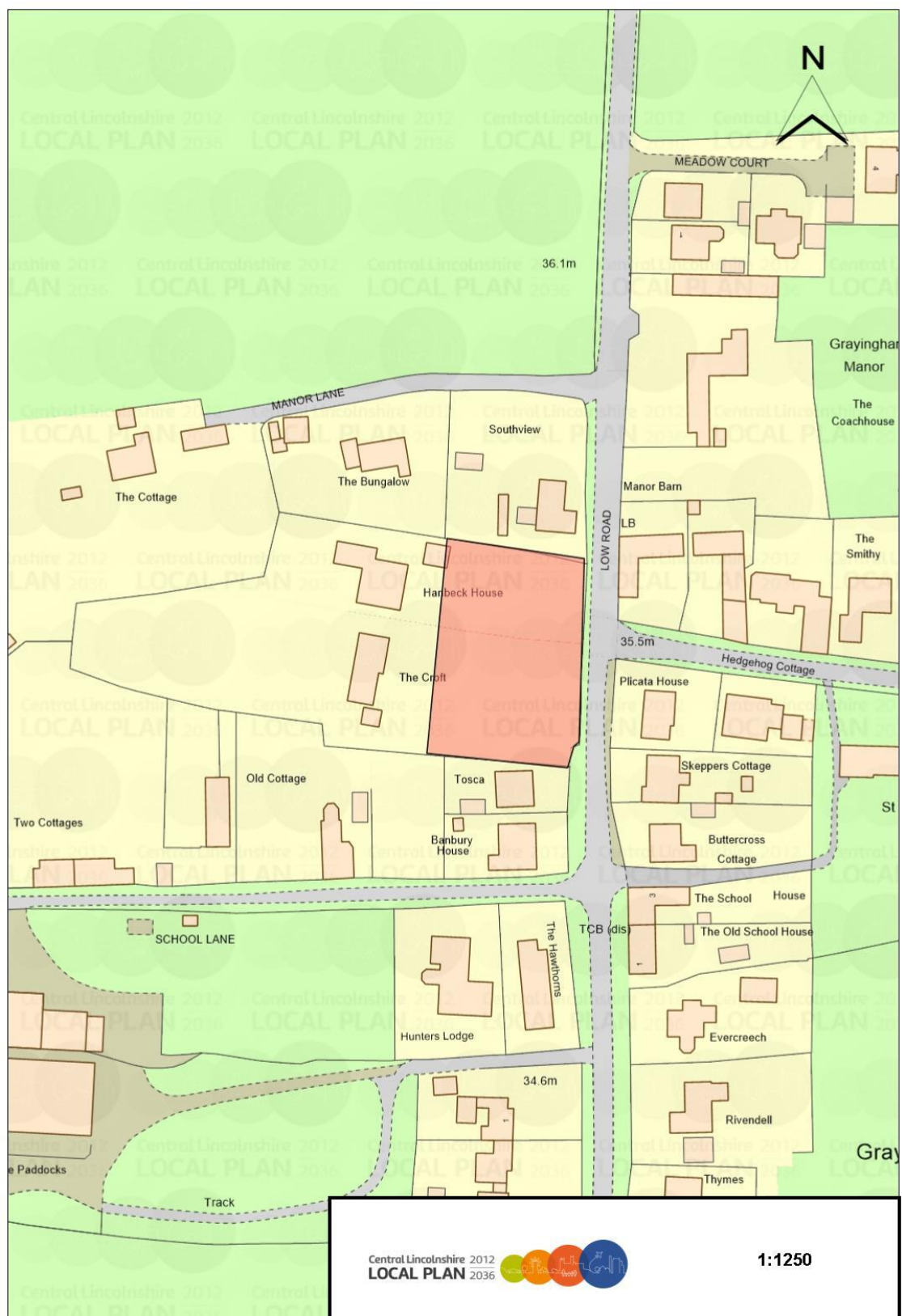
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Name of site	South of Holmfield
Site address	Holmfield, Fiskerton
Parish	Fiskerton
Is the site already protected by an existing designation/s? e.g. SSSI	No
Does the site have planning permission?	No
Preferred allocation for other use in Local Plan?	No
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes
Is there a smaller area that could still be considered?	n/a
Is the site in close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes
Which community does the site serve?	Residents from the surrounding streets
Demonstrably special: beauty	No. Site consists of formally mown grass with limited landscaping. There are no long views from the site.
Demonstrably special: historic significance	No. There are no historic buildings or features on site.
Demonstrably special: recreational value	No. Although may be used by local community for informal recreation. There is no provision for sport or informal recreation.
Demonstrably special: tranquillity	No. Site is adjacent to a road, school and surrounding housing. The site is in an area with a medium tranquillity score as shown on the CPRE Tranquillity map.
Demonstrably special: richness in wildlife	No. Site consists of formally mown grass. There are no wildlife features or priority habitats.
Suitable for designation?	No.
Justification for decision	<p>Not suitable for designation. Doesn't sufficiently meet the NPPF Local Green Space criteria.</p> <p>This site has been considered and assessed as a potential Important Open Space.</p>



Name of site	Croft House
Site address	Low Road, Grayingham
Parish	Grayingham
Is the site already protected by an existing designation/s? e.g. SSSI	No
Does the site have planning permission?	No
Preferred allocation for other use in Local Plan?	No
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes
Is there a smaller area that could still be considered?	n/a
Is the site in close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes
Which community does the site serve?	Grayingham residents, but no public access
Demonstrably special: beauty	No. Mostly grassed with some standard trees. Dry stone limestone wall surrounding front aspect. Not within a landscape designation.
Demonstrably special: historic significance	No. No historic buildings or remains on site. Not aware of any historic association with an event of figure.
Demonstrably special: recreational value	No. Private garden not publically accessible.
Demonstrably special: tranquillity	No. The site is an area with a medium tranquillity score on the CPRE Tranquillity Map. Situated on a T junction in the heart of the village adjacent to a road and surrounded by residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special: richness in wildlife	No. Gardens may benefit wildlife but not aware of any unique wildlife features or priority habitats/species.
Suitable for designation?	No.
Justification for decision	<p>Not suitable for designation. Doesn't sufficiently meet the NPPF Local Green Space Criteria.</p> <p>Site was submitted for consideration during consultation on the 2017 Local Plan and rejected for designation. It was reassessed following an objection to the rejection, where it was still considered to not sufficiently meet the NPPF criteria. With no changes to the site or surroundings, this assessment has drawn the same conclusions.</p> <p>The site is currently designated as an Important Open Space.</p>





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### Appendix 3: Regulation 18 Site Nominations Eliminated Following Step 1 – Site Sieve

Local Plan comment ID	Local Green Space Nomination	Parish/Ward	Justification
1035249	Witham Valley Park (including Whisby Nature Park, lakes at Norton Disney, Thurlby and Swinderby Quarry)	Thorpe on the Hill, Norton Disney, Swinderby	Nomination doesn't include site specific detail or a map. Area suggested would be considered to be an extensive tract of land.
1035243	Section of Viking Way at Fiskerton.	Fiskerton	Not suitable for further consideration. National Planning Practice Guidance advises there is no need to designate linear routes or corridors to protect rights of way as they are protected under other legislation. No further assessment required

## Appendix 4: Regulation 18 Site Maps and Detailed Assessment

Name of site	Sleaford Recreation Ground
Site address	Boston Road, Sleaford
Parish	Sleaford
Is the site already protected by an existing designation/s? e.g. SSSI	No
Does the site have planning permission?	Part of the site has planning permission for a link road between Mareham Lane and Boston Road.
Preferred allocation for other use in Local Plan?	No
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes
Is there a smaller area that could still be considered?	n/a
Is the site in close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes
Which community does the site serve?	Local residents from Sleaford, residents from surrounding settlements and visitors to Sleaford
Demonstrably special: beauty	<b>No.</b> Although some features, such as the mature trees, can be considered beautiful in their own right, the site is not considered to be uniquely beautiful as a whole. There are no long views from the site. The site can be viewed from surrounding residential areas. The site is not covered by any landscape designations.
Demonstrably special: historic significance	<b>No.</b> There are no historical buildings or features on the site. Not aware of any historical associations with figures or events.
Demonstrably special: recreational value	<b>Yes.</b> The site is used for sport and informal recreation, including dog walking and picnics. The skate park is a unique feature not found elsewhere in the town. There are regular events held on the site, such as circuses and fairs.
Demonstrably special: tranquillity	<b>No.</b> The site is an area with a low tranquillity score as shown on the CPRE Tranquillity Map. The site is adjacent to Boston Road, a busy route into Sleaford, and is surrounded by housing to the north, east and south. The site contains a large play area and skate park which are popular in the summer months when the site can become very busy.
Demonstrably special: richness in wildlife	<b>No.</b> There are a number of mature trees on site but no priority habitats or species or unique features of wildlife value. The site is not designated for wildlife value.
Suitable for designation?	<b>Yes</b>
Justification for decision	The site is an existing LGS that was, however, proposed for inclusion as an Important Open Space.

	<p>The site boundaries reflect the planning permission for the Sleaford Link Road. Continue to designate remaining site as a Local Green Space as meets the criteria for designation due to close proximity to the community it serves, it is not an extensive tract of land and it has recreational value.</p>
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Name of site	Fiskerton, Ferry Road/Ridings Close
Site address	Ridings Close, Fiskerton
Parish	Fiskerton
Is the site already protected by an existing designation/s? e.g. SSSI	No
Does the site have planning permission?	No
Preferred allocation for other use in Local Plan?	No
Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Yes
Is there a smaller area that could still be considered?	n/a
Is the site in close proximity to the community it serves?	Yes
Which community does the site serve?	Residents of Ridings Close
Demonstrably special: beauty	<b>No.</b> Site is largely mown grass, with a pond and some relatively young trees. Site is enclosed by hedgerows, and also dwellings on two sides. Hedgerows prevent views into and long views from the site. The Site does not make a significant contribution to the setting of the village or local character.
Demonstrably special: historic significance	<b>No.</b> No historic buildings, remains or landscape features on site.
Demonstrably special: recreational value	<b>No.</b> The site is in private ownership, although access is permitted. The site does not offer any formal recreation opportunities.
Demonstrably special: tranquillity	<b>No.</b> The site is in an area of medium tranquillity as shown on the CPRE Tranquillity Map, however it is located between two residential dwellings, thus reducing its tranquillity.
Demonstrably special: richness in wildlife	<b>No.</b> Some trees and a pond on site, and hedgerows to boundaries, otherwise few features of wildlife value. Site is not linked to any other open spaces or part of a green corridor.
Suitable for designation?	<b>No.</b>
Justification for decision	Not suitable for designation. Doesn't sufficiently meet the NPPF Local Green Space criteria. Retain the existing Important Open Space designation.



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