



Methodology used to designate Local Green Spaces in the Wooburn and Bourne End Parish Council (WBEPC) Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Introduction

In an urbanised location such as the Parish of Wooburn and Bourne End, public access to green space is limited and therefore the green space which exists is very important in providing opportunities for local residents for recreation, play, exercise, and general wellbeing.

In addition, green infrastructure such as verges are important for wildlife. They form an important part of the landscape and character of the villages in Wooburn and Bourne End Parish and we wish to protect these amenities by designating them as Local Green Spaces.

Our Green Spaces have an important amenity value for our residents.

There have been several instances of encroachment of Green Spaces, in particular on grass verges which are an important part of the landscape within the Parish and natural habitat.

A Local Green Space designation affords protection against development in accordance with Wycombe District Local Plan (WDLP) Policy D12.

Under its Policy DM12, the WDLP has already designated some 43 Local Green Spaces in our Neighbourhood Area. These can be viewed on the [myWycombe maps](#) webpage and the WDLP DSA maps 17 and 18, copies of which are in the NDP.

We have also listed these Local Green Spaces in Table 1 below.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 102 explains the criteria that must be met for a nominated green space to be so designated.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan presents an opportunity to identify further green spaces that we wish to protect in the Neighbourhood Area.

This document sets out the methodology used to identify which additional green spaces WBEPC wish to designate as Local Green Spaces.

Methodology

Government Guidance

We have followed Government guidance set out in the NDP toolkit:

[Making local green space designations in your neighbourhood plan - Locality Neighbourhood Planning](#)

Under Section 8 “Promoting healthy and safe communities: Open space and recreation” in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraphs 98-103 (see Attachment 1), Neighbourhood Plans have the opportunity to designate Local Green Spaces which are of particular importance to them, affording them protection from development other than in very special circumstances.

Paragraph 102 says:

"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".**

The process

Using NPPF guidance, we defined 4 steps:

Step 1: review reference material

Step 2: create Green List (a provisional list of green infrastructure to Audit)

Step 3: Refine the Green List via an Audit. (see Appendix 1 in our NDP).

Step 4: Assess the final Green Infrastructure that we wish to designate as Local Green Spaces. (see Appendix 2 in our NDP).

These steps align with the methodology set out below and use the templates proposed in the NDP Toolkit

The NDP Working Party Reviewed relevant reference material: NPPF paragraphs, the Neighbourhood Development Plan Toolkit, the Wycombe Local Plan Policy DM12 Green Spaces to understand the type of green spaces that can be designated. The toolkit provided a checklist of green infrastructure as follows:

- Informal Green Spaces
 - Village Greens
 - Allotments
 - Cemeteries
 - Highway verges
 - Parks and Gardens
 - Footpaths and cycle routes
 - Country Parks
 - Rural footpaths and nature trails
 - Canal towpaths and river courses
 - Sports pitches, golf courses and bowling greens
1. The NDP Working Party then identified the Green Spaces already designated under the Wycombe Local Plan Policy DM12 (see Table 1 below).
 2. Wooburn and Bourne End Parish Council (WBEPC) currently owns and/or maintains some 6 Parks and play areas: Wooburn Park, Farm Wood, Bourne End Recreation Ground, Watery Lane Play Area, Holtspur Lane Play area, Dinnie's Riverside, and has an interest in Sapper's field (subject to a sinkhole) that WBEPC previously leased, plus Allotments, cemeteries, and all verges within the 30 mph zones (which WBEPC maintains under a devolved services agreement and which are part of the visual character of the Neighbourhood Area).
 3. The NDP Working Party then carried out research and produced a list of green spaces that we felt were important to the community. We also reviewed authoritative maps in the Neighbourhood Area. This resulted in an inventory of green spaces - "The Green List".
 4. The Green List was then reviewed against the checklist set out in the NPPF Toolkit to determine if it met an initial filter of:
 - a) Not already designated in the Wycombe Local Plan – that is, it does not appear in **Table 1** below.
 - b) Met an initial filter of public access or important to maintain a visual separation between settlements.

5. The resulting list was then reviewed in detail to determine whether it met the assessment criteria using the template provided in the Toolkit. This audited list (“The Audited Green List”) is set out in NDP Appendix 1.
6. The Audited Green List was then further reviewed in the “Green Assessment” to document a full description, location and grid reference, its statutory designation, whether there is planning permission, how it is important to the community and its ownership in accordance with the Toolkit. The final Green Assessment is set out in NDP Appendix 2.
7. During the NDP Local Consultation, WBEPC wrote to each landowner to notify them of our intention to designate Local Green Spaces, drawing their attention to the relevant section of the NDP which listed the Green Spaces to be designated.
8. A final Green Assessment list and table of Local Green Spaces has been completed after all comments from the Local Consultation had been reviewed – see NDP Appendix 2.

Table 1 - Wycombe District Local Plan designated green spaces

There are 43 spaces designated as Local Green Spaces under Policy DM12 and identified on myWycombe maps. These are set out in the table below.

Wooburn Green and Bourne End - Inventory of Green Infrastructure - Revised 22. November 2021					
Green Spaces protected by Wycombe District Local Plan BE1 and DSA Policies DM11 to DM21					
Map 17/18	Policy Reference	Source Plan	MyWycombe Map - Location Name	MyWycombe Map Definition	Grid Reference
D1	DM13	BMERC	Meadow East of Whitehouse Farm	Local biological & geological sites	SU 91623 90608
	CP8	WDLP	Policy Ref. also DM42 and DM43	Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Records	
D2	CP8	WDLP	Whitehouse Lane	Priority Habitat Traditional Orchard - Three areas	SU 91175 90358
	DM13	DSA	Policy Ref. also DM42 and DM43	Area 2	SU 91579 90825
				Area 3	SU 91149 90228
D3	DM31	WDLP	Bridleway WOO/15/2	Section within Clapton Mill Conservation Area (C1)	SU 91159 89923
D4	DM12	DSA	Watery Lane Wooburn	Green Space	SU 91108 89828
		DSA	Parks - Watery Lane	Open Space ONF WDC Leased to WBE Parish Council	
	DM13	DSA	Watery Lane Priority Habitat	Chalk rivers (not including chalk headwaters)	
D5	DM12	DSA	Boundary Road Green Corridor	Green Space - 5 sections Clapton Appr. To Meere Est	SU 91024 89522
D6	DM12	DSA	Glory Mill Open Space	DM13 - Priority Habitat (Chalk Rivers)	SU 91123 89399
D7	DM12	DSA	Holtspur Avenue	Green Space and Play Area	SU 91591 89412
D8	DM12	DSA	Glory Mill Sports Ground	Green Space	SU 91441 89229
D9	DM13	DSA	Wooburn Green Lakes	Green Space and Priority habitat (Chalk Rivers...)	SU 91441 89249
D10	DM12	DSA	Five Acres River Walk	Green Space. Green Infrastructure DM11	SU 91558 89235
D11	DM12	DSA	Northcroft Open Space	Green Space	SU 91534 89092
D12	DM12	DSA	Wooburn Green Primary	Green Space	SU 91422 88895
D13	DM12	DSA	Wooburn Green Primary	Green Space	SU 91341 88743
D14	DM12	DSA	The Green Wooburn - Village Green 78	Green Space (Also in Conservation Area)	SU 91342 88524
D15	DM12	DSA	Windsor Hill Wooburn	Green Space. (Manor Gardens)	SU 91430 88333
D16	DM12	DSA	Wooburn Manor Park	Green Space (including Dalton's Path	SU 91385 88163
D17	DM11	WDLP	Wooburn Park - The Warren Nature Reserve	Green Belt (Also Policy Refs. CP8, DM42, DM43)	SU 91409 88101
D18	DM11	WDLP	Wooburn Park	Green Belt (Also Policy Refs. CP8, DM42, DM43)	SU 91146 87935
D19	DM12	DSA	St. Paul's Cemetery (Closed)	Green Space (Also in Conservation Area)	SU 90901 87898
D20	DM12	DSA	St. Paul's Churchyard	Green Space (Also in Conservation Area)	SU 90952 87795
D21	DM12	DSA	St. Paul's School Playing Field	Green Space	SU 90633 87662
D22	DM12	DSA	Stratford Drive Reach	Green Space & DM13 Priority habitat (Chalk Rivers...)	SU 90690 87543
D23	DM12	DSA	Wooburn (Town Lane) Cemetery	Green Space	SU 90755 87528
D24	DM12	DSA	Brookbank	Green Space	SU 90452 87397
D25	BE1	WDLP	Village Green 112 Slate Meadow	Assets of Community value. Also CP3 DM21	SU 90283 87651
D26	DM12	DSA	Hawks Hill Road verge	Green Space	SU 90402 87319
D27	DM12	DSA	Hawks Hill West	Green Space	SU 90541 87064
D28	DM12	DSA	Hawks Hill East	Green Space - Sappers Playing Field	SU 90800 86998
D29	DM12	DSA	Harvest Hill	Green Space	SU 91057 86995
D30	DM12	DSA	Kiln Lane East	Green Space	SU 91324 86955
D31	DM21	WDLP	Bridleway WOO/6/1 WOO/6/2 WOO/6A/1	Public Rights of Way - Grassy Lane	SU 90619 86973
D32	DM12	DSA	Heavens Lea	Green Space	SU 90277 86651
D33	DM12	DSA	Woodland Adjacent to Hollands Farm	"The Orchard" in WDLP	SU 90258 87045
D34	DM12	DSA	Bourne End Allotments	Green Space "Pegg's"	SU 89856 87562
D35	DM12	DSA	Bourne End Civic Garden	Green Space "Penny's Corner"	SU 89466 87340
D36	DM12	DSA	Fieldhead Gardens Amenity Space	Green Space	SU 89396 87170
D37	DM12	DSA	Claytons Meadow Recreation Ground	Green Space - Park - Bourne End Recreation Ground	SU 89705 87075
D38	DM12	DSA	West Ridge	Green Space	SU 89753 87971
D39	DM12	DSA	Cherwell Road Amenity Space	Green Space - multiple areas in rectangle of houses	SU 89523 87782
D40	DM12	DSA	Bourne End Academy	Green Space	SU 89916 87665
D41	DM12	DSA	Westfield School Playing Field	Green Space	SU 89463 87558
D42	DM12	DSA	Blind Lane Amenity Space (4 spaces)	Green Space	SU 89440 87922
D43	DM12	DSA	Blind Lane Recreation Ground	Green Space - Blind Lane Open Space - Park	SU 89467 88033

Attachment 1

Extract of section 8 of National Planning Policy Framework

Section 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities

Open space and recreation. Paragraphs 98 to 103 apply.

98. Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.
99. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless: a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or 43 This includes transport hubs, night-time economy venues, cinemas and theatres, sports stadia and arenas, shopping centres, health and education establishments, places of worship, hotels and restaurants, visitor attractions and commercial centres. 29 b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.
100. Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
101. The designation of land as 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.

102. 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.
103. Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.