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WKPS Parish Planning Supplement | September 2026
Responding to a Local Green Space Call for Sites

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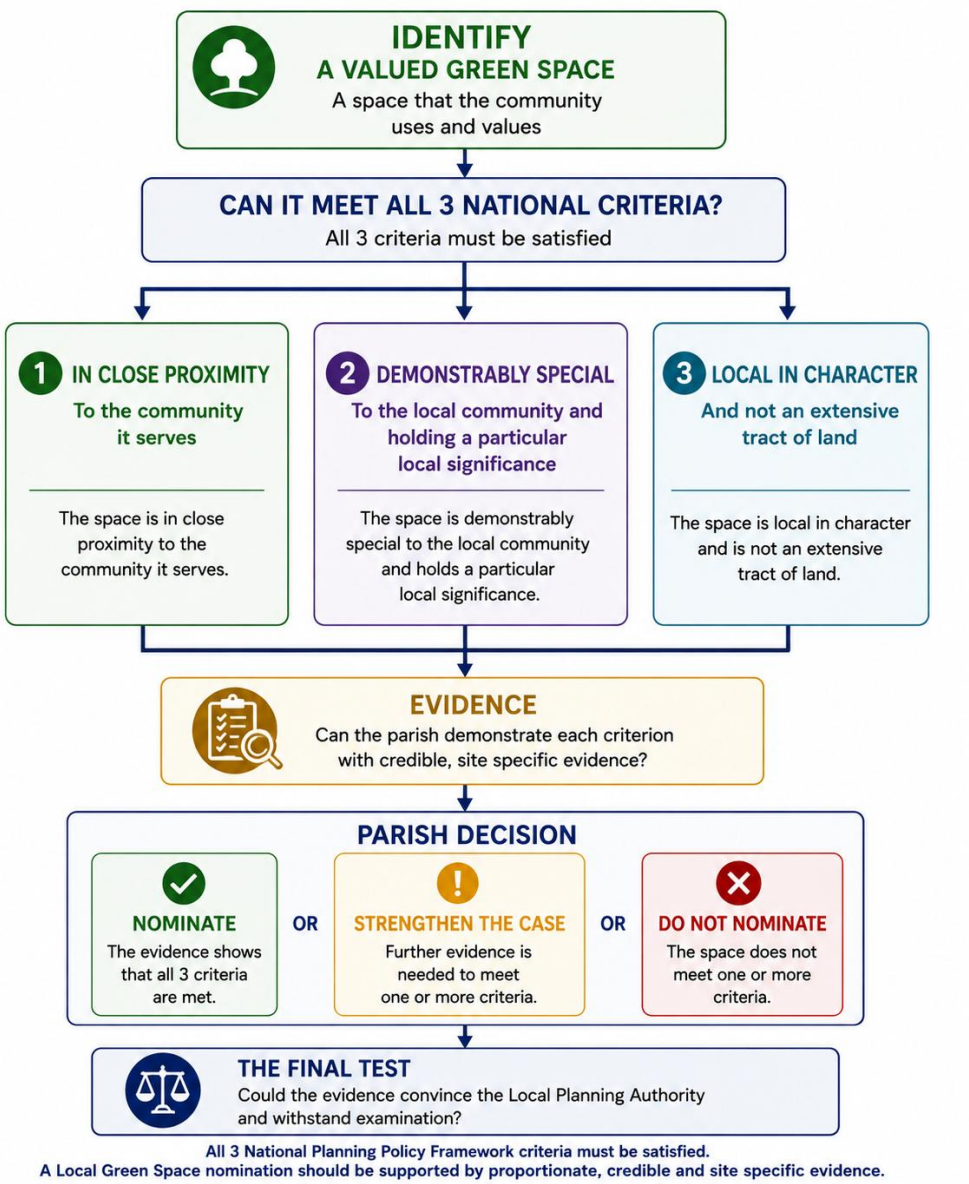
Why this Supplement Matters

When a LPA invites developers and landowners to put forward sites for its emerging Local Plan, it may also invite the community to nominate green spaces for Local Green Space designation. For a parish or town council, this is an opportunity to identify green spaces that are particularly important to the local community and to make an evidence based case for their designation.

1. Start with the 3 National Tests



The NPPF contains 2 policies[1] specifically concerned with Local Green Space. They have different purposes.

NPPF policy	Purpose	What it means for the parish
HC2: Local Green Space	Sets out the criteria for designating land as Local Green Space.	This is the main policy the parish should use when assessing whether a space is suitable for nomination.
HC8: Development affecting Local Green Space	Sets out how development proposals affecting designated Local Green Space should be considered.	This explains the planning significance of securing Local Green Space designation.

HC2 also provides that Local Green Space should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated and should be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

Local Green Space is a specific planning designation within the NPPF. It is not simply a recognition that a space is valued locally. A successful nomination must demonstrate that the land satisfies all 3 national criteria and that the evidence provides a clear and defensible case for designation.

As time available for a nomination may be short. The important decision therefore needs to be made quickly: does the space appear capable of meeting the national criteria, and can the parish demonstrate that with credible evidence?

This Supplement can also be used when a Neighbourhood Plan is considering Local Green Space designations.

2. Is a site candidate worth pursuing?

Use this quick assessment before spending time preparing a full nomination.

Question	Yes	Unclear	No
Is there a clearly defined green space?	☐	☐	☐
Is it in close proximity to the community it serves?	☐	☐	☐
Is it in close proximity to the community it serves?	☐	☐	☐
Is it demonstrably special to the local community and does it hold a particular local significance?	☐	☐	☐
Is there a clear reason why it is particularly special?	☐	☐	☐

[1] August 2026 National Planning Policy Framework

Can that significance be supported by evidence?	☐	☐	☐
Is it local in character?	☐	☐	☐
Is it clearly not an extensive tract of land?	☐	☐	☐

Initial judgement	What to do
Strong candidate	Proceed and assemble the evidence.
Potential candidate	Identify and strengthen the important evidence gaps.
Weak candidate	Do not use scarce time on a nomination unless new evidence changes the assessment.

The purpose of this first check is to focus parish effort on spaces where there is a realistic prospect of satisfying the national criteria.

Demonstrably Special: What Makes This Space Special?

BEAUTY What is particularly attractive or important visually?	**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE** What specific historic association or value does the space have?	**RECREATIONAL VALUE** What established recreational use makes it particularly important?
TRANQUILLITY What makes its quiet character particularly significant locally?	**RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE** What particular habitats, species or ecological features matter?	**OTHER LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE** Is there another clearly evidenced reason for particular local importance?

This second test is likely to require the most careful evidence. The NPPF identifies particular local significance including beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of wildlife. Other particular local significance may also be relevant.

<u>Move from assertion to evidence</u>

Weak statement	What the parish should demonstrate
“People value it.”	What people value and why that value is particular to this space.
“It is beautiful.”	The particular visual, landscape or settlement value.
“It is historic.”	The specific historic association or significance.
“It is well used.”	The nature and particular importance of the recreational use.

“It has wildlife.”	Specific habitats, species or ecological value.

The evidence should be site specific. The evidence does not need to be extensive. It needs to be relevant, credible, proportionate and understandable to someone who does not know the parish.

3. Check the Evidence Before Preparing the Nomination

Start with what already exists. The parish does not need to reproduce the LPA's evidence base or create a comprehensive evidence base of its own.

Source	What may already be available
LPA	Local Plan evidence, landscape and settlement studies, heritage information, environmental evidence, maps and previous consultation material.
Parish or town council	Neighbourhood Plan evidence, local records, previous consultation responses and information about valued places.
County Council and other public bodies	Relevant environmental, transport, heritage, landscape, nature or community information.
Community organisations	Local knowledge, records, surveys and information about valued places and environmental features.

Use the existing evidence where it supports the case. Do not duplicate work unnecessarily. Where an important point is not adequately recorded, consider whether proportionate additional evidence is needed.

If	Then
Good evidence already exists	Use it and reference it. Do not duplicate it.
The LPA has relevant evidence	Check whether it adequately reflects the particular circumstances of the space.
The parish has useful local information	Record and organise it so it can be used in the nomination.
An important issue is not adequately recorded	Consider whether proportionate additional evidence is needed.
The information would not affect the decision	Do not spend limited resources gathering it.

4. Test 3: Local in Character and Not an Extensive Tract

Question	What should the parish consider?
Is the boundary clear?	Can the precise area be identified on a plan?
Is it local in character?	Does it have a recognisable local role and relationship with the community?
Is it a coherent space?	Does the area function as a particular green space rather than an arbitrary large area?
Is it extensive?	Would the proposed designation effectively amount to protection of a broad area of countryside?

The assessment should demonstrate that the proposed designation relates to a specific local green space rather than a wider landscape area or extensive tract of countryside.

5. The Inspector Test

Prepare the nomination as though an independent Planning Inspector will eventually examine it. The Inspector may know nothing about the parish.

Local Knowledge	What Are We Saying?	What Evidence Supports It?	Which National Test Does It Meet?	Evidence Withstands Examination?

An Inspector may ask	The parish should be able to show
Why is this space special?	Particular significance supported by evidence.
Why is it important to this community?	A clear local relationship and evidence of local importance.
Why is it in close proximity to the community it serves?	The location of the space and its relationship with the community it serves.
Why is it local in character?	A clear boundary and local function.
Why is it not an extensive tract?	An appropriate scale and coherent area.
The final question Could an Inspector who does not know the parish understand from the evidence why all 3 national criteria have been satisfied?	

The nomination should make clear how the evidence demonstrates:

i. In close proximity to the community it serves.
ii. Demonstrably special to the local community and holding a particular local significance.
iii. Local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

6. Decide Whether to Nominate

Use the following as a structured judgement rather than a points system. A candidate should not be submitted simply because it scores strongly on some criteria.

Assessment	Strong	Needs evidence	Does not meet
In close proximity to the community it serves	☐	☐	☐
Demonstrably special to the local community and holding a particular local significance	☐	☐	☐
Local in character	☐	☐	☐
Not an extensive tract of land	☐	☐	☐
Evidence is credible and site specific	☐	☐	☐
Evidence could withstand examination	☐	☐	☐

Decision	Meaning
Support nomination	The evidence provides a credible case against all 3 national tests.
Strengthen evidence	The site may qualify, but an important part of the case needs better evidence or explanation.
Do not nominate	The evidence does not demonstrate that the national criteria can be satisfied.
Consider another planning approach	The space is important, but Local Green Space may not be the appropriate planning mechanism.

7. What Local Green Space Designation Means

Local Green Space designation is a formal planning designation. It is not simply an acknowledgement that a space is valued by the community.

Once land is designated as Local Green Space, NPPF Policy HC8 applies to development proposals affecting it. Such proposals should be determined consistently with the relevant national decision making policies for land in the Green Belt, excluding provisions relating to grey belt and previously developed land. The designation therefore has a significant planning consequence.

8. Make the Submission

Follow the current LPA requirements for the Call for Sites. The nomination should make the assessment easy to understand and should clearly link each conclusion to evidence.

Before submission	Done
Current LPA requirements checked	☐
Site boundary clearly defined	☐
Location plan included	☐
Community served identified	☐
All 3 national tests addressed	☐
Particular local significance explained	☐
Evidence referenced	☐
Deadline confirmed	☐

For a Neighbourhood Plan, the same assessment can be used as part of the plan's evidence base and supporting material.

9. If Local Green Space is Not Appropriate

If a space does not meet the Local Green Space criteria, consider whether its particular value could be recognised through another planning policy or mechanism.

Not meeting the Local Green Space criteria does not mean that a space has no planning value. It means that another planning approach may be more appropriate.



WKPS Local Green Space Assessment Sheet

Use 1 sheet for each candidate space. Keep the evidence references with the assessment.

Site information	Details
Name of space	
Location	
Community served	
Approximate area	
Ownership, if known	

Test 1: In Close Proximity to the Community it Serves

Assessment	Evidence reference
Strong / Needs evidence / Does not meet	

Test 2: Demonstrably Special to the Local Community and Holding a Particular Local Significance

Particular significance	Applies	Evidence reference
Beauty	☐	
Historic significance	☐	
Recreational value	☐	
Tranquillity	☐	
Richness of wildlife	☐	
Other particular local significance	☐	

Key question	Parish response
What makes this particular space special?	
Why is that significance particular to this community?	

Test 3: Local in Character and Not an Extensive Tract of Land

Assessment	Evidence reference
Local in character: Strong / Needs evidence / Does not meet	
Not an extensive tract: Strong / Needs evidence / Does not meet	

Overall judgement

Question	Assessment
Are the important conclusions supported by evidence?	Yes / Needs evidence / No
Could someone unfamiliar with the parish understand the case?	Yes / Needs evidence / No
Could the evidence withstand examination?	Yes / Needs evidence / No
Parish recommendation ☐ Support nomination ☐ Strengthen evidence first ☐ Do not nominate	

10. Sources for determining and submitting a Local Green Space nomination

The following sources provide the basis for determining whether a proposed Local Green Space meets the national criteria and for preparing a nomination. Check current versions when preparing an assessment.

Source	Use
National Planning Policy Framework	National criteria for Local Green Space designation.
Planning Practice Guidance	Guidance on applying the criteria, including proximity, scale and local character.
Government guidance on Local Green Space designations	Additional guidance on evidence and community engagement.
LPA Call for Sites material	Current nomination requirements, maps, forms and deadlines.

11. This Supplement is Suggested Practical WKPS Guidance

This Supplement is practical WKPS guidance. It does not replace the NPPF, Planning Practice Guidance or the requirements published by the relevant LPA.