

LOCAL GREEN SPACES IN HISTON & IMPINGTON

INFORMATION ON SITE “Infants School Field”

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.

- General Information
- Planning history and legal status
- Size, scale and “local nature”
- Need for and proximity/accessibility of Local Green Space
- Evidence that it “is demonstrably special to a local community”
- Evidence that it “holds particular local significance for its beauty or tranquillity”
- Evidence that it “holds particular local significance for its historical or cultural value”
- Evidence that it “holds particular local significance for its recreational value”
- Evidence that it “holds particular local significance for the richness of its wildlife”
- Evidence that it holds particular local significance for other ecosystem services
- Evidence about the site’s connectivity to other green areas for ecological or recreational purposes
- Evidence that the green space holds particular local significance for any other reason

REFERENCE NUMBER OF THIS LOCAL GREEN SPACE = V14

WORKING NAME OF THIS LOCAL GREEN SPACE = Infants School Field

DATE of most recent amendment / addition to the dossier = 3 June 2019

IN A NUTSHELL, the case for this Local Green Space:

The original gift of land by Chivers in 1912 to provide a school in the villages included a playing field on the opposite side of New School Road. The playing field would have been one of the first, if not the first, formal open spaces in the village. As the village has grown, the field’s importance has increased not least through its central location, especially as it is now surrounded by quite dense terraced housing and large industrial and business park sites. The field and the school buildings opposite contribute to the unmistakable nature of this central area of the villages, characteristic of the growth and prosperity brought by the expansion of Chivers. As a school playing field, it is, of course, in daily use by many local children. It is also used outside school hours, especially for football by younger players of the Histon Hornets club. The field is strategically located for its purpose as a sports area. When the school moves, there will be tremendous uptake of the opportunity presented by full-time public access to the sportsfield. The village has a serious deficit of such areas and the only alternatives for children in this part of the village are either too far away (South Road play area) or the other side of the busy B1049. Thus, intensive community use of the sports field will be maintained. There is deep

conviction within the community that, when the Infant's School moves, the field should continue to be an area for children's formal and informal play, in line with the original purpose of the gift and more than a century of practice.

Contributors to this dossier: Geoff Moore, David Jenkins, Robert Bensted-Smith

	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>	
	Histon and Impington Infants School playing field. Rectangular open green space on the opposite side of New School Road from the Infants School.	
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 Have photos been provided? YES Attach the map(s) and photo(s) separately.
	Rectangular open green space on the opposite side of New School Road from the Infants School.	Site map from Google Maps
1.3	Ownership of site Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry or local knowledge.	
	Cambridgeshire County Council	
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>	
	The County Council were an early statutory consultee in the preparation of the Neighborhood Plan and objected to the designation of the site as a LGS on the grounds that it is already a PVAA in the adopted Local Plan.	
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>	
	Histon and Impington 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 by residents of both villages. As a school playing field, it is currently used during school hours by the infants. Outside schools, the users include Histon Hornets football club, which draws young children from all over Histon & Impington.	

	Also those who live near and around the playing field enjoy the open area and the uninterrupted views of the school it allows.	
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.	
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? <i>e.g. 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>	
	The site is a PVAA in the adopted Local Plan. It is also subject to a Deed of Gift and covenant by Chivers.	
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)
	0.32 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. It is a modest area of grass, hedge and trees surrounded by housing.	
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.

	<p>The site has had more than a century of use as an area for formal play, since its donation by the Chivers family in 1912. Many long-term residents have played here in their early years. It is strategically located for use by children, being, for many, both close and easily accessed without having to cross busy roads.</p> <p>The field also provides a pleasant outlook for local residents and a wide view of the historic school buildings.</p>	
4.	NEED FOR AND PROXIMITY / ACCESSIBILITY OF GREEN SPACE	
4.1	<p>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></p>	Make this specific. General shortage in H&I is described in the framework document.
	<p>As the SCDC study of 2013 showed, there is a serious deficit of public green spaces for formal play in Histon & Impington.</p> <p>At the time the school was built the playing field would have been one of the first formal open spaces. As the village has grown its importance has increased not least through its very central location</p> <p>The site is especially valuable for being in a built up area surrounded by long established and quite dense terraced housing and a large industrial and business park sites.</p> <p>Other village play areas at South Road and the Recreation Ground are some distance away (> 600m) or across the busy B1049, making them far less suited for spur-of-the-moment outdoor activity.</p>	SCDC open space study (2013)
4.2	<p>How far is the site from the community it serves? <i>It should be in "reasonably close proximity" but this is not defined.</i></p>	It may be helpful to attach a map or diagram showing proximity and access.
	The site is in the middle of the community it serves, within easy walking distance for many households.	
4.3	<p>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></p>	
	There are no barriers to entry. Some residents can access the site without crossing any roads; others need only cross the generally quiet surrounding residential roads.	

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 is a much appreciated open space. As a school playing field, it is in constant use by the infants during school hours. It is used outside of school hours by Histon Hornets for football for children of infants school age.	
	The Infants School field is held in great affection by the community many of whom have a close connection to it through their own or their children's attendance at the school. For many residents it is inconceivable that, when the Infants School moves, this green space might no longer be available for children's sports activities. The integral whole that it forms with the nearby Edwardian school builds make it one of the key sites in the village, and certainly in the central part where along with the Baptist Church and Firs House surgery it is a testament to and constant reminder of the community's connection to the Chivers enterprise that did so much to shape the villages.	
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 forms an integral whole with the school buildings opposite. Located together and surrounded by terraces from the late 19 th and early 20 th century. The site is especially valuable for being in a built up area surrounded by long established and quite dense terraced housing and a large industrial and business park sites. This open space provides a wide and extended view of the building.	
7.	EVIDENCE OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL 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 original gift of land by Chivers in 1912 to provide a school in the villages included a playing field on the opposite side of New School Road. It forms an integral whole with the school buildings opposite. Located together and surrounded by	
	terraces from the late 19 th and early 20 th century, they contribute to the unmistakable nature of this central area of the villages, characteristic of the growth and prosperity brought by the expansion of Chivers. With other significant buildings across the community such as the nearby Baptist Church and Firs House surgery it forms a portfolio of sites that demonstrate the impact that Chivers had on the development of the community . In particular , along with the well known IVC site, it evidences the significant contribution to the educational infrastructure of the community by Chivers.	
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>	
	Yes. The site is used for Infants school sports. Outside school hours, Histon Hornets runs football sessions for children of infants school age. The size of the field – large enough but not daunting - is ideal for small children’s sports. It is clear from informal consultations that very many families and local groups would seize the opportunity to make full use of the sports fields when they become available after the school has moved.	
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 site is surrounded by residential buildings and a nursery and their curtilage boundaries on three sides. However the side opposite the school has an open railing fence with easy access through gates from a level pavement. The entire site and surrounding area is level .	
8.4	Is the site used for walking, dog-walking, foraging (berries etc), birding, nature observation, horse-riding, cycling, youth gatherings, 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 site provides a green open space in the community, adding visual amenity by providing a wide view of the historic school building opposite.	
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
	No.	
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.
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
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.
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
	No.	
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.
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.
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.
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
	No.	

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.
	No.	
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.	
	No.	