

Drayton Neighbourhood Plan



Local Green Space Assessment

2026

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1. Introduction

1. Drayton is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan which will include a policy to designate areas of Local Green Space that are particularly valued by the local community. The designation of Local Green Space provides a means of safeguarding important local green areas from inappropriate development, in accordance with national planning policy.
2. The National Planning Policy Framework (2024) enables communities, through neighbourhood plans, to designate Local Green Spaces where they are able to demonstrate that the land is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to that community, and local in character rather than an extensive tract of land.
3. Existing sites that are already subject to statutory or non-statutory wildlife designations (for example, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) or County Wildlife Sites/Local Wildlife Sites) have not been proposed as Local Green Spaces (LGS). These areas benefit from established policy and, where applicable, legal protection in respect of their biodiversity value. The purpose of the LGS designation is therefore not to duplicate existing safeguards, but to identify and protect additional locally important green spaces that do not otherwise benefit from equivalent protection within the planning framework.
4. Through Steering Group discussions and community engagement, a number of green spaces within and around the village were identified as being of particular importance to residents. These spaces reflect Drayton's character as a place with a strong relationship to its surrounding landscape, valued recreational spaces, and accessible areas for nature, tranquillity and community life.
5. Each of the identified green spaces has been considered against the national criteria for Local Green Space designation. Site visits were undertaken and available evidence reviewed to assess if each space meets the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.
6. This document provides the assessment and reasoning for the green spaces considered for designation as Local Green Space in the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan. For clarity, the assessment distinguishes between those spaces which are proposed for designation and those which were considered but not taken forward, including where sites are already allocated for development or where the national criteria are not met.
7. The Local Green Spaces proposed for designation are set out and assessed in the following chapters. Together, they represent a network of valued local green areas that contribute to Drayton's sense of place, support biodiversity and wellbeing, and play an important role in the everyday life of the community.

2. Policy Context

8. The designation of Local Green Space provides a mechanism for communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance through neighbourhood plans. This approach was introduced through the National Planning Policy Framework and continues to be supported in the current NPPF (2024) as a means of safeguarding valued local green spaces from inappropriate development.
9. Paragraphs 106 to 108 of the NPPF (2024) set out the national policy tests for Local Green Space designation. Paragraph 106 confirms that communities should be able to identify and protect green spaces of particular importance to them through neighbourhood plans. Paragraph 107 states that 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 holding 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 not an extensive tract of land.
10. Paragraph 108 of the NPPF confirms that once designated, Local Green Spaces should be protected in a manner consistent with Green Belt policy, thereby affording them a high level of protection.
11. National Planning Practice Guidance provides further clarification on the application of Local Green Space designation. In particular, it states that Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where land has planning permission for development. Exceptions may apply where the proposed development would be compatible with the reasons for designation, or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented. This guidance has informed the assessment of sites considered within this document.
12. In applying the NPPF criteria, “reasonably close proximity” is generally understood to mean that a green space should be within easy walking distance of the community it serves. While no specific distance threshold is prescribed in national policy, Natural England standards commonly refer to walking distances of up to approximately 1.25 miles as being reasonable for accessible green space.
13. The requirement that a Local Green Space should be local in character and not an extensive tract of land indicates that such designation is intended for green spaces that serve a clearly defined local community, rather than large areas of open countryside that perform a strategic or landscape-wide function.
14. The Local Plan prepared by Broadland District Council provides the strategic planning framework for the neighbourhood area. Neighbourhood plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in order to meet the Basic Conditions. The Local Plan includes policies which seek to protect and enhance green infrastructure, safeguard biodiversity,

provide opportunities for recreation, and improve the quality of life for residents. The Local Green Space designations proposed through the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan are intended to complement and add local detail to this strategic policy framework, rather than duplicate or conflict with it.

Assessment of the green spaces being designated

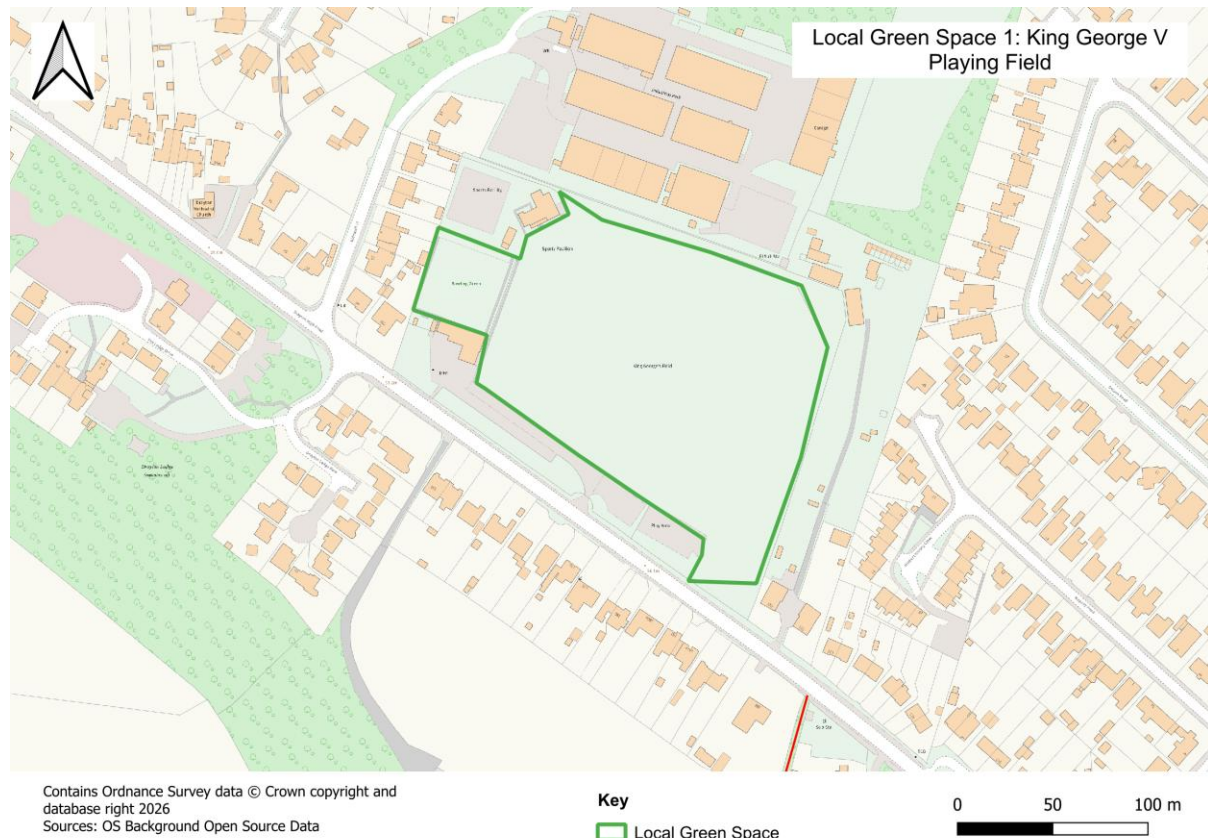
15. The Local Green Space Assessment Tool published by Locality (My Community: Neighbourhood Planning – Local Green Spaces) has been used as the basis for assessing each green space identified by the community. The tool provides a consistent framework for assessing sites against the national criteria for Local Green Space designation.
16. A number of green spaces within and around Drayton were identified through Steering Group discussions and community input, as being of particular local importance. These spaces reflect the village's strong relationship with its surrounding landscape, its network of recreational and natural spaces, and areas valued for biodiversity and community use.
17. Each identified green space was subject to an initial site appraisal and assessed against the Local Green Space criteria, including proximity to the community, demonstrable special qualities, and whether the site is local in character rather than an extensive tract of land. Planning status was also considered, including whether land is allocated for development in the adopted Local Plan, in line with national guidance.
18. For clarity, the assessment distinguishes between green spaces that are proposed for designation and those that were identified but not taken forward, where the national criteria are not met or where designation would conflict with adopted strategic planning policies.
19. The following sections set out the detailed assessment of each green space proposed for designation.

LGS1: King George V Playing Field



Location and description

The playing field is situated on the southern edge of Drayton, off Drayton High Road. It is a large green space that offers a variety of sports and leisure facilities, including senior and youth football pitches, a cricket square, and a bowling green. At the heart of the site is a pavilion which serves as a base for local sports clubs and community meetings. The children's play area was redesigned in 2023 to create a flagship, inclusive play area for children that contains equipment that is accessible for children of all abilities.



Proximity to the community it serves

Despite being located slightly south of the village centre, the playing field serves the residential areas of Drayton and Thorpe Marriott. Because it is located on a main arterial road with good pedestrian links, it is a busy destination for local families and is a primary site for organized sports in the parish.

Demonstrably special to the local community

The field holds significant value for the local community, and its importance was reaffirmed with the investment in the new children's play equipment and in May 2023 when the new play area was opened to coincide with the Coronation of King Charles III. It serves as the home ground for Drayton Youth Football Club, hosting numerous teams across all age groups, which makes it a weekly focal point for many local families. This was one of the local green spaces most frequently mentioned by residents in the community engagement when asked about which green spaces they

would like to see protected from development. It was recognised by residents as an important and well used community recreation area.

Local character and scale

The site reflects the semi-rural character of Drayton, with a landscape that transitions from the built-up village edge to the open Wensum Valley area. It is big enough to accommodate multiple sports matches simultaneously alongside informal recreation. The field is surrounded by hedgerows and trees, giving it a green open character, while providing modern, high-quality amenities like the pavilion and inclusive playground equipment. King George V Playing Field is around 2.3ha in size.

Conclusion

King George V Playing Field meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, sporting and social value, and local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

LGS2: Florence Carter Playground



Location and description

Florence Carter Playground is the main equipped children's play space located on School Road, Drayton, Norfolk (NR8 6EF). The park is located on School Road, close to the centre of Drayton, next to St. Margaret's Church. It is a relatively compact rectangular green space that primarily serves as a children's playground and forms part of Drayton's wider network of green spaces and community facilities. In 2019, the park underwent a significant £70,000 renovation, which introduced modern, inclusive play equipment including swings, climbing frames, and sensory play areas, all enclosed by a safe perimeter fence with access gates.



Proximity to the community it serves

This park is a centrally located recreational space, situated in the heart of Drayton. It is a short walk from centre of Drayton making it easily accessible on foot from surrounding residential areas and village facilities and therefore convenient for local families and children to access. The play area provides a range of play equipment suitable for different age groups, including swings (with baby and nest swings), climbing frames, a slide, climbing web, roundabout, seesaw and spinner. The variety of equipment supports active play, balance, coordination and social interaction. Limited off-road parking is available nearby and the site is readily accessible on foot. Fencing along the road edge helps provide a safe environment for children. Benches are provided for rest and supervision.

Demonstrably special to the local community

Florence Carter Playground is an important everyday green space for children's play, family recreation and informal social interaction. It contributes to health and wellbeing by providing free, accessible outdoor play opportunities close to the village centre. The park was gifted to the village in 1946 by Robert George Woor Carter, the founder of the R.G. Carter construction group based in Drayton. It was established as a memorial to Florence Carter (of the Carter family) and has remained a cornerstone of village life for 80 years. It is an important piece of Drayton's identity that provides a safe, car-free environment for children in the busy centre. This green space was mentioned by residents in the community survey conducted as part of the

Neighbourhood Plan process when asked about which local green space they would like to protect from development.

Local character and scale

The park is a grassed, open and attractive playground with seating surrounded by railings for safety which give it a safe enclosed feeling. It has a contained neighbourhood park character while remaining easily accessible on foot from surrounding residential areas and local amenities. The park has modern play equipment in an established, leafy setting. It is smaller in scale than the King George V field. The park has a car parking lay-by area for safe access and is surrounded by local amenities and buildings giving it an overlooked and safe community feel. Its scale is suited for daily play rather than organized team sports and as such complements other local green spaces such as the King George V field. It is a core component of Drayton's green infrastructure network and helps ensure good access to open space for residents, particularly children and families. The play area is approximately 0.2ha in size.

Conclusion

Florence Carter Playground meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its play, recreational and social value, and is local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

LGS3: St. Margaret's Churchyard



Location and description

St. Margaret's Churchyard comprises the open land, churchyard and cemetery grounds surrounding St. Margaret's Church, located within the historic centre of Drayton. The space forms an integral part of Drayton's centre and is closely associated with surrounding streets, historic buildings and pedestrian routes and is right next to the Florence Carter Playground.

The green space is a mix of tended memorial areas and wilder "conservation zones" designed to protect local biodiversity. It serves as a peaceful retreat and provides an important area of green infrastructure within Drayton and contributes significantly to the character and appearance of the area.



Proximity to the community it serves

St. Margaret's Churchyard is centrally located within Drayton and is easily accessible on foot from surrounding residential areas and local amenities. It is therefore in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves and forms part of the everyday environment of Drayton.

Demonstrably special to the local community

St. Margaret's Churchyard is demonstrably special to the local community due to its historic, religious, cultural and community value. It is a site of collective

remembrance for the local community. It houses the Drayton War Memorial, a Grade II listed stone cross that serves as the focal point for annual Remembrance Sunday services. Additionally, the church yard contains three Commonwealth War Graves from the First and Second World Wars.

The space provides the setting for the parish church and cemetery, playing an important role in the religious and social life of the community as a place of worship, remembrance and reflection. Many local families have relatives buried and commemorated within the cemetery, giving the space a deep personal and communal significance that extends across generations. The green space is also valued for its tranquillity. As a burial ground and churchyard, it offers a quiet and contemplative environment within Drayton's busy centre.

Local character and scale

St. Margaret's Churchyard is local in character and relatively compact but opens out towards the west, providing views that maintain the village's semi-rural feel. It serves the immediate community of Drayton and does not form part of an extensive tract of land. As part of the Norfolk Churchyard Conservation Scheme, it is managed to encourage biodiversity, providing a habitat for rare lichens, owls, and wildflowers that have disappeared from the surrounding modern farmland. This gives the site a unique, tranquil character that contrasts with the busy village roads nearby. The church yard is approximately 0.5ha in size.

Conclusion

St. Margaret's Churchyard meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its historical and cultural value, and local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

LGS4: Longdale Recreation Area



Location and description

Longdale Recreation Ground is a well-established recreational green space located between School Road and Longdale, within the built-up area of Drayton, Norfolk. The site is centrally located within a residential area and is easily accessible on foot to the local community. The recreation ground provides both formal and informal recreational opportunities. It includes a 3G all-weather pitch and grass football pitches, which are used regularly by local sports clubs, schools and community groups. The Longdale Pavilion provides changing rooms, toilets, and a space for community hire. The combination of facilities allows for year-round sporting activity while retaining the openness and green character of the site.

In addition to its sporting role, the open grassed areas provide visual relief within the surrounding built environment and contribute positively to the character of the neighbourhood. The site supports health and wellbeing by encouraging physical activity, outdoor recreation and social interaction.



Proximity to the community it serves

The recreation ground is within easy walking distance for residents in the northern and western parts of Drayton parish. The site is also a key link in the Thorpe Marriott Greenway, connecting local residential streets to green spaces making it an important space for the local community with pedestrian access.

Demonstrably special to the local community

The recreation area represents a successful community-led project. In 2013, after a 10-year vision by local residents and the Parish Council, an underused park was transformed into the modern facility seen today. This rejuvenation was credited with significantly reducing anti-social behaviour in the area by providing a positive outlet for young people. It is a primary home for Drayton Youth FC, hosting training and matches for local children. It is an important recreational resource for local residents, schools and sports clubs, providing facilities that are not readily available elsewhere within easy walking distance. The presence of a 3G pitch and grass football pitches makes the site particularly valuable for organised sport and informal recreation. The site supports physical health, mental wellbeing and social cohesion through regular use and accessibility. This was one of the local green spaces most frequently mentioned by residents in the community engagement when asked about which green spaces they would like to see protected from development. Residents highlighted the sports facilities, play areas and contribution to community life.

Local character and scale

It is a large-scale site, bordered by trees, which sits at the edge of the Thorpe Marriott development, providing a natural buffer between housing and the open countryside. The scale of the recreation area and its facilities allows it to function as a multi-use space, accommodating football under floodlights while simultaneously providing a peaceful perimeter path for dog walkers and a safe, enclosed environment for young children to play. The recreation area provides an important open space within the built form, contributing to local character and preventing coalescence of development. Longdale Recreation Area is around 4ha in size.

Conclusion

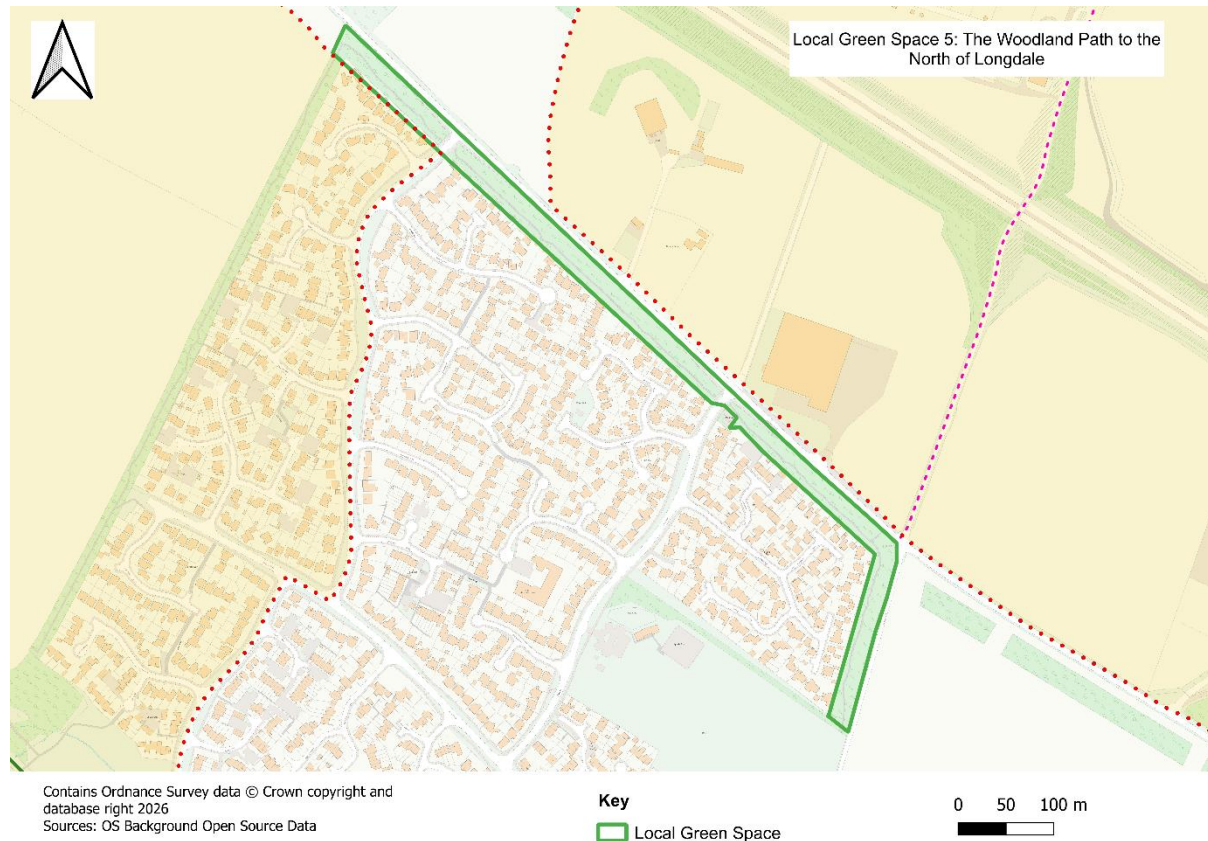
Longdale Recreation Area meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, sporting and social value, and is local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

LGS5: Thorpe Marriott Woodland Path



Location and description

Located just north of Longdale Recreation Area, this natural woodland offers a network of informal paths through woodland. The site connects the local sports facilities to surrounding countryside, providing a green woodland space for residents.



Proximity to the community it serves

The woodland path is adjacent to the Longdale sports field/pitches, which are central community assets in Drayton. The woodland is close to residential areas meaning many households are within easy walking distance of the site. The woodland adjoins informal paths that residents use for exercise, dog-walking, and as part of longer circular routes around the parish.

Demonstrably special to the local community

The woodland path holds social and recreational value for local residents. These woodland paths provide access to green spaces and provide opportunities for informal social interaction and are important parts of Drayton's green infrastructure.

Local character and scale

The woodland path is part of a patchwork of small woodlands and open fields that gives the local area its rural character. The woodland walk is characterised by trees framing narrow paths which fits with the broader pattern of green spaces, woodland areas and recreational paths in Drayton. The woodland's location (adjacent to a

playing field and community space) connects it to everyday life, providing a transition between built-up areas and open countryside. The woodland path is approximately 2.4ha.

Conclusion

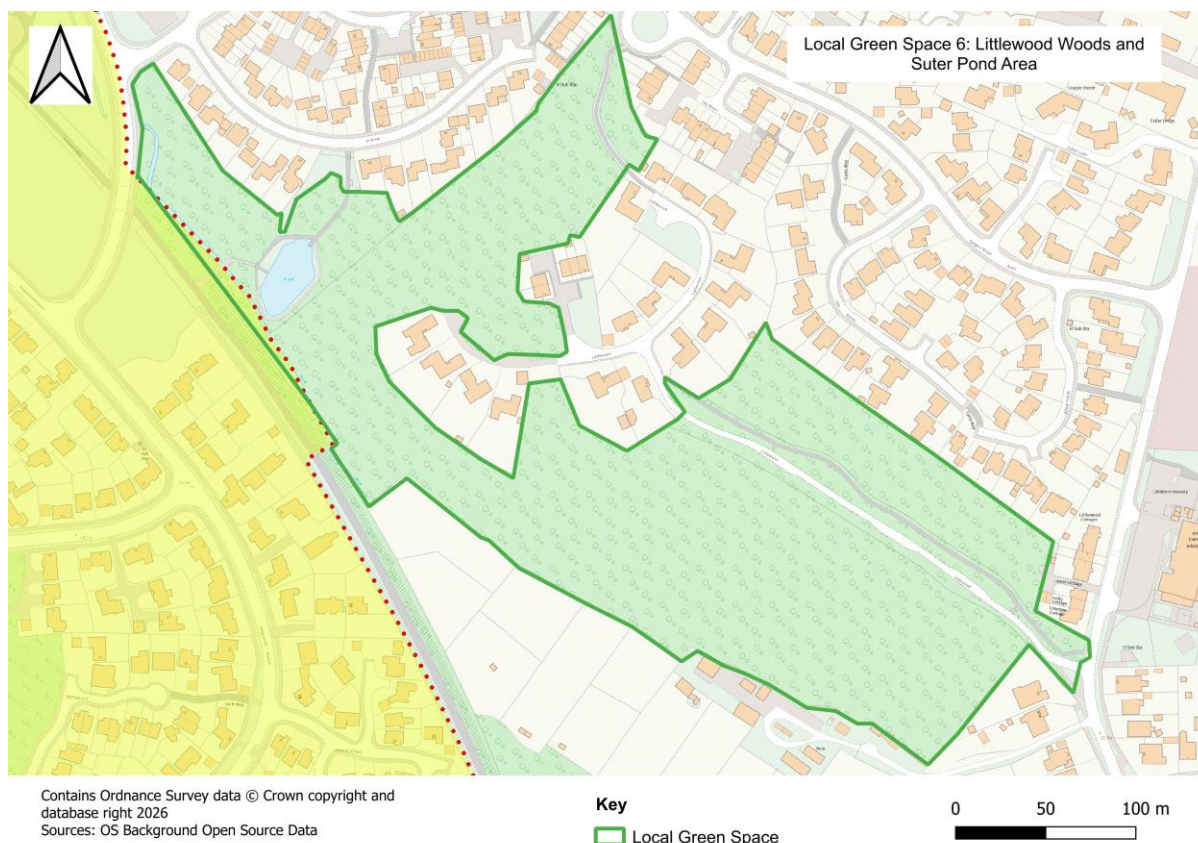
Thorpe Marriott Woodland Path meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, biodiversity, and community value, and is local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan

LGS6: Littlewood and Suter Pond Area



Location and description

Littlewoods Community Woodland and the adjacent Suter Pond (also known as Suter Drive Pond) form a connected green space on the edge of Drayton/Thorpe Marriott, close to Marriott's Way and Suter Drive. Together they provide an important area of open space within a predominantly residential setting. It is a semi-natural community woodland with established informal paths and a freshwater pond with managed marginal vegetation. This space functions as a green buffer and wildlife refuge within Drayton and provides green infrastructure and walking routes for residents.



Proximity to the community it serves

The woodland and pond are located close to the Thorpe Marriott area of Drayton and sit close to residential areas, within easy walking distance for residents in the northern and western parts of Drayton parish. The woodland and pond are valued by the local community as an accessible green space for informal recreation, including walking, nature appreciation and dog walking. The site forms part of a wider network of green infrastructure linked to Marriott's Way and nearby residential areas, helping to promote active travel and everyday contact with nature.

Demonstrably special to the local community

The woodland and pond are valued by the local community as an accessible green space for informal recreation, including walking, nature appreciation and dog walking. The site forms part of a wider network of green infrastructure linked to Marriott's Way and nearby residential areas, helping to promote active travel and everyday contact with nature. This green space was mentioned by residents in the community survey conducted as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process when asked about which local green space they would like to protect from development. Local children walk through this green space to access the infant and junior schools.

Local character and scale

The site has a semi-natural character, combining established woodland with a small freshwater pond set within the woodland edge. A network of informal paths and steps allows access through the woodland while maintaining a sense of enclosure

and tranquillity. The woodland and pond act as a green buffer between housing and surrounding routes, contributing positively to local landscape character. Littlewood Community Woodland is recognised for its ecological importance and has been designated as a County Wildlife Site. The woodland supports a range of habitats, including mature and developing trees, scrub and ground flora, providing opportunities for birds, invertebrates and small mammals. Suter Pond adds further biodiversity value as a freshwater habitat, with marginal vegetation and open water supporting aquatic and amphibious species. Active management helps to prevent excessive vegetation growth and maintain habitat quality. The woodland and pond area is approximately 7ha in size.

Conclusion

Littlewoods and Suter Pond Area meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, biodiversity, and community value, and local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

LGS7: Drayton Wood



Location and description

Drayton Wood is a significant area of woodland and a designated County Wildlife Site. Drayton Wood is situated on the eastern edge of Drayton, along Drayton High Road (A1067). It covers a substantial area close to the parish boundary that extends toward the neighbouring parish of Hellesdon. Drayton Woods is a County Wildlife Site, reflecting its recognised ecological value. The site is characterized by a mix of mature deciduous trees and the woods form part of a larger woodland belt that includes Canham Hills and connects to the broader Drayton Drewray/Mystical Woods area further north.



Proximity to the community it serves

The woodland is on the south eastern side of the parish and is adjacent to residential areas of Drayton, making it an easily accessible green space for local people. Its location ensures that the community has access to the countryside despite being in an urban fringe parish near Norwich. There are public footpaths that run through Drayton Woods giving easy access to the space for all visitors to the area as well as for those who live locally.

Demonstrably special to the local community

Community sentiment is reflected in the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan, where the wood is protected as a landscape gap to prevent the merging of Drayton and Hellesdon. The wood is described as an important element of local green infrastructure. Residents have campaigned to protect the wood from large-scale development, viewing it as a cornerstone of the village's identity, environment and biodiversity. This was one of the local green spaces most frequently mentioned by residents in the community engagement when asked about which green spaces they would like to see protected from development. Residents described how they value this space for its wildlife and natural woodland character.

Local character and scale

The character of Drayton Wood is defined by its mature deciduous trees which make up the woodland. The scale of the woodland is significant enough to act as a physical barrier (a landscape gap) between settlements, helping to maintain the

village's semi-rural feel. It offers important woodland habitat, supporting local wildlife such as deer and birds of prey. The mix of tree cover and rugged paths provides a sense of seclusion and tranquillity despite the relative proximity to Norwich. Drayton Wood is around 10.5ha in size.

Conclusion

Drayton Wood meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, biodiversity, and community value, and local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

LGS8: Church Farm Green Spaces



Location and description

Church Farm (referred to in planning documents as Manor Park) is a residential neighbourhood off Hall Lane, Drayton, Norfolk. It is a village-edge development with a strong landscape framework and a range of publicly accessible green spaces intended to support recreation, sustainable travel and biodiversity. The green spaces were designed to provide communal areas for the new residential area as well as linking it to the existing infrastructure of Drayton. Church Farm is situated between School Road to the north and Hall Lane to the south.

As a relatively new development, the long-term quality of the green spaces will depend on appropriate management and maintenance. This includes upkeep of play facilities, grassland and planting, protection of open spaces from encroachment, and suitable management of wildflower areas to ensure biodiversity benefits are sustained.



Proximity to the community it serves

The green spaces on the Church Farm Estate are designed to be within short walking distance of the 267 new homes in the development, making it a doorstep amenity for hundreds of residents. These green spaces were provided by the developers as part of the permission to build on the site. Beyond the immediate development, it serves the wider Drayton parish by providing new pedestrian and cycle links that connect School Road to Hall Lane. The Church Farm green spaces form part of the wider green infrastructure network of Drayton parish, which includes

strategic walking and cycling routes and links towards the River Wensum valley. The estate contributes to local connectivity by integrating internal routes with existing and planned off-site connections.

Demonstrably special to the local community

This space is a recent addition to Drayton's public green spaces, delivered after years of community consultation regarding the Manor Park site. Residents and the Parish Council advocated for the inclusion of generous open space to ensure the development did not feel overcrowded. The green spaces provide opportunities for informal recreation, play, walking and dog walking, and support healthier lifestyles. The footpath and cycle network encourages safe movement within the estate and connections to surrounding routes. Collectively, the spaces reinforce the semi-rural character of Drayton and provide an attractive green setting for the neighbourhood.

Local character and scale

The estate's green infrastructure is formed by a series of connected spaces rather than a single park. These include larger areas of public open space integrated throughout the development, informal amenity greens, landscaped buffers, a children's play area, allotments, and a network of footpaths and cycle routes. Wildflower-seeded areas contribute to visual quality and provide habitat for pollinators, with biodiversity value expected to increase as planting matures. The scale is large enough to provide a clear landscape gap between different clusters of housing, ensuring the area retains a more open feel in keeping with the semi-rural nature of Drayton. These green spaces are approximately 3.9ha.

Conclusion

Church Farm Green Spaces meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, social, and community value, and local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

LGS9: The Lodge Green Space





Location and description

This green space is an area of deciduous woodland on the site of Drayton Old Lodge, containing the remains of the fifteenth century Grade II listed building and Scheduled monument. The site now contains a housing development called The Lodge. As part of the development, new woodland paths have been created along with biodiversity enhancements such as bee and bat houses. The space is mainly dense woodland but there are views from the edge across fields towards Low Road. There are some protected trees in some parts of the woodland, with Tree Protection Orders on groups of trees. The woodland path is a signposted walk open to all, not just residents of the development.



Proximity to the community it serves

The green space is located close to the centre of Drayton, off the High Road and within walking distance of local houses and amenities. It provides a place to walk and enjoy nature for the residents of The Lodge development as well as for the wider community.

Demonstrably special to the local community

The green space forms the grounds of a former manor house, now converted into housing but previously used as a home for nurses working at nearby Hellesdon hospital and a place with connections for many living in Drayton. Residents enjoy accessing the woodlands using the signposted woodland walk and the site is considered a special place to enjoy nature and wildlife.

Local character and scale

The woodland that makes up this green space is typical of the local area, being heavy woodland made up of deciduous trees. There are informal and formal paths through the wooded area providing access to the local community and residents of the housing development. The site is approximately 3.6ha.

Conclusion

The Lodge green space meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the

community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, biodiversity, and community value, and local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

LGS10: Frosts Industrial Estate Woods



Location and description

Frosts Industrial Estate is a long-established employment area located off the A1067 at the Norwich end of the neighbourhood plan area. It is characterised by more historic and heavier industrial and engineering uses. While primarily an employment site, it sits within a wider green setting and close to the parish's strategic access and green infrastructure network. As a result, landscape edges, verge planting, boundary treatments and pedestrian links all influence how the site is experienced from surrounding routes and nearby residential areas.



Proximity to the community it serves

Located off the A1067 Drayton High Road, behind the King George V Playing Field the site is walking distance from the centre of Drayton and close to other community amenities. The green elements of the site also provide a green setting for people who work in Drayton on the industrial estate. The 1st Drayton Scouts Group Scout hut is in this green space, and the group make use of the woodland for their activities. There is walking access to the woods from Drayton Hall Park, a mobile home site for over 55s, providing an important pedestrian link to residents.

Demonstrably special to the local community

The parish's woods and semi-natural green spaces are integral to local character, biodiversity and the sense of separation between Drayton and neighbouring settlements. Together, Frosts Industrial Estate, the surrounding walkways and the network of woods and semi-natural spaces form an interconnected green

infrastructure resource. This network supports biodiversity, recreational access, health and wellbeing, and the visual and environmental quality of the parish. Protecting and enhancing these assets, particularly at the interface between employment areas and green spaces, is central to maintaining Drayton's character and delivering the objectives of the Green Spaces policy within the neighbourhood plan. This green space was mentioned by residents in the community survey conducted as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process when asked about which local green space they would like to protect from development.

Local character and scale

Drayton benefits from a strong and well-used network of walkways and green corridors. A key spine route is Marriott's Way, a popular walking and cycling corridor which passes through the village and forms part of National Cycle Route 1. In addition, the parish contains an established network of public footpaths and bridleways that provide everyday connections between neighbourhoods, the village centre, Frosts Industrial Estate and the wider countryside. These routes are an important component of local green infrastructure, supporting sustainable movement, informal recreation and access to nature. The woods are around 5ha in size.

Conclusion

Frosts Industrial Estate Woods meet all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, biodiversity, and community value, and local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

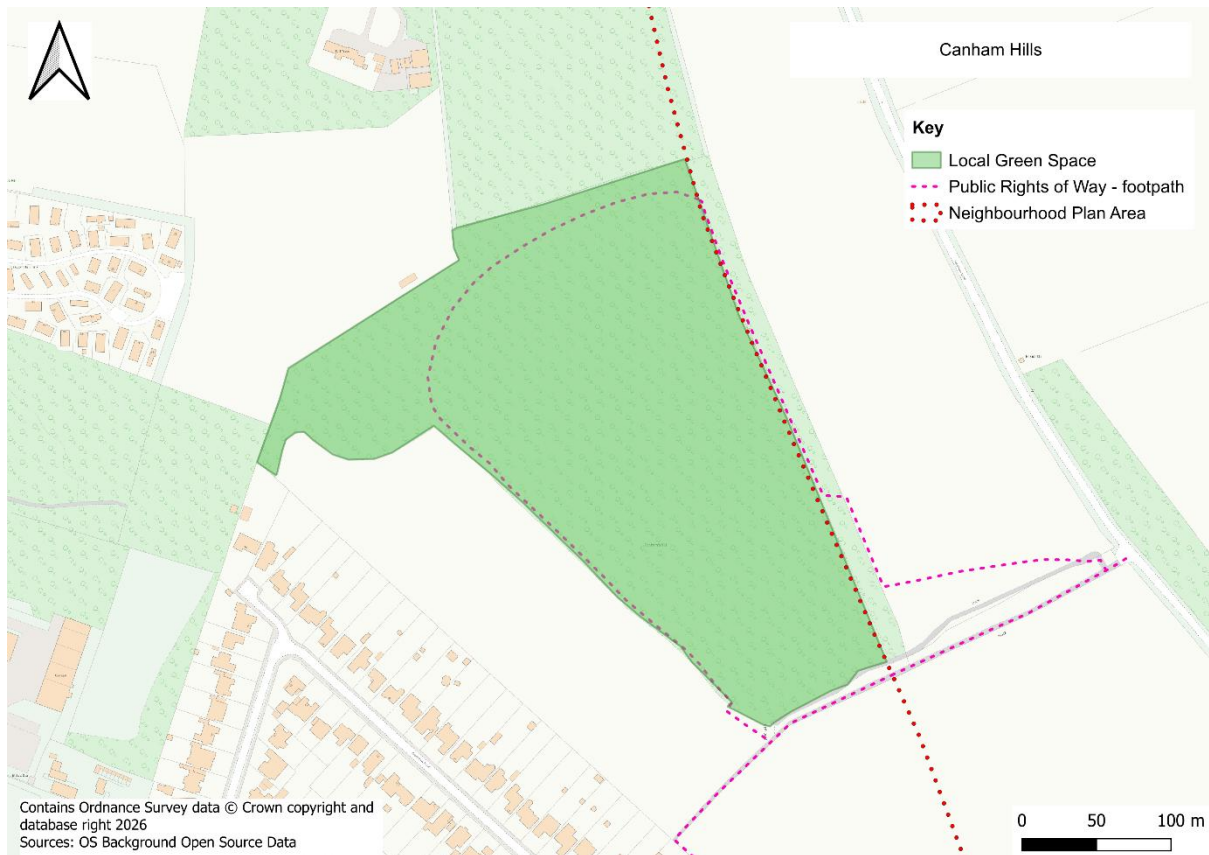
LGS11: Canham Hills (Canham's Hill)



Location and description

Canham Hills (more commonly recorded as Canham's Hill) is a valued semi-natural green space on the eastern side of Drayton, forming part of a wider network of woodlands and informal paths that link residents to Drayton Wood and the surrounding countryside. The site is identified as a County Wildlife Site and is recognised locally as an important component of the parish's green infrastructure.

As a County Wildlife Site, Canham Hills forms part of the local ecological network. Planning and green infrastructure evidence highlights the importance of protecting and improving connections between sites such as Canham Hills and Drayton Wood to support wildlife movement and ecological resilience. The site has been identified as having potential for ecological enhancement through sensitive management, including woodland restoration and improved habitat connectivity.



Proximity to the community it serves

Located in close proximity to residential areas, meaning it provides accessible, close-to-home opportunities for exercise, wellbeing, and contact with nature. A well used and valued green space for local residents.

Demonstrably special to the local community

Canham Hills is used for informal recreation, including walking and dog-walking, and forms part of locally promoted walking routes linking Canham Hills with Drayton Wood. The natural character of the site, including uneven ground and changes in level, contributes to its sense of tranquillity and countryside experience. Its function as a landscape gap helps define and protect the edge of the settlement alongside being important for recreation and community wellbeing. This green space was mentioned by residents in the community survey conducted as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process when asked about which local green space they would like to protect from development.

Local character and scale

Canham Hills makes a strong contribution to the rural setting of Drayton by helping to maintain a landscape gap between the built edges of Drayton and neighbouring settlements, including Hellesdon and the wider Norwich urban area. This green buffer plays an important role in preserving settlement identity and preventing coalescence, reinforcing the perception of Drayton as a village with a clear and distinct edge. Canham Hills is approximately 7ha in size.

Conclusion

Canham Hills meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, biodiversity, and community value, and is local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.

LGS12: Wensum View Green Space



Location and description

This is a green space located behind the Lodge Breck housing development just off the High Road in Drayton. The green space is mainly open grassy areas with some mature trees on the edges. There are some football goal posts and children use the area to play. There is bench seating for residents to use.



Proximity to the community it serves

This green space is located close to the centre of Drayton within close walking distance of community amenities and shops. It is within a residential area and provides green space for people living in the houses on the Lodge Breck development as well as for nearby residents walking through the green space to access the centre of Drayton.

Demonstrably special to the local community

This green space functions as a vital piece of the parish's green infrastructure, helping to preserve Drayton's distinct semi-rural identity. This space supports local outdoor life, providing a place for play, sports, dog walking, and relaxation. Together with other nearby green spaces such as Drayton Old Lodge green space, it helps to protect our semi-rural charm and ensure the parish remains a green and healthy place to live.

Local character and scale

This green space is a defined area behind the Breck Lodge housing development and is sufficient in size to provide a landscape gap between different clusters of housing, helping to retain the more open semi-rural character of Drayton. Wensum View green space is approximately 0.3ha in size.

Conclusion

Wensum View Green Space meets all three criteria set out in paragraphs 106 to 108 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024). It is reasonably close to the community it serves, demonstrably special to the local community for its recreational, sports, and community value, and is local in character. The site is therefore suitable for designation as Local Green Space within the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan.