

Local Green Spaces: Background Report

Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan – Submission Version (Dec 2023)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides information to explain how the final set of Local Green Spaces set out in Policy 4 were assessed during the production of the Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 This background paper sets out a methodology for the approach taken by the Parish Council to the designation of Local Green Space through policies in the draft Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan.

2 Planning Policy Context

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, Dec 2023) sets out the government's planning policies for England. Paragraphs 105 to 107 of NPPF introduce national policy allowing the designation of 'Local Green Space' (LGS) through local plans and neighbourhood plans. The intention of this policy approach is to allow local communities to identify and protect green spaces that are of particular importance to them for a variety of reasons.
- 2.2 Designation of land as LGS is not appropriate for all green areas. Paragraph 106 of the NPPF describes the circumstance in which it may be appropriate to use this designation and is limited to where the green space is:
 - in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, or richness of its wildlife; and
 - local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.
- 2.3 LGS must be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. Once designated, any development proposed in LGS must be managed in a way that is consistent with national policy applying to the Green Belt. In effect, this creates a presumption that development should not take place on designated LGS except in very special circumstances. This is reflected in the wording of Policy 4.
- 2.4 The background report that was used for the Regulation 14 consultation set out in more detail national government policy regarding Local Green Spaces. Since that report was written, a new NPPF has been published. Apart from some changes to the paragraph numbering, there are no alterations to national policy insofar as it affects Local Green Spaces.
- 2.5 The original background report set out full detail of each LGS proposed, and the rationale, including photographs and a full site assessment. This report was made

available to the public in a set of evidence base documents.

3 Methodology for Designating Local Green Space

- 3.1 A full methodology was drafted and set out in detail for the Regulation 14 consultation and will not be repeated here in full.
- 3.2 The first step was to identify a list of green areas assess as potential LGS. A range of information sources were used to inform this process:
 - Protected open spaces designated the Northumberland Local Plan;
 - Northumberland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Assessment (2011)
 - Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)
 - Local studies including conservation area character appraisals and the historic environment record and biodiversity surveys
 - Feedback from early engagement on the neighbourhood plan
- 3.3 Having compiled a list of green spaces, members of the steering group assessed their suitability for designation as LGS against the criteria in the NPPF and NPPG. In particular, the sites were assessed to confirm that they are demonstrably special to the community.
- 3.4 Where sites were not considered to meet the criteria set out in the NPPF, consideration was given to whether they should be allocated as protected open space, to reflect their value to the local community.
- 3.5 Prior to formal consultation on proposed areas for designation contact was made with the owners of the sites where ownership information was available.

4 Alterations to original list of Local Green Spaces in Reg. 14 ENP

- 4.1 The Regulation 14 consultation omitted to reference LGS3 (South Charlton Churchyard) although it was shown on the Policies Maps and included in the Evidence Base. This LGS has now been added back into the final version of the policy, replacing the old LGS3 ((South Charlton Village site).
- 4.2 The Regulation 14 consultation led to some objections to some of the other LGS designations (from Northumberland County Council). Specifically, LGS3 (referred above), LGS7, LGS14, LGS16 and LGS20 were not considered to meet the tests set out in the NPPF. These LGS designations have been removed resulting in the removal of 4 LGS sites. The landowner of LGS20 also objected to its inclusion.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 This paper explains the process behind the proposed designation of a final list of Local Green Spaces in the Eglington Neighbourhood Plan.

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- 5.2 The pre-submission version of the neighbourhood plan proposed to designate 21 sites as local green space. Through consultation on the plan, Eglingham Parish Council has revised the sites and there are now 16 sites proposed for designation. Four sites in Eglingham were removed as a result of the consultation (LGS7, LGS24 LGS16 and LGS20) and one site in South Charlton was removed (LGS3). One additional site in South Charlton was inserted following the consultation (new LGS3 – South Charlton Churchyard).
- 5.3 Consultation has now taken place on the original proposed designations. Written representations received in response to that consultation have been carefully considered by the Steering Group and have informed the final set of LGS policies set out in the Submission Draft Plan.
- 5.4 The Plan is now to be submitted to NCC where there will be a final consultation which will be carried out under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012).
- 5.5 The Submission Draft plan contains the following Local Green Spaces which are assessed individually in the following section. It is considered that these LGS designations are all fully justified, and reflect thorough consultation with the local community and adherence with national policy and the methodology originally proposed in the initial local green space:

Final list of Local Green Spaces

LGS 1 - South Charlton, Village Hall Wood.

LGS 2 - South Charlton, Village Garden.

LGS 3 – South Charlton, Churchyard

LGS 4 - South Charlton, Allotments.

LGS 5 - South Charlton, Old Quarry.

LGS 6 - Eglingham, Woodland north of Eglingham Burn.

LGS 7 - Eglingham, Woodland East of Tarry Lane

LGS 8 – Eglingham, Woodland West of Tarry Lane

LGS 9 - Eglingham, Woodland split by Eglingham Burn at eastern end of the village.

LGS 10 - Woodland on southern edge of B6346 adjacent to Eglingham Hall.

LGS 11 - Woodland on northern edge of B6346 adjacent to Eglingham Hall.

LGS 12 - The Bluebell Woods.

LGS 13 - Eglingham, land adjacent to village farm and to the bridge on B6346.

LGS 14 - Eglingham, Community Field.

LGS 15 - Eglingham, St Maurice's Churchyard

LGS 16 – Eglingham, Eglingham cricket field.

Appendix 1. Final list of LGS designations:

Site name	Space is not allocated for development and does not have planning permission	Space is not an extensive tract of land	Space is in close proximity to the community it serves	Space is demonstrably special for these reasons						Comments
				Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife	Another reason	
LGS1 Village Hall Wood, South Charlton	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	This small copse of trees attached to the tenancy of the Village Hall is a space used by the pre-school group Little Acorns to help children better understand the outdoors, nature and wildlife as they begin their education. The mature trees provide shelter for the village garden and form a western boundary to the village as the road swings south towards Shipley and further west.
LGS2 Village Garden, South Charlton	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	Cleaned up and planted up by the community in the last 20-25 years, this small corner of the village attached to the tenancy of the Village Hall is often used as an outside space to meet as well as for outside events. There is seating with views down the village and overlooking the field opposite along with trees planted with plaques referring to local occasions.
LGS3 Churchyard, South Charlton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	The Church was built in the 1860s on the eastern end of the row of cleared cottages. It is surrounded by a well-maintained churchyard, itself bounded by stone walls. Both church and yard are still in use. To the immediate south is the former Vicarage. Mature Lime trees surround the site on three sides.
LGS4 Allotments, South Charlton	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	✓	X	Seven allotment plots lie adjacent to the north east of the settlement. In years gone by each house would

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										be designated small parcels of land around the village for use as small holdings. They are surrounded on all sides and divided by mainly mature hawthorn hedging.
LGS5 Old Quarry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	This quarry closed in the early 20th century and its associated workings removed. While most of the bank is overgrown with gorse, its lower edge is used as a path to circuit around onto the top of “Rocket Hill”. To its south is a public footpath/bridleway and overlooks the site of historical limeworks and the old road to Eglingham from South Charlton, this area is now grazing land. Leading to and from the quarry the old track lines can still be seen in the landscape.
LGS6 Woodland North of Eglingham Burn	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X	An area of mixed woodland bounding the Eglingham Burn
LGS7 Woodland East of Tarry Lane	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mixed deciduous woodland on the eastern side of Tarry Lane valued for its wildlife and beauty
LGS8 Woodland West of Tarry Lane	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mixed deciduous woodland on the western edge of Tarry Lane valued for its wildlife and beauty
LGS9 Woodland split by Eglingham Burn at eastern end of the village	✓	✓	✓	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	Mixed woodland split by the Eglingham Burn and bounding the Eastern entrance to the village valued for its tranquillity and providing a green setting to the village

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LGS10 Woodland on southern edge of the B6356 at the western entrance to the village	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mixed woodland on the southern edge of the B6346 at the western entrance to the village
LGS11 Woodland on northern edge of the B6356 at the western entrance to the village	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Mixed woodland on the northern edge of the B6346 at the western entrance to the village
LGS 12 Bluebell Woods	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	An area of 6.3 acres of mature beech and other broadleaf woodland carpeted by extensive bluebells in the spring. The area forms a natural southward extension to the secret garden separated from it by the B6346.
LGS13 Land adjacent to village farm and to the bridge on the B6346	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	✓	A small area of land which is part of the village and encompasses both sides of the Eglingham Burn.
LGS14 Eglingham Community Field	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	A former school playing field and tennis court now used as a community field.
LGS15 Eglingham St. Maurice's Churchyard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	Churchyard attached to St Maurice's church Eglingham village.
LGS16 Eglingham cricket field	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	✓	X	X	The village cricket field of recreational and community value

