

KIRKBY MALZEARD, LAVERTON AND DALLOWGILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

APPENDIX C

Local Green Spaces Supporting Evidence Document

1.0 Introduction

This supporting evidence document aims to provide Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton and Dallowgill Grouped Grouped Parish Council with evidence to support the policy in the Kirkby Malzeard, Laverton and Dallowgill Neighbourhood Plan concerning Local Green Spaces.

It briefly sets out the background to their designation, context and explains the methodology used. A short description of what makes each one special with supporting photographic evidence is also provided.

2.0 Methodology

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ introduced the concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designation. LGS designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of importance to local communities.

Paragraph 101 of the NPPF provides the following information on Local Green Space designations, *‘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’*.

Adding in paragraphs 102 and 103 that:

‘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.

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

These requirements and guidance contained in the NPPF are developed in the National Planning Practice Guidance document ‘Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space’² and other supporting policies and documents.

The identification and protection of local green spaces through neighbourhood plans is also supported through local planning policies. Special mention here should be made to policy NE6 of the Harrogate Local Plan³ headed ‘Local Green Spaces’, which states at para 35 that, “Local Green Space can be designated through a Local Plan or through Neighbourhood Plans. Once designated, Local Green Space will be subject to the same planning policy safeguards as land designated as Green Belt. The Local Green Space designation will provide special protection and only allow new development in very special circumstances”

¹ National Planning Policy Framework - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

³ [Local Plan 2014-2035 - Heritage and Placemaking and Natural Environment - Chapters 8 and 9 \(harrogate.gov.uk\)](http://harrogate.gov.uk)

3.0 Methodology

Whilst the NPPF establishes the concept of LGS designation and provides some guiding principles, it gives local communities preparing a neighbourhood plan some discretion to determine how to implement this at the local level.

A four-stage approach was adopted by the group leading in the preparation of the Plan.

Step 1: Identification of potential sites.

The potential sites were derived from local knowledge including the outcomes from the community consultation events and other input from the local community.

Step 2: Assessment against the NPPF criteria

The ‘long list’ of sites was then assessed to consider their suitability for LGS designation. To allow a comparative assessment of the sites, a form was created based on the criteria in the NPPF. This enabled a consistent and transparent methodology for identifying LGSs in the Parish. Each potential site was assessed by the Steering Group as well as the consultants helping the Parish Council preparing the Plan acting as a critical friend.

The Group, like most groups undertaking LGS analysis, faced challenges, in particular the sheer number of potential local green spaces of some significance within the Parish. National planning policy enables a neighbourhood plan to protect those of local significance. Also, the absence of a statutory or commonly used definition of these terms, particularly what constitutes ‘special’ or comprises an ‘extensive tract of land’. A common-sense approach was taken, while at the same time having regard to good practice and the experiences of LGS designations in approved neighbourhood plans.

The Group was also mindful of the fact that several sites are already given some protection through their location in an Area of Outstanding National Beauty as well as designations in the Local Plan. National Planning Practice Guidance on Local Green Space designation suggests that, where land is already protected by another designation, consideration should be given as to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as LGS.

Through this process several sites were identified that were considered locally significant, valued by the community and met the tests set out in the NPPF to meet the test to be designated as a LGS.

Step 3: Further review

All the proposed sites were then reviewed for their appropriateness for designation as LGS by the independent consultant helping prepare the Plan acting in a ‘critical friend’ role.

Step 4: Consultation

Satisfied that the sites met in principle, the criteria for LGS designation and should be formally proposed for designation in the Neighbourhood Plan they were then “tested” through the Plan process.

4.0 Local Green Spaces Assessment Forms

The following section summarises how each of the sites meets the Local Green Space criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. An indicative photograph is also provided for each one. A detailed map showing the sites is contained as part of the main plan, can be found at Appendix x.

4.0 Local Green Space Site Assessment Forms

Site No.	1.
Site Name	HIGHSIDE PLAYING FIELDS.
Address/location	Back Land South, Kirby Malzeard.
Public Access	Yes.
Current Planning Permission/allocation on site	No.
Compliance with the NPPF criteria	
Summary	This is a very attractive amenity space and clearly a focal point for the village of Kirby Malzeard and more widely containing a pavilion, a cricket field, football pitch, children's play area and other formal recreational activities. It is also evidently used for informal recreation such as walking. It is clear that it is important to the identity of the village. It offers attractive views of the surrounding countryside.
Is it beautiful?	Not especially.
Does it have historic significance?	No.
Is it of recreation value?	Yes.
Is it tranquil?	Yes.
Does it have richness of wildlife?	Not especially.
Is the site local in character? (i.e., serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Other	No.



Site No.	2.
Site Name	JUBILEE GARDEN.
Address/location	Main Street, Kirby Malzeard.
Public Access	Yes.
Current Planning Permission	No.
Compliance with the NPPF criteria	
Summary	This is an attractive roughly rectangular amenity green space, with some mature trees and seating, easily accessible from the village. It is screened from the main road by an attractive stone wall creating a sense of separateness and place. Its associations with the Queens Jubilee (including interpretive board) adds to its value and importance.
Is it beautiful?	Yes.
Does it have historic significance?	Of some, it was built in 1977 (?) to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II silver Jubilee that year.
Is it of recreation value?	Yes, mainly the bench seating.
Is it tranquil?	In part. Though situated adjacent to the main road through Kirby Malzeard it is a popular place for people to sit and relax.
Does it have richness of wildlife?	Not especially.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Other	No.



Site No.	3.
Site Name	WEST END GREEN.
Address/location	Back Lane, Kirkby Malzeard.
Public Access	Yes.
Current Planning Permission/allocation on site	No.
Compliance with the NPPF criteria	
Summary	A small area of grass, with some trees, in front of houses and separated by driveways on a bend on Kirk Bank. It is important to the character and sense of space of the area. That it provides a green pedestrian link adds to its value.
Is it beautiful?	Not especially.
Does it have historic significance?	No.
Is it of recreation value?	No.
Is it tranquil?	Not especially.
Does it have richness of wildlife?	No.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Other	No.



Site No.	4.
Site Name	'ISLAND' OF GREENSPACE.
Address/location	Junction of Back Lane, Ringbeck Road and Main Street, Kirkby Malzeard.
Public Access	Yes.
Current Planning Permission	No.
Compliance with the NPPF criteria	
Summary	This is a small area of amenity space on the edge of the village which creates a focal point at the junction of Back Lane, Ringbeck Road and Main Street. Its slightly elevated position adds to its value and importance.
Is it beautiful?	Not especially.
Does it have historic significance?	Not especially.
Is it of recreation value?	No.
Is it tranquil?	Not especially.
Does it have richness of wildlife?	Not especially.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Other	No.



Site No.	5.
Site Name	THE GREEN (excluding the section currently being considered for public car park)
Address/location	Off Back Lane South, Kirkby Malzeard.
Public Access	Yes.
Current Planning Permission	No.
Compliance with the NPPF criteria	
Summary	This irregularly shaped area of grass in front of houses in a residential area is a very pleasant and quiet place that is clearly an essential feature of the setting for these houses and the character of the area.
Is it beautiful?	Not especially.
Does it have historic significance?	No.
Is it of recreation value?	Yes. Includes some seating and some evidence that it is used informally for sport such as football.
Is it tranquil?	Yes.
Does it have richness of wildlife?	Not especially.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Other	No.



Site No	6.
Site Name	CHURCHYARD SURROUNDING ST ANDREW'S CHURCH.
Address/location	Church Street, Kirkby Malzeard.
Public Access	Yes.
Current Planning Permission	No.
Compliance with the NPPF criteria	
Summary	This is a churchyard to the side of St Andrew's Church and relatively close to the centre of the village of Kirkby Malzeard. It is an attractive and tranquil area that it is important to the village's character and identity.
Is it beautiful?	Yes. Important to the character and amenity of the area.
Does it have historic significance?	Yes, as reflected that Church and churchyard are Listed.
Is it of recreation value?	Not especially. Mainly of amenity value.
Is it tranquil?	Yes.
Does it have richness of wildlife?	It is of some value.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Other	No.

