

HOW WILL THE APPLICATIONS BE ASSESSED

Applications will be assessed against the criteria set out in The National Planning Policy Framework. Which are as follows:

1. Where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;

It is proposed that Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/40004?category=47004> are used to define the likely size of a suitable Local Green Space and its distance from the local community. Therefore, a Local Green Space should normally be located within 2km (1.25 miles) of the community it serves and a site of 2ha (5 acres) or less should be located within 300m (325 yards) (or 5 minutes' walk) of the community it serves. A site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered to be "an extensive tract of land" and therefore not suitable for designation as a Local Green Space.

2. Where the green area is 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

To be considered for designation all sites must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- ***Be of particular local significance because of its beauty:*** Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Conservation Area; Special Landscape Area? Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents? Is the site highlighted in literature or art? e.g. is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?
- ***Be of particular local significance because of its historic significance:*** Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature? Does the green area hold a historical local significance? Did any important historic events take place on the site? Are there any important historic landscape features on the site? e.g. old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds or historic garden features
- ***Be of particular local significance because of its recreational value:*** Is the site used for playing sport? If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports provision? Is this sports provision free or is a club membership required? Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc
- ***Be of particular local significance because of its tranquillity:*** Do you consider the site to be tranquil? e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by? Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? e.g. within the [Campaign to Protect Rural England's](#) tranquillity maps?
- ***Be of particular local significance because of its wildlife:*** Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc. Are any important habitats or species found on the site?

e.g. habitats and species listed in the UK priority habitats or in the Gloucestershire Biodiversity Action Plans or protected species or on the red/amber lists of birds of conservation concern? Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community?

- ***Be of particular local significance because of for any other reason:*** Is the proposed site “local in character”? e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is the evidence? Is the green area demonstrably special to a local community? Is the application supported by the parish council, local community groups, community leaders or campaign groups?

3. Where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

All site puts forward would be considered on their individual merits and there is no short and fast answer as to what might be considered and extensive tract of land. However as a general rule of thumb, a site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered to be “an extensive tract of land” and therefore not suitable for designation as a Local Green Space.