

# Baylham Neighbourhood Plan

**2024 - 2037**



## **Local Green Space Assessment**

**Baylham Parish Council  
January 2025**

Prepared in support of the  
Baylham Neighbourhood Plan



The parish of Baylham has several 'green spaces' that are important to the character of the village and provide an amenity for its residents. Paragraphs 106 and 107 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF – December 2024) identifies the possibility of identifying green spaces that meet certain characteristics as "Local Green Spaces". The paragraphs state:

106. *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. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.*
107. *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.*

This report provides an assessment of the green spaces in the parish against the criteria in paragraph 106 to support the designation of local green spaces in the emerging Baylham Neighbourhood Plan.

## Appraisal

The following pages provide a detailed assessment of the identified spaces to ascertain whether they conform with the Local Green Space definition of the NPPF.

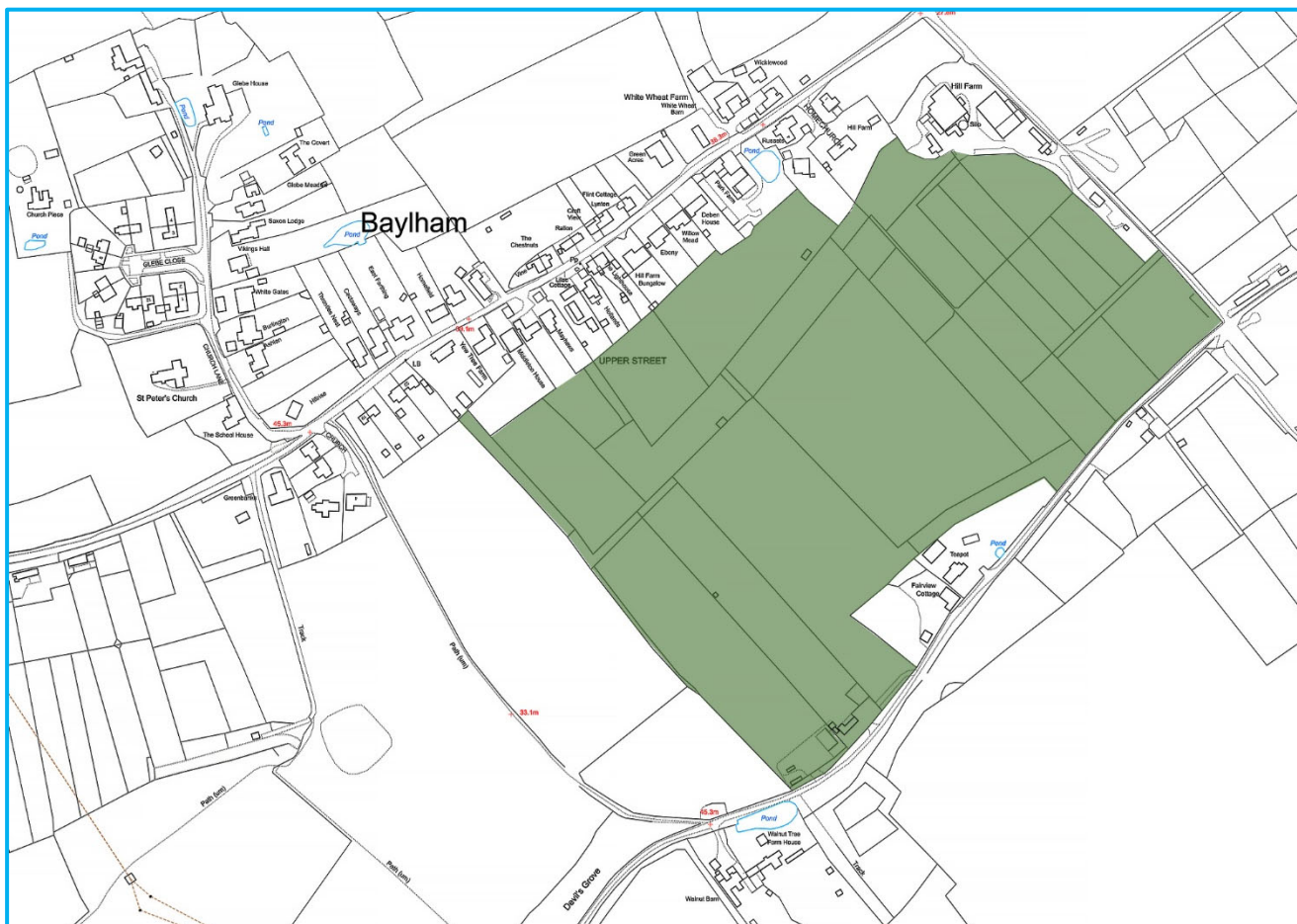
In the context of the NPPF, the following criteria have been applied:

Local Green Space Criteria	Assessment Approach
1. In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves	No definition of 'close proximity' is given in the NPPF.  This assessment will take it to be areas within or adjoining the village settlement boundary.
2. Demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance, such as for its beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of its wildlife.	For an open space to be considered special to the local community and hold a local significance it must meet <u>at least one</u> of the following criteria:  <b>Beauty:</b> the area enhances local character, adds to the setting of a building or groups of buildings – judged as being the visual attractiveness of the area as a whole and the contribution that it makes to the landscape or townscape or landmark  <b>Historic significance:</b> the area is important for the setting of a listed building or other heritage asset; it includes historic landscape features, such as ancient trees; or the area itself holds some specific historic importance  <b>Recreational value:</b> the area offers a recreational benefit to the community such as a play area, allotments, informal spaces in housing estates, sports and playing fields (not already covered by another designation)  <b>Tranquillity:</b> the area has a remoteness to it, with an absence of artificial noise and visible signs of urbanity allowing for calm and for quiet enjoyment and reflection  <b>Richness of its wildlife:</b> the area provides for biodiversity, geodiversity, known protected species, and/or priority habitats
3. Local in character and not an extensive tract of land	No definition of an 'extensive tract of land' is given in the NPPF.

Each of the areas were assessed against the criteria for Local Green Space designation and for their overall value to the community, as well as the level of risk to the open area.



## Local Green Space Area 1



### Site Details

#### Description and purpose

Paddocks on southern edge of village

#### Checklist

#### Statutory designations

None

#### Site allocations

None

#### Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

#### Area

12.2 Ha

#### Ownership

Private

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

#### Close to the community it services

On southern edge of main built-up area of village

#### Public access

No public access

#### Ecologically significant

Grassland with some hedgerows – no known ecological significance

#### Historically significant

None

#### Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance

Important open area providing views across the valley and defined as an Area of local Landscape Sensitivity in NP Landscape Appraisal

#### Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Yes, totally self-contained

#### Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

Yes, as outside Settlement Boundary and development is restricted

#### Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

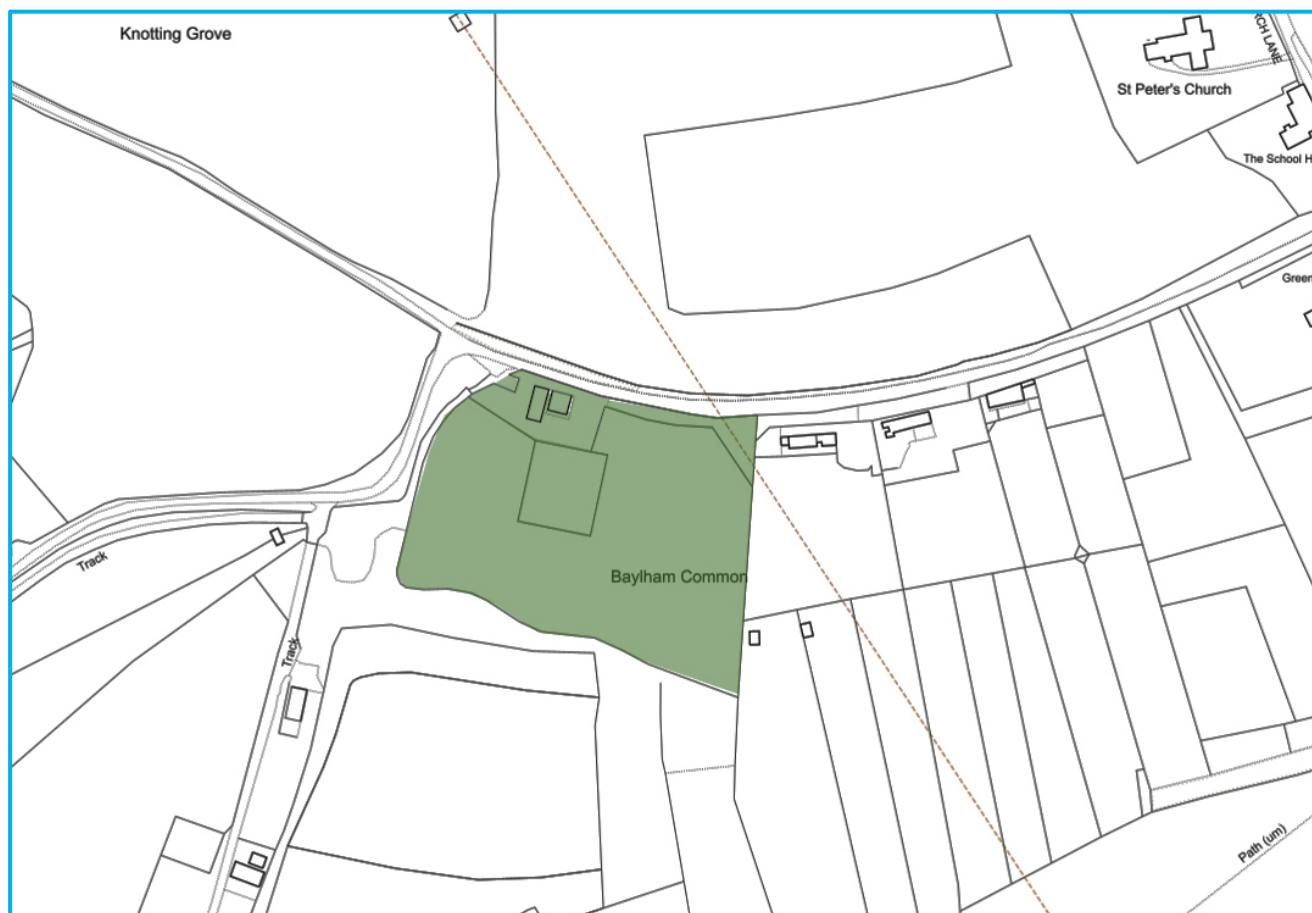


## Local Green Space Area 3



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Paddocks on western edge of village
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning consent
<b>Area</b>	4.5 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	Private
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	On western edge of main built-up area of village
<b>Public access</b>	No public access but public footpath runs along eastern boundary
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Grassland with hedgerows – no known ecological significance Baylham Common is referenced in the Suffolk Landscape Appraisal '18 Rolling Valley Farmlands EP/Edit1/02.08.10' as one of only 5 historically named arable commons in Suffolk
<b>Historically significant</b>	Important open area providing views across the valley and defined as an Area of local Landscape Sensitivity in NP Landscape Appraisal
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Yes, totally self-contained
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</b>	Yes, as outside Settlement Boundary and development is restricted
<b>Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?</b>	Yes, as outside Settlement Boundary and development is restricted
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

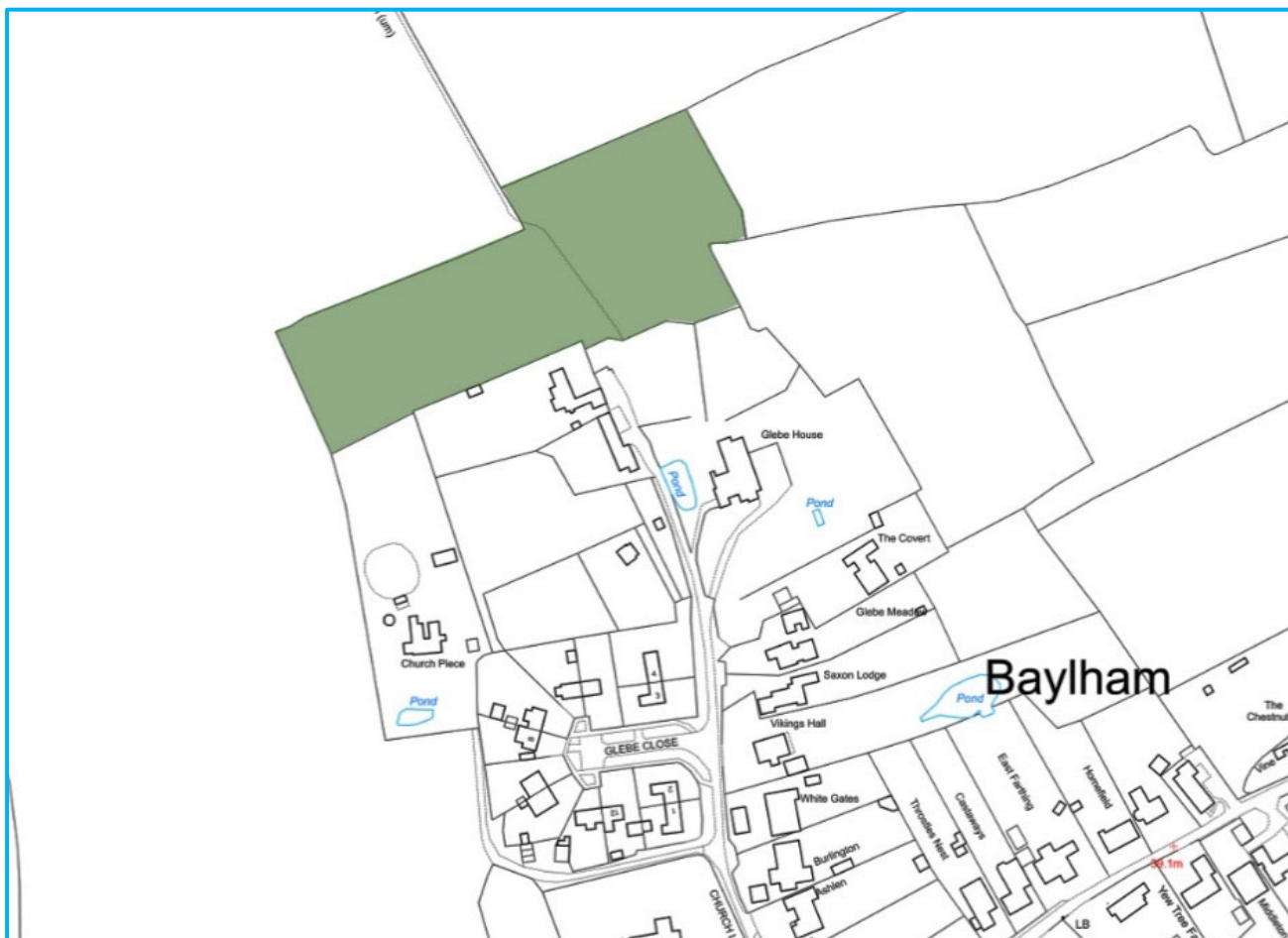
## Local Green Space Area 4



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Grassland west of village centre
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning consent
<b>Area</b>	1.1 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	Private
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	To west of main built-up area of village
<b>Public access</b>	No public access
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Grassland with hedgerows – no known ecological significance Baylham Common is referenced in the Suffolk Landscape Appraisal '18 Rolling Valley Farmlands EP/Edit1/02.08.10' as one of only 5 historically named arable commons in Suffolk
<b>Historically significant</b>	
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Important open area providing views across the valley and defined as an Area of local Landscape Sensitivity in NP Landscape Appraisal
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</b>	Yes, totally self-contained
<b>Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?</b>	Yes, as outside Settlement Boundary and development is restricted
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation



## Local Green Space Area 5



### Site Details

#### Description and purpose

Meadowland adjoining northern edge of village

#### Checklist

##### Statutory designations

None

##### Site allocations

None

##### Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

##### Area

1.2 Ha

##### Ownership

Private

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

#### Close to the community it services

On northern edge of built-up area of village

#### Public access

Public footpaths run through the space

#### Ecologically significant

Grassland with trees and hedgerows on all boundaries except southern boundary which is boundary of former walled garden

#### Historically significant

None

#### Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance

Important open area that provides transition between village and agricultural fields to the north. Defined as an Area of local Landscape Sensitivity in NP Landscape Appraisal

#### Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Yes, totally self-contained

#### Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

Yes, as outside Settlement Boundary and development is restricted

#### Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation