

Elmswell Neighbourhood Plan

Local Green Spaces Assessment January 2023



Elmswell parish has several 'green spaces' that play a significant role in defining the character of the village and places for meeting and/or recreation. Paragraphs 101 and 102 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) identify the possibility of identifying green spaces that meet certain characteristics as "Local Green Spaces". The paragraphs state:

101. 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.
102. 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 102 in order to support the designation of local green spaces in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

The Identified Green Spaces

A list of the green spaces is detailed below. Some of the spaces are grouped together.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Open space south and west of Hanover Court | 5. Amenity open spaces, Pightle Close |
| 2. Allotments, Church Hill | 6. Crown Mill play area |
| 3. Cemetery, Church Hill | 7. Hall Lane play area |
| 4. Lukeswood, Church Road | 8. Playing field off Thedwastre Close |
| | 9. Town Field, off Spong Lane |

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.

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1. Open space south and west of Hanover Court



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space includes the Maze community space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	The Draft Joint Local Plan (November 2020) identifies the site as Important Open Space and part of an allocation for housing. It is understood that the housing allocation will fall away in the final Part 1 Local Plan.
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.57 Ha.
Ownership	Mid Suffolk District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	In centre of village adjoining Hanover Court Retirement Apartments
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	No known significance
Historically significant	No known significance
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Of significant importance to the local residents living in the apartments
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	Distinct area of local importance.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

2. Allotments, Church Hill



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Parish allotments
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Draft Joint Local Plan identifies the site as Important Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Total 0.97 Ha
Ownership	Elmswell Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	On south-western edge of the village
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	No known significance
Historically significant	No known significance
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	The allotments are especially popular in the community and well used
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self-contained and distinct site
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

3. Cemetery, Church Hill



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Parish Church Cemetery including the Green Burial Ground
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	1.91 Ha
Ownership	Elmswell Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	On south-western edge of the village
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	No records of significance
Historically significant	No historical significance
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Parish cemetery of significant importance to local families
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Contained site and not an extensive tract of land
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

4. Lukeswood, Church Road



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Community woodland
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	The Draft Joint Local Plan (November 2020) identifies the site as Important Open Space.
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	2.25 Ha
Ownership	Elms Wild Community Group
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	On southern edge of village
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Tree planting on site began in 2010 and wildlife is being monitored
Historically significant	None known
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Tranquil space with open access
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	A self-contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

5. Amenity open spaces, Pightle Close



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	The Draft Joint Local Plan (November 2020) identifies the site as Important Open Space.
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.18 Ha
Ownership	Mid Suffolk District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Surrounded by housing
Public access	Public access at all times
Ecologically significant	None known
Historically significant	None known
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	An important open area in the centre of this housing area
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Totally contained by the housing surrounding it
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

6. Crown Mill play area



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Children's play area and informal open space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	The Draft Joint Local Plan (November 2020) identifies the site as Important Open Space.
Planning permissions	None
Area	0.18 Ha
Ownership	Elmswell Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	In centre of village near shops and other services
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Some trees and hedgerows and wildflower planting around village sign
Historically significant	None known
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	The play area is well used and the green space has a bench, the village sign and a notice board.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self-contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation.

7. Hall Lane play area



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space and play area
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.25 Ha
Ownership	Mid Suffolk District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within new residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	An important recreational amenity for residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self-contained area within new housing development
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

8. Playing field off Thedwastre Close



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Recreational open space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	The Draft Joint Local Plan (November 2020) identifies the site as Important Open Space.
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.50 Ha
Ownership	Elmswell Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	An important recreational amenity for residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

9. Town Field, off Spong Lane



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space and wildlife area
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.52 Ha
Ownership	Elmswell Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Approx 350 metres south of Cross Street and main built-up area of village
Public access	Accessible at all times via public footpath
Ecologically significant	Grassland area bordered by hedgerows and managed to enhance biodiversity
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	An important natural amenity for residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation