

LAXFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

The parish of Laxfield has several 'green spaces' that are important to the character of the village and provide an amenity for its residents. Paragraph 99 and 100 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) identifies the possibility of identifying green spaces that meet certain characteristics as "Local Green Spaces". The paragraphs state:

99. 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.

100. 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 village against the criteria in paragraph 100 in support of the designation of local green spaces in the emerging Laxfield Neighbourhood Plan.

The Identified Green Spaces

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

1 Allotments, Bickers Hill

4 Village Pond

2 Allotments, Station Road

5 Field on left of Goram Mill Lane

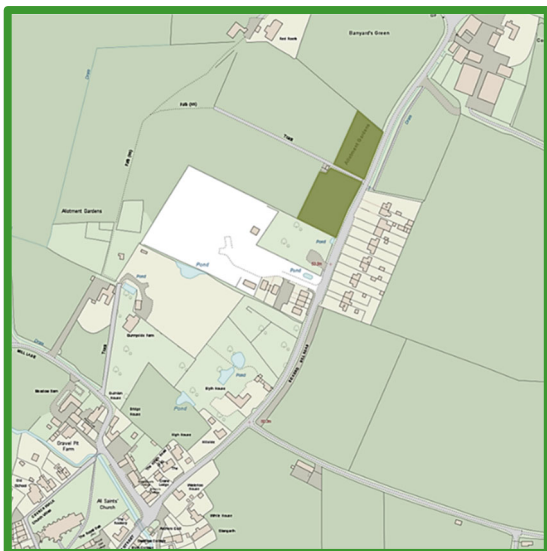
3 Mobbs Meadow

6 High Street verges

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.

1. Allotments, Bickers Hill



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Village allotments
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Mid Suffolk Local Plan - Nil Emerging Joint Local Plan – Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.4 hectares
Ownership	Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	On edge of village, 450 metres from Church
Public access	Access to Allotment holders
Ecologically significant	No records of significance
Historically significant	No records of significance
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important and popular facility for residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	The site does not form an extensive tract of land.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

2. Allotments, Station Road



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Village allotments
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Mid Suffolk Local Plan - Nil Emerging Joint Local Plan – Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.25 hectares
Ownership	Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	On edge of village 550 metres from Church
Public access	Access to Allotment holders
Ecologically significant	No records of significance
Historically significant	No records of significance
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important and popular facility for residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	The site does not form an extensive tract of land.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

3. Mobbs Meadow



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Open meadowland that forms important backdrop to village centre and the setting of the Conservation Area and adjoining Listed Buildings
Checklist	
Statutory designations	Part of site a County Wildlife Site
Site allocations	Adopted Mid Suffolk Local Plan - Nil Emerging Joint Local Plan – Nil
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent but current application for housing being considered by Mid Suffolk District Council (DC/18/02633: Outline Planning Application (some matters reserved) - Erection of up to 3 No. dwellings including access
Area	2.6 Ha
Ownership	Private
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Centrally located within the village proving important visible backdrop for easterly views along the High Street
Public access	No public access
Ecologically significant	County Wildlife Site
Historically significant	No records of significance
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Provides an important connection from the village to the open countryside, a feature of particular relevance to the Laxfield Conservation Area and as noted in the 2012 Conservation Area Appraisal
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The site does not form an extensive tract of land.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

4. Village Pond



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Village pond and environs adjacent to High Street
Checklist	
Statutory designations	In Conservation Area
Site allocations	Adopted Mid Suffolk Local Plan - Nil Emerging Joint Local Plan – Nil
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consents
Area	0.06 Ha
Ownership	Unsure
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Centrally located adjoining the High Street
Public access	No public access
Ecologically significant	No evidence of ecological significance
Historically significant	No records of significance.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Provides an important connection from the village to the open countryside, a feature of particular relevance to the Laxfield Conservation Area and as noted in the 2012 Conservation Area Appraisal
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The site does not form an extensive tract of land.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

5. Field on left of Goram Mill Lane



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Open meadowland on edge of settlement
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	1.47 Ha
Ownership	Private
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	On edge of village centre linked to High Street by a public footpath. A further public footpath also runs along the northern boundary
Public access	No public access
Ecologically significant	No records of significance
Historically significant	No historical significance.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Provides an important open area along northern edge of settlement
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The site does not form an extensive tract of land.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

6. High Street Verges



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Wide grass verges along northern edge of High Street
Checklist	
Statutory designations	In Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Total 0.15 Ha
Ownership	Highways authority
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Located in the centre of the village
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	No records of significance
Historically significant	In Conservation Area
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Significant and locally distinctive characteristic of the village providing a setting for the many listed buildings nearby.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The site is self-contained and does not form an extensive tract of land.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation