

Capel St Mary Neighbourhood Plan

2024 - 2037



LOCAL GREEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

January 2025

Capel St Mary Parish Council

Prepared in support of the
Capel St Mary Neighbourhood Plan



Cover photo – Capel St Mary Allotments www.capelallotments.co.uk

All maps in this document are reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved (AC0000824220) 2024. Contains OS data.

The parish of Capel St Mary 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 Capel St Mary 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: Beauty: 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 Historic significance: 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 Recreational value: 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) Tranquillity: 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 Richness of its wildlife: 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.

Parish Allotments



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Parish allotments
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	2.2 Ha
Ownership	Parish Council (managed by Allotments Association)
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	On southern edge of main built-up area of village
Public access	Access to Allotments Association members
Ecologically significant	Hedgerow along road frontage and allotments themselves provide habitats. There is a Community Wildlife Area created in association with the Primary School.
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	The allotments are an important community facility. The Association has over 350 members of which over 90 currently rent a plot.
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, due to being owned by Parish Council
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Days Green



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open spaces
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Combined 0.3 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Predominantly mown grass but some trees and shrubs present
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important open areas providing amenity spaces for residents
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.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Thorney Road and Days Road



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.1 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Predominantly mown grass but some trees present
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important open area providing amenity space for residents and footway between Thorney Road and Days Road
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Between Plough Road and The Street



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.14 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Predominantly mown grass but some trees present and hedgerow on The Street frontage
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important open area providing amenity space for residents
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Adjoining Little Gulls, Dodmans and Chapel Close



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.23 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Predominantly mown grass but some small trees and shrubs present
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important open area providing amenity space for residents and links between streets
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Between Letton Close and Link Road



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.1 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Mown grass with some small trees present
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important open area providing amenity space for residents
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Elm Lane



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.6 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Mown grass with some small trees and a significant hedge present
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important open area providing amenity space for residents
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Long Perry opposite the Garden Centre



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.02 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Mown grass with some small trees present
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important link between residential area and garden centre
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Mowlands



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.09 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Mown grass with some small trees present
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important amenity open space
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Beside the Premier Shop in The Street



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space and home to village sign and War Memorial. Some benches also present
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.09 Ha
Ownership	Capel St Mary Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	In village centre close to shops and community centre
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Nothing of significance
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Contributes towards the overall sense of a village hub and an important location to remember past residents that lost their lives in World Wars
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

In front of Community Centre, The Street



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space and play area
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.09 Ha
Ownership	Capel Community Trust with the Parish Council custodian trustees
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	In village centre adjoining shops and community centre
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Contributes towards the overall sense of a village hub and important facility for children
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Between the houses in Bamfield



Site Details

Description and purpose Amenity Open Space and play area

Checklist

Statutory designations None
Site allocations None
Planning permissions No outstanding planning consent
Area 0.04 Ha
Ownership Babergh District Council

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services Within residential area
Public access Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant Some trees present
Historically significant None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance Important open area providing amenity space for residents
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
Conclusion Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

Between Thorney Road and Winding Piece



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.11 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Some trees present
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important open area providing amenity space for residents
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
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

The Playing Field



Site Details

Description and purpose

Village recreation ground including sports pitches and children's play area

Checklist

Statutory designations

None

Site allocations

None

Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

Area

3.62 Ha

Ownership

Capel St Mary Parish Council

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services

Adjoins residential area

Public access

Accessible at all times

Ecologically significant

Hedgerow along western and southern boundary

Historically significant

None

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

Well used sports pitches and play area of significant importance to local community

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

Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

