

Great Waldingfield Neighbourhood Plan

2018 - 2037



Local Green Space Assessment

GREAT WALDINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
February 2023

Prepared in support of the
Great Waldingfield Neighbourhood Plan by
the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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Great Waldingfield has several 'green spaces' that play a significant role in defining the character of the village and places for meeting and/or recreation. Paragraphs 100 and 101 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) identifies 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 Great Waldingfield Neighbourhood Plan.

The Identified Green Spaces

A list of the green spaces is detailed below.

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Folly Road Allotments | 8. Overing Avenue Open Space |
| 2. Green Acre | 9. Knights Field |
| 3. Lavenham Road Allotments | 10. Old School Wood |
| 4. Playing Field | 11. Churchyard |
| 5. Queen's Jubilee Gardens | 12. Ten Trees Road Open Space |
| 6. Heath Estate Greens | 13. Cherry Orchard, Folly Road |
| 7. Folly Road Open Space | 14. Land at former airfield |

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. Folly Road Allotments



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Parish Allotments
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Area of Visual and/or Recreational Amenity Emerging Local Plan – Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Totalling 0.61 Ha.
Ownership	Braithwaite Trust
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within village centre
Public access	Accessible at all times by allotment holders
Ecologically significant	Native hedge and established trees plus allotment habitat
Historically significant	Trust formed as a Church charity in Great Waldingfield 100 years ago.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Regularly used by a large number of allotment holders, rare to have such a large area within one village.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	Yes, total self-contained
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

2. Green Acre



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Green Acre recreational area with trees
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Area of Visual and/or Recreational Amenity Emerging Local Plan – Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Total 0.40 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	It is at the centre of the village and serves as the village green. It is surrounded on three sides by the Green Acre housing estate and fronts the B1115 opposite the local shop
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	It has a large conifer in the middle of the green as well as walnuts, sweet chestnut and silver birches. Bee orchids present.
Historically significant	No historical significance
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	It serves as the village green. It is an asset for the village and is used for village events such as the Christmas Lights switch-on. It also houses the Parish Council notice board and the village sign.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	It is an amenity for the village and has a large conifer tree used as the village Christmas tree.
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	As it is owned and managed by Babergh DC its future is secure. The intention is for it to be moved into Parish Council ownership.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

3. Lavenham Road Allotments



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Parish Allotments
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Area of Visual and/or Recreational Amenity Emerging Local Plan – Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Total 0.38 Ha
Ownership	Braithwaite Trust
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Located at edge of village centre opposite Village Hall
Public access	Accessible at all times by allotment holders
Ecologically significant	Native hedge and established trees plus allotment habitat
Historically significant	Trust formed as a Church charity in Great Waldingfield 100 years ago
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Regularly used by a large number of allotment holders, rare to have such a large area within one village.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	Yes, total self-contained
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

4. Playing Field



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Badleys Close playing field. Recreational field with children's play area.
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Area of Visual and/or Recreational Amenity Emerging Local Plan – Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	1.24 Ha
Ownership	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Situated in the centre of the village, next to the school. Easily accessible from all areas of the village.
Public access	Northern end publicly accessible at all times. Remainder accessible outside school hours.
Ecologically significant	No records of significance
Historically significant	No historical significance.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	At the time of the Bantocks Road development, this area was allocated to the village by the landowner for use by the village. It contains a small playing field and a generous area with play equipment with seating which makes this a very important area for residents of all ages.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	This area has a history of being used recreationally by the immediate residents. It is significant to the village due to its proximity to Bantocks Road, Folly Road and Cromwell Fields.
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	It is currently owned by Suffolk County Council so its future is secure.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

5. Queen's Jubilee Gardens



Site Details	
Description and purpose	An area of cultivated garden for recreational use.
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Area of Visual and/or Recreational Amenity Emerging Local Plan – Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.06 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Part of the playing field in the centre of the village next to the village school
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Haven for wildlife
Historically significant	Yes, it was established to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Quiet and tranquil area to sit with a rose arbour and flower beds - used throughout the year by younger and older residents.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	A self-contained area
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	It is currently owned by Suffolk County Council so its future is secure.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

6. Heath Estate Greens



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.15 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	It is in the centre of the estate and surrounded by houses
Public access	Access at all times
Ecologically significant	Some established trees and grassland
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	It is one of the few green areas within the large estate and provides a focal point for the residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	A self-contained area enclosed by existing dwellings
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, owned by local authority
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

7. Folly Road Open Space



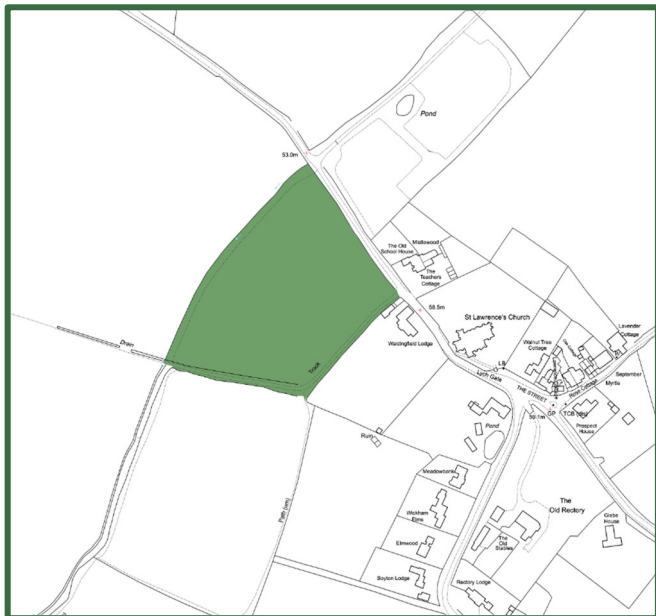
Site Details	
Description and purpose	Recreational area with children's play area
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Green Space did not exist in 2006 Emerging Local Plan – Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	1.21 Ha
Ownership	Developer / Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	It is central to the village, close to the School and has direct access from adjoining housing on Folly Road.
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Contains established trees and hedgerow
Historically significant	This is a modern housing estate (2011) but is built on the site of Second World War constructions/cinema. The names of the roads relate to the American air base established here
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	There is a large area of green space which is currently used as a dog walking and exercise area. The play area is used particularly by those who have very young children.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The area is self-contained
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation.

8. Overing Avenue Open Space



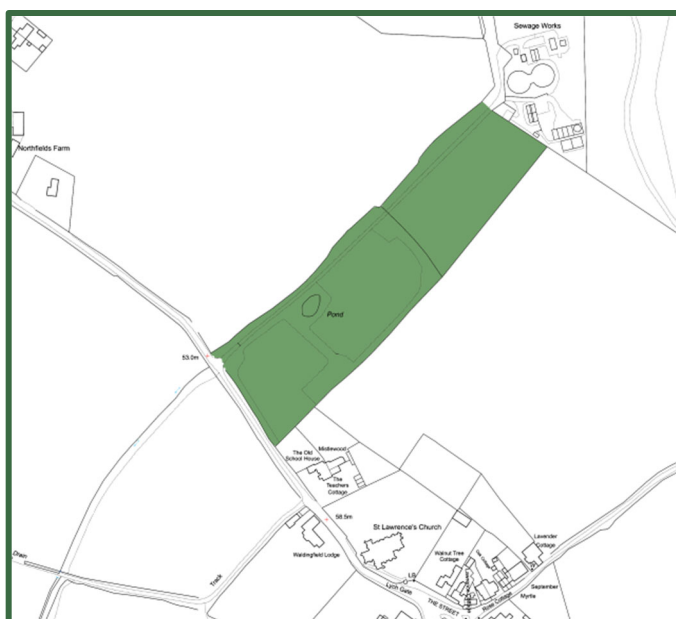
Site Details	
Description and purpose	Open green area with trees and fruit trees
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Green Space did not exist in 2006 Emerging Local Plan – Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning permissions
Area	0.09 Ha
Ownership	Bellway Homes / Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	It sits centrally within the Overing Avenue estate and is surrounded by housing looking over the green
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	It provides a green open space for children to play within eyesight of the houses or for relaxation for those unable to walk to more distant green spaces.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Defined area and not an extensive tract.
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

9. Knights Field



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Arable field used for access from main village to Old School Wood and Conservation Area and part of the historic view from the B1115 up to the Church and Conservation Area
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	In Conservation Area
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning permissions
Area	2.13 Ha
Ownership	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	It is within the Conservation Area and links this to the main village
Public access	There is a public footpath on the east and south side of the field leading to the main village
Ecologically significant	Hedged and tree-lined footpath edges the field
Historically significant	Within Conservation Area and Old School House (opposite) and Waldingfield Lodge (adjacent) are Grade II Listed Buildings.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	This view is enjoyed by all villagers and appears in The Times of 1935
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self-contained area and not an extensive tract.
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

10. Old School Wood



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Community woodland managed by "Branchlines" a voluntary group of local residents.
Checklist	
Statutory designations	Within Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	2.38 Ha
Ownership	Parish Council. Managed by "Branchlines" on behalf of the local community.
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	It is located within the Conservation Area and the church is nearby. It is approximately a ten minutes' walk to the village centre
Public access	Public access at all times. A public footpath runs along the north-western boundary.
Ecologically significant	Yes, records (surveys carried out by Lavenham Natural History Society) show the large contribution it makes to biodiversity- trees, woodland, hedging, wildflowers, a pond, birds and other animals
Historically significant	It is significant in view of its location in the historic Conservation Area. It is next to houses which were originally GW village school
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Its designation shows that its future is secure. It is a focal point for villagers of all ages and is well used by the local community. It is a significant asset for the village. It is used regularly by the local school children for forest school activities
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The many areas of openness make this designation unique within the Parish.
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, its future is secure and indeed has been recently expanded to include a small orchard
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

11. Churchyard



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Churchyard - retained as a wildlife area in the older part of the Churchyard.
Checklist	
Statutory designations	Within Conservation Area. Church is Grade I Listed Building
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.50 Ha
Ownership	The Diocese of St Edmundsbury
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	It is located within the Conservation Area and the church is a focal point for the community
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Yes, due to the management of the Churchyard as a wildlife area, it supports a wide biodiversity
Historically significant	It is significant as an integral part of the 14th Century Church
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Valued for its peace and tranquillity and for the undisturbed bird song. It is used regularly by parishioners on their way to the Old School Wood
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self- contained area
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, its future is secure
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

12. Ten Trees Road Open Space



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Open green area with wildlife corridor
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Area of Visual and/or Recreational Amenity Emerging Local Plan – No designation
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.39 Ha
Ownership	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Near to the Post Office and Community Shop and is in front of the Bowls Club
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	The area contains an important wildlife corridor at the edge of the open grassland, planted specifically for butterflies and behind the Bowls Club building there is a belt of trees and shrubs again priority habitat linking the County Wildlife Site with other habitat at this end of the village
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	It provides green open space for the community in front of the village Bowls and Social Club as well as a bee and butterfly conservation area
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

13. Cherry Orchard, Folly Road



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Open green area with Cherry Trees and bench
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Area of Visual and/or Recreational Amenity Emerging Local Plan – no designation
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.16 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	It is central to the village, very close to the School and Preschool and housing on Folly Road.
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Contains established trees and hedgerow
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	It provides quiet open space and a bench for respite for elderly residents on a walk from the village shop to the large housing area on Bantocks Road.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self-contained
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, owned by local authority
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation.

14. Land at former airfield



Site Details	
Description and purpose	1 - Former airfield. Part agricultural land and important hedgerow 2 - Former airfield. Important tree belt surrounding employment land
Checklist	
Statutory designations	1 – County Wildlife Site 2 - None
Site allocations	Adjoins land allocated in 2006 Local Plan for employment development. Allocation not carried forward in emerging Joint Local Plan.
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	2.21 Ha
Ownership	1 – Suffolk County Council 2 – Chilton Grain
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	A five minute walk from the village shop and two minutes from the Bowls and Social Club
Public access	1 - Public access via footpath along old runway 2 - No public access, but viewed from local footpaths
Ecologically significant	<p>1 - Forms significant part of the the first habitat for Red Listed RSPB birds and others after flying West to East across the large expanse of arable fields forming the County Wildlife Site. The scrub here is vital for the survival of these birds providing food and habitat for butterflies, moths and bees - conditions not readily available elsewhere on the County Wildlife Site. The Western end of the CWS has lost a large amount of its habitat, making this East end critical for the survival of many species.</p> <p>Uncommon and rare arable weeds have also been recorded here in particular spreading hedge parsley.</p> <p>2 - Deciduous woodland priority habitat. Forms significant part of the the first habitat for Red Listed RSPB birds and others after flying West to East across the large expanse of arable fields forming the County Wildlife Site. Also both tree belts are important wildlife corridors to and from the CWS.</p>
Historically significant	It is part of the WW2 American airfield and still contains the original runways.

<p>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</p>	<p>1 - Not only is it part of the historic airfield, it is also the most valued area for recreation for the Western end of the village, regularly used by a large number of people. It is particularly accessible for wheelchairs and buggies due to its flat terrain. Landowner allows unofficial footpath access.</p> <p>2 - These tree belts are extremely important in that they surround the industrial buildings on the site, maintaining a rural aspect when viewed both from the village and from the footpaths on the County Wildlife Site.</p>
<p>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</p>	<p>Distinct and contained area</p>
<p>Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?</p>	<p>Yes, due in part to the County Wildlife Site designation</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Qualifies for Local Green Space designation</p>