



LAWSHALL

Neighbourhood Plan

Local Green Space Assessment

April 2024

Lawshall 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 105 and 106 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF December 2023) identify the possibility of identifying green spaces that meet certain characteristics as "Local Green Spaces". The paragraphs state:

105. 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.
106. 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. The Foundry Meadow | 10. Lawshall Green |
| 2. The Glebe Open Space | 11. Grassland area between Bury Road and Golden Wood (south of The Foundry) |
| 3. Walcher's Meadow | 12. Grassland area (private) between The Street and Frithy Wood |
| 4. Hall Mead Open Space | 13. Crooked Wood |
| 5. Churchill Close Meadow | 14. Woodland adjoining Lawshall Green |
| 6. Village Hall Open Space | 15. Churchyard |
| 7. Harrow Green | |
| 8. Hanningfield Green | |
| 9. Hibbs Green | |

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.

Maps in this document are reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map.

1. The Foundry Meadow



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Open space associated with the Green Light Trust's Environmental Education Centre for the East of England.
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.7 Ha.
Ownership	Green Light Trust
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Provides a natural open space in conjunction with the Green Light Trust
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Managed wildflower meadow
Historically significant	No known significance
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	The Green Light Trust is of significant importance to the local community and the green space together with The Foundry building provide a regionally significant Environmental Education Centre.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	Distinct area of local importance.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

2. The Glebe Open Space



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space with mix of trees
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Draft Joint Local Plan identifies the site as Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Total 0.18 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	In centre of main built-up area of village and surrounded by homes
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	Provides an important green lung in a relatively large area of housing
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self-contained and distinct site
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

3. Walcher's Meadow



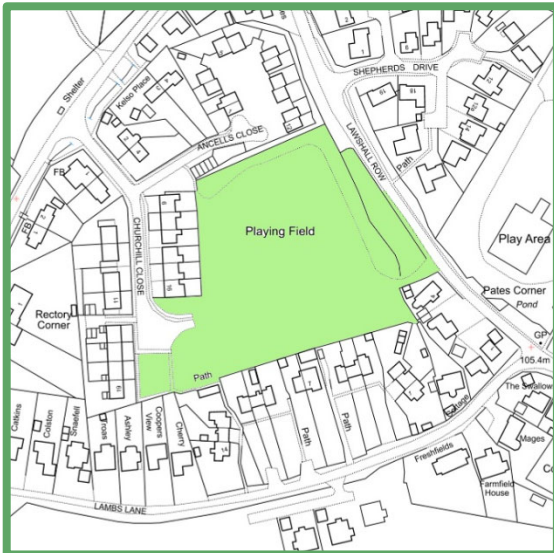
Site Details	
Description and purpose	Recreational open space and play area
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Draft Joint Local Plan identifies the site as Designated Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	1.22 Ha
Ownership	Lawshall Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	In centre of main built-up area of village and surrounded by homes
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	The only equipped play area in the parish and used for community events
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. Hall Mead Open Space



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 Designated Open Space.
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.16 Ha
Ownership	Babergh District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	In centre of "The Street" Joint Local Plan defined hamlet
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	No known significance, but significant hedgerow borders The Street
Historically significant	None known
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Small open space serving residents of Hall Mead and also makes an important contribution to the character of the Neighbourhood Plan designated Special Character Area
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	A self-contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

5. Churchill Close Meadow



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Playing field with goalposts
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	The Draft Joint Local Plan (November 2020) identifies the site as Designated Open Space.
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	1.15 Ha
Ownership	Babergh 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 recreational open space in the centre of the main built-up area of the village
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Totally contained by the housing surrounding it on three sides and Lawshall Road on the north-east boundary
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

7. Harrow Green



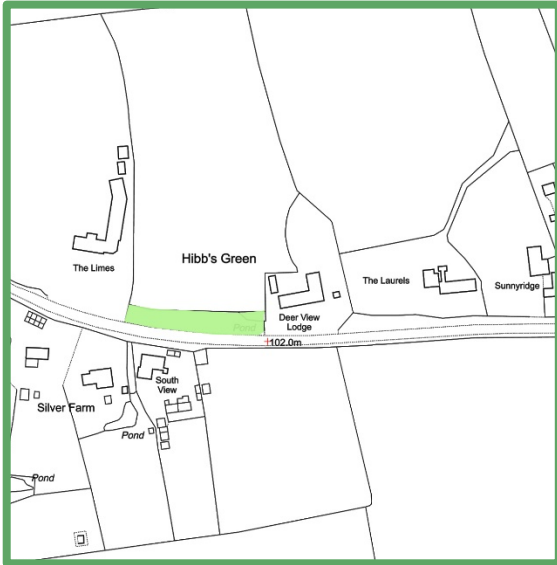
Site Details	
Description and purpose	Historic green area that gives its name to Harrow Green
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.25 Ha
Ownership	Mid Suffolk District Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within the designated Harrow Green Hamlet
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	One of many historic greens in Lawshall
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	An important green area that contributes to the distinct character of this Hamlet
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self-contained area defined by road and property boundaries
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

8. Hanningfield Green



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Historic green area that gives its name to Hanningfield Green
Checklist	
Statutory designations	Part is a County Wildlife Site
Site allocations	The Draft Joint Local Plan (November 2020) identifies the County Wildlife Site as Designated Open Space.
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.40 Ha
Ownership	Not known
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Adjoins Hanningfield Green Hamlet
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	County Wildlife Site managed for wildflowers
Historically significant	One of many historic greens in Lawshall
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Managed by local community for its biodiversity interests
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

9. Hibbs Green



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Historic green area that gives its name to Hibbs Green
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.07 Ha
Ownership	Lawshall Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Midway between Hanningfield Green and Lawshall Green Hamlets
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	One of many historic greens in Lawshall
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important historical significance and makes an important contribution to the character of the area
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

10. Lawshall Green



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Historic green area that gives its name to Lawshall Green
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	The Draft Joint Local Plan (November 2020) identifies the County Wildlife Site as Designated Open Space.
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.55 Ha
Ownership	Lawshall Parish Council / private ownership
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Centrally located within Lawshall Green
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Most is designated a County Wildlife Site and registered organic
Historically significant	One of many historic greens in Lawshall
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important historical significance and makes an important contribution to the character of the area
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

11. Grassland area between Bury Road and Golden Wood (south of The Foundry)



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Grassland area adjoining Golden Wood and Green Light Trust
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	The Draft Joint Local Plan (November 2020) identifies part of the site as Designated Open Space.
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning permissions
Area	3.1 Ha
Ownership	private ownership
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Centrally located between Lambs Lane and Bury Road settlements
Public access	No public access
Ecologically significant	Part is priority habitat – deciduous woodland
Historically significant	No known historic interest
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important open area which a planning inspector's decision on an appeal for 5 dwellings along the frontage noted "forms an important part of the setting of this part of Lawshall."
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

12. Grassland area (private) between The Street and Frithy Wood



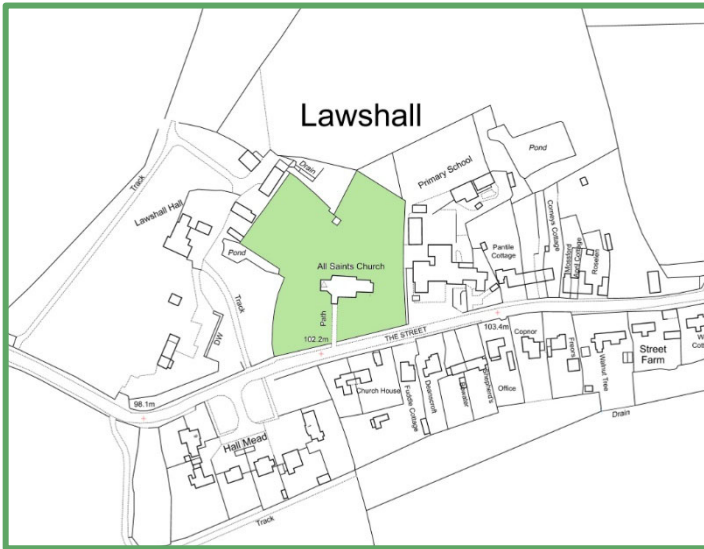
Site Details	
Description and purpose	Grassland area adjoining between The Street and Frithy Wood SSSI
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning permissions
Area	5 Ha
Ownership	private ownership
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Centrally located between on the edge of The Street built-up area
Public access	No public access
Ecologically significant	Frithy Wood to the north is an SSSI and priority habitat – deciduous woodland. The hedgerow along the southern boundary and western boundary is ancient.
Historically significant	The area was originally part of Frithy Wood and the southern ditch remains remnant of that woodland remains
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important open area. A 2021 appeal for housing development on the south-western corner of the area was dismissed with the Inspector noting “the openness of the appeal site and surrounding area in contrast to the developed parts of The Street, together with views of the historic woodland, make a positive contribution to the street scene and wider area.”
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

13. Crooked Wood



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Managed woodland with open access
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning permissions
Area	0.87 Ha
Ownership	Lawshall Community Woodlands (Forest for Our Children)
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Although not within the main built-up areas of the parish, it is easily accessible from Lawshall Green.
Public access	Public access at all times
Ecologically significant	Community woodland managed to maintain and improve habitats
Historically significant	Established nearly 50 years ago as part of a community initiative
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Part of the "Forests for Our Children" initiative based in Lawshall. In 1979, LAWhall residents Ric Edelmann and Nigel Hughes inspired the community to start planting a Forest for our Children. Each year the forests have grown in area and maturity.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

15. Churchyard



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Parish Church cemetery
Checklist	
Statutory designations	Church is Grade I listed building
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning permissions
Area	0.83 Ha
Ownership	Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within the Lawshall Green hamlet.
Public access	Public access at all times
Ecologically significant	A number of trees are located along the boundary and within the churchyard and areas of wildflower exist
Historically significant	Significant historic importance to Lawshall
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	The churchyard plays an important role in the community
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation