

## Technical Paper : Local Green Spaces

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### Background

The Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan includes the designation of 7 Local Green Spaces<sup>1</sup>. This is contained and described on pages 22-25 and POLICY LE1: GREEN SPACES.

The purpose of this paper is to provide the support and data in support of the designation of those Local Green Spaces.

### The justification for the designation

For the purposes of this paper the evidence in support for Local Green Space designation is arranged into three categories :

- Community support
- Telford & Wrekin Council Green Infrastructure assessment
- Qualification against NPPF paragraph 77

### Community support

The Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan has been supported by extensive consultation. The following has isolated the consultation response to issues of green infrastructure including Local Green Space designation.

Representations were made by residents through the consultation process, which included, Public Open Forums, a residents Parish Survey questionnaire, the Regulation 14 Consultation, and a further Supplementary Consultation. The primary sources of residents' concerns and opinions used to support the production of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan were the Open Forums and the subsequent Parish survey. These can be summarised as: -

- The Open Forums recorded 20 comments regarding the conservation and utilisation of green space and the related Strategic Landscape Areas.
- The Parish Survey Report demonstrates strong support for: -
  - Increased protection of green space – 98% support
  - Increased provision of green space – 87% support
  - Management of wildlife – 96% support
  - Enhanced protection of historic and natural feature – 99% support
  - Support for the designated Strategic Landscape Areas - 92%.support

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<sup>1</sup> NPPF paragraphs 76 - 78

Analysis of the residents' comments raised within Section C – Protecting Our Environment of the Parish Survey is summarised below. All comments raised during the survey and a summary table are included in the digital copy of Folder 2 of the Regulation 15 Submission.

**Q19. Are there any buildings or views which you believe are important to protect?**

17 comments did not answer the question.

128 comments focus primarily on views: just about everything is covered, but views from the monument and the church have the edge.

**Q20. Thinking about measures which could protect and enhance the quality of the built environment, should the neighbourhood plan promote the following:**

*Five tick box choices*

Other, please specify...

18 comments did not answer the question

10 comments made predominantly design suggestions

7 comments relate mostly to parking, signing and street furniture

5 comments relate mostly to footpaths and cycle lanes

**Q21 In general, should the neighbourhood plan promote the following:**

*Five tick box Yes and No questions.*

11 comments did not answer the question

21 comments related to current and ongoing conservation and environmental management issues that have been referred to Lilleshall Parish Council.

**Q22. Thinking about green spaces, should the neighbourhood plan designate any local green space(s)? (See details in the leaflet) Tick boxes Yes and No**

Please suggest suitable locations...

58 comments stated NA or similar or did not answer the question, most due to misunderstanding the details on local green spaces in the leaflet.

1 comment reflected valid concerns about current environmental issues that has been referred to Lilleshall Parish Council.

71 comments suggest / include a suggestion for a Local Green Space around the central area of Lilleshall Village

1) Cricket club. 2) Land adjacent to Church Road.

1) Cricket Ground 2) The Green 3) Land adjacent to Red house Island

1) Parsons Barracks Sport field. 2) Land around the Croft 3) Land at the Cricket Field.

14 comments suggest / include a suggestion for a Local Green Space in Quarry Woods / Old Canal / Wilmore Lane Area

19 comments suggest / include a suggestion for a Local Green Space on Church Road and between the Church and Abbey

3 comments suggest / include a suggestion for a Local Green Space at The Humbers

3 comments suggest / include a suggestion for a Local Green Space at The Red House

**Q25. Please use the following space to make any additional comments on protecting the environment ...**

46 comments did not answer the question, mostly because their points were not additional but related to matters already covered.

5 comments relate to ongoing environmental issues and have been referred to Lilleshall Parish Council

15 comments raise additional considerations relating to the SLAs

3 comments raise additional considerations regarding wildlife surveys prior to any new development

Further comments seek major expansion of the Lilleshall Allotments

The consultation response indicates very strong support for the value and protection of local green infrastructure including local green spaces.

### Telford & Wrekin Council Green Infrastructure (Gi) assessment

Telford & Wrekin Council undertook extensive assessment of green infrastructure in the borough in 2009 and 2013<sup>2</sup>

Those assessment identified the overall function of every green space in the borough and an assessment of Gi provision within each parish within the borough.

The following table provides a summary of the Gi functions of each Local Green Space designated within the Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan.

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<sup>2</sup> The Green Infrastructure Framework Evidence & Analysis Document Telford & Wrekin Council 2009

Table 1

Green Infrastructure Function <sup>3</sup>	Local Green Spaces						
	Land at the Croft, Church road	Lilleshall all cricket field	School playing fields and play area	Parsons barracks playing fields	Lilleshall Hill nature Reserve	Cheswell allotments and nursery	Honnington pond
Aesthetic	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Accessible Water Storage				●			●
Biofuels Production					●		●
Burial Space							
Carbon Storage					●		●
Corridor for wildlife				●	●	●	●
Cultural Asset							
Evaporative Cooling							
Flow Reduction				●	●	●	●
Food Production	●	●					
Green Travel Route	●	●			●		●
Ground Stabilisation		●		●	●		●
Habitat for Wildlife	●	●			●		●
Heritage					●		
Inaccessible Water Storage							
Learning			●	●			
Noise Absorption					●		
Pollutant Removal							
Recreation - Private							
Recreation - Public		●	●	●	●		●
Recreation – Public with Restrictions	●	●	●	●			
Shading					●		●
Timber Production					●		●
Trapping Air Pollutants					●		●
Water Conveyance				●			●
Water Infiltration							
Water Interception					●		●
Wind Shelter					●●●		●

<sup>3</sup> The Green Infrastructure Framework Evidence & Analysis Document Telford & Wrekin Council 2009

Each of the proposed designated Local Green Spaces currently provide a number of green infrastructure functions with Honnington Pond and Lilleshall Hill nature Reserve providing 16 and 15 out of 28 Gi functions.

### Qualification against NPPF paragraph 77

NPPF paragraph 77 is not an exhaustive list of the benefits and functions of a Local Green Space but provides an indication of those functions which support their designation. Table 2 provides a brief summary of the way in which each proposed Local Green Space addresses the criteria mentioned in NPPF paragraph 7

Table 2

NPPF Criteria	Local Green Spaces						
	Land at the Croft, Church Road	Lilleshall Cricket Field	School Playing Fields and Play Area	Parsons Barracks Playing Fields	Lilleshall Hill Nature Reserve	Cheswell Allotments and Nursery	Honnington Pond
In reasonably close proximity to the community	Located within the core of the community, adjacent to Church Road.	Located within the core of the community, adjacent to Church Road.	Located adjacent to Lilleshall Hill	Located within the core of the community at The Humbers housing development	Located at the heart of the village community	Located between the old Wellington Road and New Trench Road. 250m from Lilleshall Hill	Located on the southern edge of the Village, adjacent to housing at Honnington Grange
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	The fields are formally recorded as positively contributing to the verdant rural character of the area and the attractive open setting to the village	The cricket field has been and played upon by the Lilleshall Cricket Club for over 100 years.	In addition to providing green space for sports and recreation facilities, the playing fields and play area form part of the continuous green link between the fields lying North and East of the Lilleshall Hill	Currently owned by the MoD and managed by D.I.O. the sports field provides a long term opportunity for development as a sports and recreation facility for local residents. This is in line with Open Forum responses supporting increased provision of and access to green space at the Humbers.	Lilleshall Hill and the Duke of Sutherland Monument are unique features that form the heart of the community. The hill provides a primary attraction for local residents and visitors, who enjoy the views from the hill overlooking the adjacent agricultural landscapes across the county and beyond into the mountains of Mid Wales..	Lilleshall Allotments Association providing a key recreational asset for parish residents. The popularity of the allotments means that there is a continual waiting list for plots	Honnington is the lowest of four mediaeval pools that serves as mill and fish ponds for the Abbey and Manor. Today it provides recreational value as a tranquil fish pond
Beauty	Provides clear views from the village towards the Lilleshall Abbey and the Ancient Woodlands	The site provides an exceptional setting, particularly for its use as a cricket green			The hill provides one of the outstanding features of East Shropshire		

NPPF Criteria	Local Green Spaces						
	Land at the Croft, Church Road	Lilleshall Cricket Field	School Playing Fields and Play Area	Parsons Barracks Playing Fields	Lilleshall Hill Nature Reserve	Cheswell Allotments and Nursery	Honnington Pond
Historic significance	The site includes a rare dry stone boundary wall, constructed with local limestone	The site includes an identified ridge and furrow system.			The hill has dominated the village since the first settlement in the 9 <sup>th</sup> century, and with the addition of the monument it has become the symbol for the community		One of the pools mediaeval pools
Recreational value	The footpath access across the site links the village to the wider range of paths, including the Hutchison Way, and routes to the Abbey ,and Lilleshall Hall	The site has been the home of Lilleshall Cricket Club for over 100 years	The site adds further sports and recreation facilities to adjoining cricket field and public tennis courts	Whilst the site has laid dormant due to MOD budget retrains, it now provides an opportunity to provide recreation and sports facilities for existing residents of Lilleshall and the neighbouring parishes.	The site is in regular use by walkers and rambles. It also provides the central feature for the annual 10km Run	The allotments provide a key community recreational asset for residents. The popularity of the allotments means that there is a continual waiting list for plots.	A popular site for local and visiting anglers
Tranquillity	Peaceful rural escape			A setting which provides peaceful panoramic views across the landscape of Shropshire	Peaceful rural escape		
Richness of its wildlife					The site is registered as a Local Wildlife Site. The Parish Council and Telford & Wrekin Council have entered into the process to formally register the site as a Local Nature Reserve		The site provides nesting for a wide range of birds, as well as containing a well-stocked fish pond
Local in		Along with the	Along with the		Through their		

NPPF Criteria	Local Green Spaces						
	Land at the Croft, Church Road	Lilleshall Cricket Field	School Playing Fields and Play Area	Parsons Barracks Playing Fields	Lilleshall Hill Nature Reserve	Cheswell Allotments and Nursery	Honnington Pond
character		adjacent school sports field and hill, this site forms a key element of the Green Heart of the village	adjacent cricket field and hill, this site forms a key element of the Green Heart of the village		dominance of the surrounding countryside, the hill and monument provide most important features on the parish		
Not an extensive tract of land	5.0Ha (OTA)	2.9Ha (OTA)	1..34Ha (OTA)	3.5Ha (OTA)	4.1Ha (OTA)	1.2Ha (OTA)	1.6HA (OTA)