

Local Green Spaces in Havant Borough

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1. Introduction

- 4.1 The purpose of this background paper is to explain the designation of Local Green Spaces in the Havant Borough Local Plan 2036 (HBLP 2036). It sets out the national and local background to Local Green Space designations and makes clear the methodology used by the council. A full list of greenspaces proposed for designation in December 2012 is set out in Appendix 1 along with a reason for their inclusion or non-inclusion in the adopted Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations). Appendix 1 has been reviewed (see final column) as part of the 2017 update and any changes are reflected on the policies map for the HBLP 2036.

2. Policy Context

National Policy Context

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2012 introduced the concept of Local Green Spaces. Paragraph 76 of the document says that local communities should be given the opportunity to identify green areas of particular importance through local and neighbourhood plans. These designations would rule out development other than in very special circumstances and would need to live on beyond the end of the plan period.
- 2.2 Paragraph 77 of the NPPF notes that the designation would not be appropriate for most green areas. It sets out the following criteria for designating Local Green Spaces:
- In reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - 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), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and
 - Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Local Policy Context

- 2.3 Havant Borough is experiencing a high level of housing need. In response to this need, the Council adopted the Havant Borough Local Plan Housing Statement (LPHS) in December 2016. The LPHS provided the first step in addressing housing need by identifying “early release” sites which are considered suitable for development under the NPPF. Although the LPHS does not have the same status as a local plan in decision making, it was subject to public consultation between 25th July and 9th September 2016.
- 2.4 Following the adoption of the LPHS, the Council is now preparing the Havant Borough Local Plan 2036. While the LPHS focused on sites for the delivery of new homes, the Local Plan will plan for all three dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental.
- 2.5 The adopted Local Plan (Allocations) includes Policy AL8 on Local Green Spaces. Local communities were given the opportunity to propose areas of open space for designation as part of their representation on the draft plan. A total of 40 representations were received on Local Green Spaces and a total of 42 sites were proposed for designation. The following section of this report explains the methodology used to decide which of these greenspaces were designated.
- 2.6 There will be consultation on the Draft Havant Borough Local Plan 2036 in due course. The consultation draft will propose Local Green Space designations and policy. One of the considerations for designating Local Green Space was that the designations should endure beyond the plan period. For this reason, it is not expected that the sites already designate will alter significantly from the previous allocations. However, as part of the consultation on the draft plan, communities are being asked to identify any new spaces which should be considered for designation. These will then be assessed against the same criteria as previous designations and if appropriate, shown as a Local Green Space in the HBLP 2036.
- 2.7 A timetable for the HBLP 2036 is published here:
https://www.havant.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Local%20Development%20Scheme%20Jan%202017_0.pdf

2.8 It is expected that the examination in public will take place in early 2019 and that the plan will be adopted in summer 2019, meaning that the Local Green Spaces will then be formally designated.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The NPPF sets out criteria for designating Local Green Spaces at paragraph 77. These criteria were used to create the Local Green Space evaluation matrix, shown at Appendix 1. All the greenspaces proposed during the initial public consultation into the Allocations Plan were entered into this matrix, along with the open spaces allocated under Policy CS1 of the Havant Borough Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 3.2 Site visits were carried out in the summer of 2013 to assess all the sites. A nontechnical visual appraisal was made of each greenspace to see whether they met the criteria set in the NPPF.
- 3.3 As Havant Borough covers quite a small mainly urbanised area, most of the proposed greenspaces were located in reasonably close proximity to the community they serve.
- 3.4 It was also considered important to find out whether the sites were accessible to the public. One exception was made to this. Access to Stone's Allotments in Leigh Park is restricted to members, but membership is open to all local residents.
- 3.5 The assessment of whether a site was demonstrably special to the local community was based on beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquility and richness of wildlife which are largely subjective judgements. The scoring varied widely with some sites appearing to have no special attributes with other sites being demonstrably special in respect of all five criteria.
- 3.6 Finally, it is not possible to designate areas which are extensive tracts of land. This meant that several sites, such as Hayling Beach and the Hermitage Stream Corridor, could not be designated although they are undoubtedly demonstrably special to the local community. At the time however, most of these areas are protected by other policy designations, for example Policy AL7 of the Allocations Plan which deals with improvements to the Hermitage Stream.

4. Current Local Green Space Designations

4.1 The NPPF states that Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. It is intended that all current Local Green Spaces that are designated in the adopted Havant Borough Local Plan (Allocations) will be carried over into the Havant Borough Local Plan 2036.

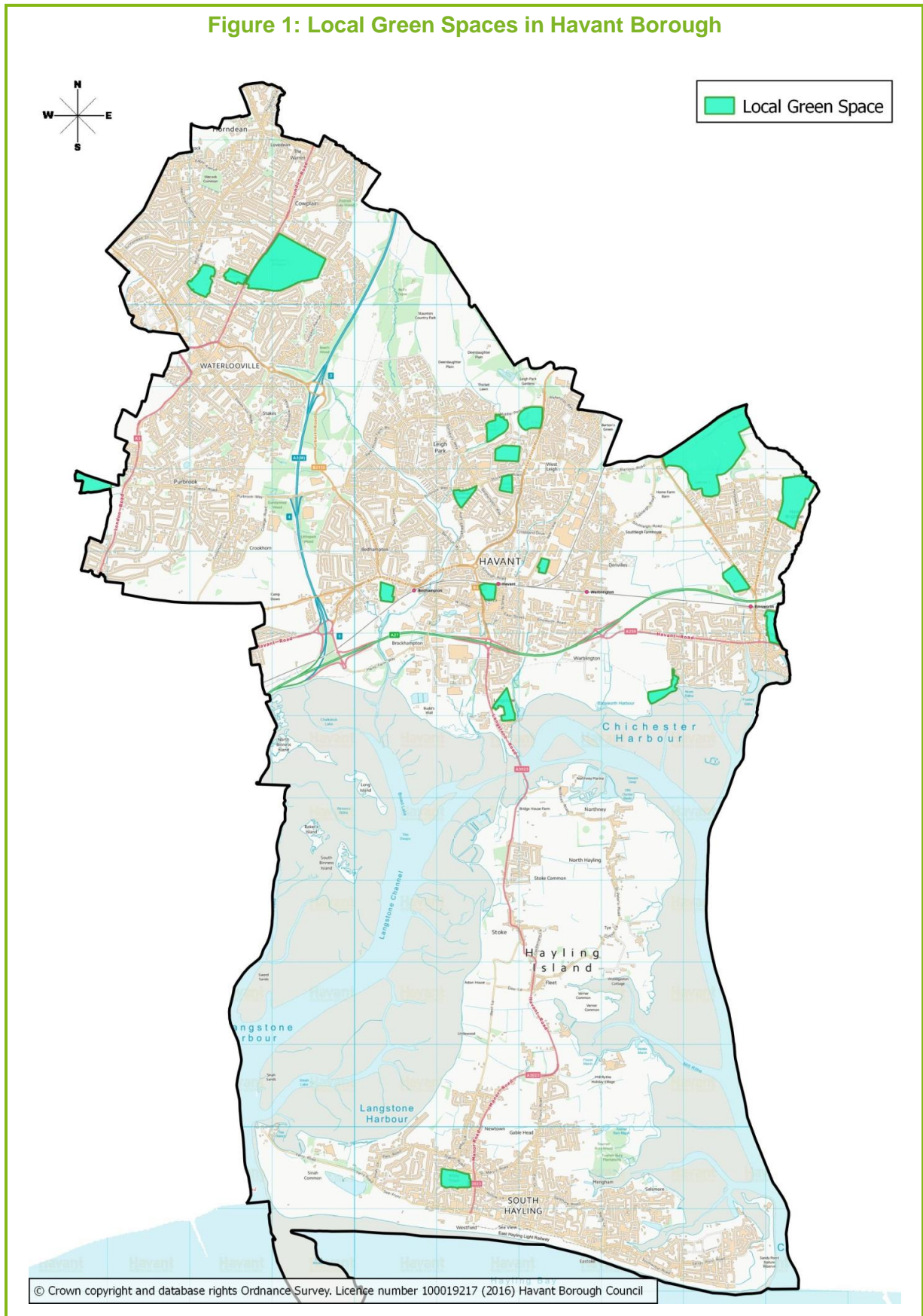
4.2 The sites that are currently designated as Local Green Spaces can be seen in Table 1. The assessments behind their designation can be found in Appendix 1.

List of Local Green Spaces	
Emsworth Recreation Ground	Front Lawn Recreation Ground
Brook Meadow Local Nature Reserve	Battins Copse
Nore Barn Woods	Great Copse
Hollybank Woods	Stockheath Common
Hampshire Farm Open Space	Staunton Country Park
Langstone Meadows	Park Wood
Havant Park	Queen's Enclosure
Bidbury Mead	Purbrook Heath
Hayling Park	Waterlooville Recreation Ground
Stone's Allotments	

Table 1: List of Local Green Spaces in Havant Borough

4.3 A map showing the location of Local Green Spaces in Havant Borough is shown below in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Local Green Spaces in Havant Borough



5. Next Steps

- 5.1 The designation of Local Green Spaces has offered local communities the opportunity to become part of the decision making process. This paper has sought to explain the process the Council uses to decide which green spaces put forward by the public should be designated.
- 5.2 As part of the Draft HBLP 2036 consultation, individuals and community groups will be asked to propose new spaces, which they consider meet the criteria set out in the NPPF. They will also be asked to suggest any amendments or deletions, again having regard to the criteria. Suggestions will be considered against the evaluation matrix at Appendices 1 and 2 and any proposals which are considered appropriate for designation, will be taken forward into the HBLP 2036.
- 5.3 On adoption of the HBLP 2036, a specific policy on Local Green Spaces will apply to these sites, which means that only proposals that protect or enhance these Local Green Spaces will be permitted. Development proposals that would harm them will only be permitted under very special circumstances.

Appendix 1: Local Green Space (LGS) Evaluation Matrix – Designated LGS

Please note that the table below reflects assessments that were carried out in 2013. The status of sites may have changed since then.

Is land demonstrably special to the community?											
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	Designate	Comments
Emsworth Recreation Ground	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Policy E1 site; important urban greenspace
Brook Meadow Local Nature Reserve	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Demonstrably special nature reserve on the edge of Emsworth looked after by Brook Meadow Conservation Group
Nore Barn Woods	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Demonstrably special nature reserve on the edge of Emsworth looked after by Friends of Nore Barn Woods
Hollybank Woods	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Demonstrably special nature reserve on the edge of Emsworth looked after by Friends of Hollybank Woods

Is land demonstrably special to the community?

Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquility	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	Designate	Comments
Hampshire Farm Open Space	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Public open space protected as part of the Hampshire Farm development
Langstone Meadows	Havant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Demonstrably special open fields with a public right of way running through it linking Langstone Village to the Billy Trail. Medieval ridge and furrow field markings evident in the upper fields
Havant Park	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Policy E1 site; important urban greenspace
Bidbury Mead	Havant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Well used local park in historic setting with a number of facilities including cricket pitch and equipped children's play area
Hayling Park	Hayling Island	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Policy E1 site; important urban greenspace
Stone's Allotments	Leigh Park	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Valued local allotments established in the nineteenth century and de-allocated for redevelopment through the local plan process

Is land demonstrably special to the community?

Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquility	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	Designate	Comments
Front Lawn Recreation Ground	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Well used local park with a number of facilities including cricket pitch and equipped children's play area
Battins Copse	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Demonstrably special area that is a fragment of ancient woodland from the Forest of Bere in the heart of Leigh Park
Great Copse	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Demonstrably special area that is a fragment of ancient woodland from the Forest of Bere in the heart of Leigh Park
Stockheath Common	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	The common is in the heart of Leigh Park and is well used for community events such as Bonfire Night
Staunton Country Park	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Policy E1 site; a demonstrably special greenspace with farm, gardens and country park
Park Wood	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Demonstrably special area that is a fragment of ancient woodland from the Forest of Bere in the heart of Waterlooville

Is land demonstrably special to the community?

Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	Designate	Comments
Queen's Inclosure	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Demonstrably special area that is a fragment of ancient woodland from the Forest of Bere in the heart of Waterlooville
Purbrook Heath	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Policy E1 site; important urban greenspace
Waterlooville Recreation Ground	Waterlooville	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Policy E1 site; important urban greenspace

Appendix 2: Local Green Space (LGS) Evaluation Matrix

Discounted Sites

Please note that the table below reflects assessments that were carried out in 2013. The way sites are used may have changed since then.

Is land demonstrably special to the community?											
Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	Designate	Comments
The SYRCH Centre at Spencers Field	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Open space well used by young people but not demonstrably special in terms of beauty, history, tranquillity or wildlife
The Horse Field, Havant Road (UE11)	Emsworth	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Private field with no public access
All green spaces between Havant, Warblington, Emsworth, Prinstead, Southbourne etc. should be maintained particularly Nore Barn Woods, Hollybank Woods and Brook Meadow	Emsworth	Partly	Partly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	This is an extensive tract of land and cannot be allocated as a LGS
Interbridges East	Emsworth	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Private field with no public access that is not demonstrably special

Is land demonstrably special to the community?

Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	Designate	Comments
Southleigh Road Recreation Ground	Emsworth	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Well used recreation ground but not demonstrably special in terms of beauty, history, tranquillity or wildlife
Southmere Field, Langstone	Havant	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Private field with no public access that is not demonstrably special
Billy Line Trail	Havant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Well used footpath and cycle way following the track of the former railway line between Havant and Hayling Island. As it is an extensive tract of land it cannot be allocated as LGS
Bosmere School Playing Fields	Havant	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Well landscaped school grounds but without public access
Open green space between Rowans Road and Elder Road, Denvilles	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Attractive pocket park with mature trees, but is not demonstrably special
Open green space lying between Japonica Way, Snowberry Way and Acer Crescent	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Attractive pocket park, but is not demonstrably special

Is land demonstrably special to the community?

Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquility	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	Designate	Comments
Brockhampton Springs	Havant	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Demonstrably special location of Brockhampton Springs in the heart of Havant, but public access is not permitted in order to protect water supply
Warblington School's playing fields	Havant	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Well used school playing fields but without public access
Grounds of the Public Service Plaza	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Well landscaped grounds for Public Service Plaza, but not demonstrably special
Scratchface Lane Recreation Ground	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Well used recreation ground but not demonstrably special
Hooks Lane Recreation Ground	Havant	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Well used recreation ground but not demonstrably special
Foreshore between Langstone and Warblington	Havant/ Emsworth	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Demonstrably special area forming part of the undeveloped gap between Havant and Emsworth. As it is an extensive tract of land in cannot be allocated an a LGS
Land at Goldring Close (UE16)	Hayling Island	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Private field with no public access that is not demonstrably special

Is land demonstrably special to the community?

Site	Area of Borough	Close proximity to community	Public open space	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife	Extensive Tract of Land	Designate	Comments
Hayling Beach	Hayling Island	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Policy E1 site; although it is a demonstrably special area, it is an extensive tract of land and cannot be allocated as a LGS
Open green space next to Old Copse Road	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Well landscaped area that appears well used by local people but not demonstrably special
Hermitage Stream	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Demonstrably special area forming a green/blue corridor in the heart of Leigh Park. As it is an extensive tract of land it cannot be allocated as a LGS
Barton Road Open Space	Leigh Park	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Private field with no public access that has planning permission for a crematorium; not wholly located in Havant Borough
Blendworth Crescent Open Space (L86)	Leigh Park	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Small area of grassland that is not demonstrably special

