



National Criteria for designation of Local Green Spaces

The criteria given by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are that the site should be:

- 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; not an extensive tract of land”.

South Staffordshire’s Assessment criteria for Local Green Space suggestions

NB. The first 4 questions determine whether there are any reasons NOT to designate; the final question asks about the reasons FOR designation.

Assessment question	Key points considered by the Council
<i>Is the site already protected from development and would designation provide no further protection?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whether site overlaps with key national designations restricting development (e.g. Green Belt, AONB, Ancient Woodland, SSSIs, Registered Parks and Gardens, Special Areas of Conservation, National or Local Nature Reserves, Flood Zones 2/3) - Additional protection (if any) offered by Local Green Space designation
<i>Is the site in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there any adjacent existing settlements - Are there legible and safe walking routes providing access to an existing settlement within 800m
<i>Is the site allocated for development or subject of a planning permission?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing planning permissions on whole/part of site - Existing development allocation on whole/part of site (e.g. from the Site Allocations Document 2018) - Emerging development allocation on whole/part of site in the Local Plan Review – Preferred Options
<i>Is the site local in character? Is the site an extensive tract of land?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site area - Spatial relationship to the nearest settlement - Whether there is a distinct, well-contained, character with clearly defined boundaries separating it from wider open countryside
<i>Is the site of particular local importance and is there evidence to show that it is demonstrably special to the community it serves?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of relevant evidence submitted by local communities regarding the site’s local importance - Local evidence base relevant to local recreation, beauty & tranquillity, wildlife and historical significance, or other demonstrable community value, including - Open Space Audits - Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Audits - Nature Recovery Network study (e.g. areas of highly distinctive habitats) - Historic Environment Site Assessment, Historic Environment Character Areas, recorded listed buildings and Conservation Area Management Plans - Landscape Sensitivity Studies

Source:

South Staffordshire Council Preferred Options 2021: Local Green Space Assessment and Methodology Topic Paper

