

Local Green Space Designation

Kinver Neighbourhood Plan

Site selection and review

August 2022

1. Introduction

The Natural Environment White Paper (The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature, 2011) highlighted “the importance of green spaces to the health and happiness of local communities” and cites the many social, environmental and economic benefits they provide.

As a result, Local Green Space designation was introduced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012. This designation can only be made in Local (e.g. South Staffordshire District) Plans or Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP). Once designated, LGSs receive protection broadly consistent with national Green Belt policy thereby only permitting development in exceptional circumstances.

In developing the Kinver Neighbourhood Plan, we felt the opportunity to protect some of our special green spaces should be grasped. This document sets out our approach to identifying, assessing and sites within the Kinver NDP area, as part of the NDP.

1.1 Value of green space

Green spaces, particularly natural green spaces, located close to local people provide a range of social, environmental and economic benefits, including –

- improved mental and physical health
- increased social activity
- increased physical activity
- reduced crime
- improvements to children’s learning
- increased voluntary action
- improved community cohesion and sense of belonging
- potential for local food growing
- more attractive places to live, work, play, visit and invest
- enhanced opportunities for wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors
- climate change adaptation for example by flood alleviation

One of the basic conditions for neighbourhood plans is achieving sustainable development. The social, community, economic and environmental benefits of green spaces help to make local places sustainable.

1.2 The Policy Context

The NPPF (July 2021) states that 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 should be consistent with planning for sustainable development. The criteria for designation are set out.

Although the NPPF describes LGS *protection* as similar to that of Green Belt, the *purpose* is different, and therefore designation of LGS within the Green Belt may provide specific protection for areas valued locally, as distinct from their purpose as Green Belt.

The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG, 2014), clarifies that some areas considered for LGS designation can have no public access, and designation does not confer any rights of public access over what exists at present. The PPG also states that different types of designations have different purposes, and in some cases may be complementary. Landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in a draft plan. Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development.

2. Identifying Potential Local Green Spaces in Kinver

Kinver Parish Council is currently producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which will guide development within the parish in conjunction with the South Staffordshire Local Plan, until 2038. As part of the NDP process, green and open spaces within the parish have been proposed for LGS designation.

For further information on Local Green Space and to read the best practice guide we applied visit: <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/making-local-green-space-designationsneighbourhood-plan/>

2.1 Stages in selecting proposed sites for designation

Initial survey and suggestions	Initial community engagement in 2021, via a questionnaire to all households, demonstrated the importance of local green spaces to the community, and resulted in suggestions of additional sites to be tested against the NPPF criteria.
First list put to informal consultation and reviewed	A list of 39 potential spaces was put forward by the Steering Group in February 2022, to the landowners, and the wider community. Responses to this consultation and comments from South Staffordshire District Council were logged, and taken into account in modifying the list, and some of the boundaries and supporting information.
Final list included in draft plan, for consultation	30 potential spaces were put forward in the Screening Document to South Staffordshire District Council and their comments were noted. Following some further editing, the sites were put forward in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan Regulation-14 consultation. All known

	landowners of proposed Local Green Spaces were consulted, as well as the local community, and the consultation was publicised via local media and the press.
Review before Plan submission	Responses to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan consultation will be taken into account in determining the list which goes forward in the final Plan to be submitted to South Staffordshire District Council

2.2 Community views on Local Green Spaces

During the first household consultation to seek views on issues for the Neighbourhood Plan to address, a large majority of respondents supported protection of the Green Spaces suggested, (including Edward Marsh playing fields, Stag Meadow, White Hill /Staffordshire way and Brockley’s Walk) and a number of additional suggestions were made. All suggestions were considered against the criteria below, and many were included in the list put forward.

Additional spaces suggested for protection included:

- Ridgehill Woods
- Friar’s Gorse and fields to the west of it
- Lawnswood
- All local woodland areas
- Canal and river areas
- Footpaths and woodland at top end of White Hill
- Sterrymere (at Edward Marsh centre)
- Fields west of Hyde Lane
- Field on RHS (north) of White Hill beyond Edge View Walk housing.
- The old orchard within the boundary of the South Staffordshire pumping station building
- Land off Dunsley Road and Drive
- Fields behind Hunter’s Ride and Balmoral Road
- Fields at top of Church Hill, leading to Cookley
- The Hyde hamlet, and surrounding wet woodland near Hyde Lock
- Daneford and Jubilee Gardens in the village
- Chance Wood nature reserve
- Stag Meadow and adjacent fields between river and canal
- Pony paddock on the Compa
- Land adjacent to Kinver Edge
- All of Staffordshire Way
- Hyde Lane walk and the walk adjacent Edward Marsh centre to canal

2.3 Existing accessible green spaces

The Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGST; Natural England 2010) recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace as follows:

- of at least 2 hectares (5 acres) in size, no more than 300 metres (325 yards) (5 minutes

- walk) from home;
- at least one accessible 20 hectare (50 acres) site within two kilometres (1.25 miles) of home;
- one accessible 100 hectare (250 acres) site within five kilometres (3 miles) of home; and
- one accessible 500 hectare (1240 acres) site within ten kilometres (6.25 miles) of home;
- a minimum of one hectare (2.5 acres) of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

Our assessment of sites within Kinver is that even in such a semi-rural area, these standards are not met for many of our people.

- Kinver Edge provides a large green space, but much of the local population lives more than 2km away from it.
- A considerable population along the eastern border of the parish has little access to natural green spaces other than those we are proposing.
- There are no statutory local nature reserves in Kinver parish.
- Some important green spaces used informally do not have protection

2.4 Other protections for green spaces

Green belt

The PPG states that if land is already designated as Green Belt then consideration should be given as to whether any additional local benefit would be gained from designating the land as Local Green Space. Upon due consideration, we have concluded that:

- The purpose of these designations is different. Green belt designation is for the purpose of maintaining separation between settlements. Local Green Space designation is to protect spaces which are special to the community.

Other Designations Affording Protection

In selection of sites, the Steering Group decided that the following designations would generally be considered sufficient to manage development and further designation as a LGS would not normally be necessary.

- Ancient Woodland;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- National Trust, Woodland Trust, and Forestry Commission owned sites;

2.5 Criteria for Green Space designation

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) lists criteria for sites for LGS designation as:

- local in character,
- demonstrably special to a local community and
- have a particular local significance; and
- not be an extensive tract of land.

South Staffordshire District Council have produced a proforma for putting forward sites for

Local Green Space Designation, based on the NPPF criteria, and we have used that document as the basis for our assessments.

With regard to the special character and significance of the site, the NPPF lists five factors as examples for consideration, which the Steering Group has interpreted as follows:

- **Beauty** –visual attractiveness of the area(s) and their vegetation, including contribution to landscape character. Importance in forming the identity of place.
- **Historic significance** – factors include whether the area has archaeological value, is within, or impacts upon, a conservation area or provides a setting for a statutorily listed building or similar historic feature.
- **Recreational value** – does the area support activities or events which provide value to the community and are of local significance. Recreational facilities such as bowling greens, golf courses, playing fields and play areas may not on their own be suitable for designation unless they form part of a wider area which merits inclusion such that their location in that area is particularly valued or special.
- **Tranquillity** – this includes providing value through offering an area which is away from urban areas or provides a space for reflection. These areas will allow its users to be away from pollution and noise of the urban area and provide an environment whereby the users can escape to.
- **Richness of wildlife** – the area(s) may have ecological importance, be subject to local, national or international designations due to wildlife or support wildlife through its habitat and/or location within a wildlife corridor.
- **Other** – including food production and flood mitigation

The term 'local' is not defined, but for many cases it is taken to mean that it is within walking distance of the community to whom it relates. However interpretation depends to some degree on catchment area for the activities supported. Kinver draws visitors from a wide area, and some of its spaces are much appreciated and used by visitors from the surrounding districts as well. In this context, it is worth noting that Kinver's eastern boundary for much of its length is the boundary of the built-up area of the west midlands conurbation. The boundary is along a ridge which forms a visual break and gives lovely views. Many green places close to this boundary are highly valued both by residents of Kinver parish, and by those living in the adjacent parts of the conurbation. We believe they merit protection for all.

The term 'extensive tract of land' is also not defined, but the purpose is to avoid blanket designations, and designation purely to block development. As a rule of thumb, this has been taken to imply a usual limit of around 20 ha. Local Green Spaces should have 'clear and defensible boundaries', e.g. field hedges, roads/tracks or woodland, and this sometimes affects the minimum practical size of the designation.

Planning permission

Sites with planning permission for development are not deemed suitable for designation. Sadly, one of the sites originally strongly put forward by residents, and appreciated by walkers along the Staffordshire Way, has had to be excluded. Although there is no planning permission on the site, South Staffordshire District Council advised that it had been identified for development under the Local Plan, had been taken out of green belt as 'safeguarded land' for this purpose, and therefore could not be put forward for designation.

3. Informal consultation on proposed Local Green Spaces

An informal consultation on the initial list of proposed sites was held in spring 2022, in order to ensure that all relevant local information was brought to bear. All landowners who could be traced were contacted, as well as other stakeholders, and members of the community who had asked to be kept informed. The consultation was publicised on local media and websites.

As a result of this consultation, a few sites were dropped from the list, and some modifications were made to boundaries and details. A summary of responses received and the decisions made after the consultation is given in the Appendix.

The list of sites going forward into the Regulation 14 consultation on the Kinver Neighbourhood Development Plan is given below, with links to the site descriptions.

A summary of the outcome of the consultation and resulting modifications is given in the Appendix.

4. Regulation 14 Consultation

The Local Green Spaces put forward for designation in the draft Kinver Neighbourhood Plan Regulation-14 consultation are listed below:

Proposed Local Green Spaces for Designation

No	Name of Space	POSTCODE
K01	Chance Wood	DY7 5BQ
K02	Tramway Wood	DY7 6LS
K03	Grass bend on canal N of Hyde Lock	DY7 6LT
K04	Paddocks North of Marsh playing fields	DY7 6LS
K05	Woods N of Marsh Playing Fields	DY7 6ET
K06	Edward Marsh Playing Fields	DY7 6ET
K07	Kinver High Nature Reserve and Woods	DY7 6ET
K08	Kinver High School upper	DY7 6AA
K09	Kinver High School lower	DY7 6AA
K10	Jubilee gardens	DY7 6ER
K11	Daneford gardens	DY7 6ER
K12	Stag Meadow area	DY7 6ER
K13	Marketplace Green	DY7 6HL
K14	Foley Infant School	DY7 6EN
K15	Scout Camp	DY7 6HR
K16	Church Road junction Sandy Lane	DY7 6HX
K17	By Staffs Way N of Redcliff Covert	DY7 6AP
K18	Hanging Hill	DY7 6HZ
K19	Riverside near Anchor Cottages	DY7 6NU
K20	Brockleys Riverside Walk	DY7 6JT
K21	Field N of Dunsley Rd as enter Kinver	DY7 6LR
K22	Roman Fort	DY6 0AQ
K23	Ridgehill Wood	DY8 5JL
K24	Wood and Field south of Ridgehill Wood	DY7 5QL
K25	Friar's Gorse Wood	DY7 5QN
K26	Friar's Gorse Sandy Fields	DY8 5HU
K27	Fields behind Hyperion Road along canal	DY7 6SD
K28	New Wood at Hyperion Road	DY7 6SD
K29	The Ridge Wood	DY8 3PJ
K30	Little Iverley Covert	DY8 3LF

5. Appendix. Summary of response and actions following informal LGS consultation

Sites taken forward after informal consultation Feb 2022						
K No.	Previous No	Name	Post Code	Positive Comments	Negative Comments	General and informative Comments
K01	15	Chance Wood	DY7 5BQ		1. Owners worried that being a Local Green Space will bring a higher footfall and damage to the wood.	
K02	59	Tramway Wood	DY7 6LS		1. Landowner concerned public will assume LGS equals public right of access .	2. PC was advised of interest in possible reinstatement of weir for hydropower 3. Landowner: Access is required by South Staffordshire Water to a small area of the site. Also requested confirmation that site did not include C&RT land
K03	13	Grass bend on canal N of Hyde Lock	DY7 6LT		1. Landowner: Does not see this as a significant site for LGS designation.	2.Landowner: part of land originally included is Canal and Rivers Trust: Hyde Lock and required for canal working. Also C&RT status provides sufficient protection
K04	11	Paddocks North of Marsh playing fields	DY7 6LS	1. Landowner. In favour		
K05	40	Woods N of Marsh Playing fields	DY7 6ET			
K06	51	Edward Marsh Playing Fields	DY7 6ET	1. Landowner supportive		
K07	41	High School Nature Reserve	DY7 6ET		1. Landowner considers the school land is adequately protected by S77 rules and could be required for school building	1. Prior to the consultation, discussions with school confirmed they did not have plans for expansion. This piece of land is not suitable for building being either steep or in flood plain. Value to the community unchanged.
K08	53	High School Upper	DY7 6AA		1. Landowner considers the school land is adequately protected by S77 rules and could be required for school building	1. Prior to the consultation, discussions had been held with the school who stated they did not have plans for expansion. Space has also been left around the existing buildings to allow flexibility
						Notes by Steering Group 1. LGS does not change access, and the site has a notice stating it is a reserve, at its access gate from the footpath
						Changes made None Boundary adjusted
						Retain Site? Y

Sites taken forward after informal consultation Feb 2022

K No.	Previous No	Name	Post Code	Positive Comments	Negative Comments	General and informative Comments	Notes by Steering Group	Changes made	Retain Site?
K09		52 High School Lower	DY7 6AA	1. Other. Adjacent junior school value the green surroundings and outlook.	2. Landowner considers the school land is adequately protected by S77 rules and could be required for school building		2. Prior to the consultation, discussions had been held with the school who stated they did not have plans for expansion. This area is not close to the main buildings	None	Y
K10		27 Jubilee gardens	DY7 6ER					None	Y
K11		26 Daneford gardens	DY7 6ER					None	Y
K12		44 Stag Meadow area	DY7 6ER					None	Y
K13		25 Marketplace Green	DY7 6HL					None	Y
K14		54 Foley Infant School	DY7 6EN	1. School supportive	2. Landowner considers the school land is adequately protected by S77 rules and could be required for school building	None	Foley school are in favour of the designation. The land is separated from the school buildings by public access path, no plans to extend building there. Proposal unchanged.	None	Y
K15		39 Scout Camp	DY7 6HR	1. Trustees generally supportive of Neighbourhood Plan	1. Trustees are concerned public will assume LGS equals public right of access . Concerned over protection of children (safeguarding), lone workers on site and property. Also considered that green belt and conservation area provided sufficient protection. 2. The land owner wishes the site to be removed as he feels it does not meet the government criteria of a LGS	2. 3. Two other landowners informed us that they were mistakenly included in the original map.	1. Owner objection does not affect the criteria. Other protections are Green Belt and Conservation Area. We consider LGS protection in this context is a valuable complement. 2.,3., Error to be corrected.	Boundary error corrected	Y
K16		16 Church Road / Comber road junction	DY7 6HX					None	Y
K17		35 By Staffs Way N of Redcliff Covert	DY7 6AP		1. Landowner objects: a). Green Belt protection is sufficient b). Special nature has not been demonstrated.		1. a) Green belt protection has a different purpose. b) the value of the site especially for recreation and wildlife has been demonstrated.	None	Y
K18		23 Hanging Hill	DY7 6HZ		1. Landowner supportive in principle but concerned a) that LGS designation will allow increased access. B) that it will prevent putting up useful structures e.g. horse shelters.		1. Resolved by slight reduction in area to provide flexibility, and e)Explanation of LGS implications. Name changed as original name caused confusion.	Boundary adjusted	Y

Sites taken forward after informal consultation Feb 2022						
K No.	Previous No	Name	Post Code	Positive Comments	Negative Comments	General and informative Comments
K29	6	The Ridge Wood	DY8 3PJ		1. Landowner is worried that as a Local Green Space will restrict options for land use 2. Landowner is worried that as a Local Green Space it will attract more trespassing on to his land.	Notes by Steering Group 1. and 2. LGS designation will not affect land use or access
K30	8	Little Iwerley Covert	DY8 3LF			None None
Sites not taken forward after Informal Consultation Feb 2022						
K No.	Previous No	Name	Post Code	Positive Comments	Negative Comments	General and informative Comments
N/A	10	Gardens at the Vine	DY7 6LJ		1. Owner: Does not meet criteria and could affect value of asset	2. Consultant advice that can be considered a private garden, therefore unsuitable.
N/A	35 37	Jenks Ave White Hill. And Potter's Cross Farm	DY7 6AJ and	1. Community support	2. Landowner Land is safeguarded for development.	3. South Staffordshire DC safeguarded land for future development
N/A	43	Stourbridge Lawn Tennis Club	DY7 6PS	1. Community support	2. Landowner Land is safeguarded for development.	3. South Staffordshire DC safeguarded land for future development
N/A	47	Allotments Greensforge	DY7 5BD		0 Private club.	Concluded that the site itself was not sufficiently special to warrant designation; private club.
N/A	55	Mile Flat Playing Fields 1 (west)	DY6 0AW		1. Landowner objected, the site is a private arrangement for specific individuals to access his land, not a community facility 2. Objected by private citizens, same grounds.	The allotments are listed as a parish facility on SSDC's documentation, but this proved not to be so. Private site adjacent to home, not suitable for LGS designation.
N/A	56	Mile Flat Playing fields 2 (east)	DY6 0AW		Landowner 1. Object because supportive of housing development in the area and site does not meet criteria Landowner 2. Object because does not meet criteria, large area, already protected by Green Belt 3. Other business, not playing fields 4. Golf range	The sporting facility is protected by existing policies. The site itself is not sufficiently special to warrant designation. Part of the site is in other/ business uses.
N/A	57	Stourbridge Rugby Club, Stourton	DY7 6QZ			The sporting facility is protected by existing policies. The site itself is not sufficiently special to warrant designation.