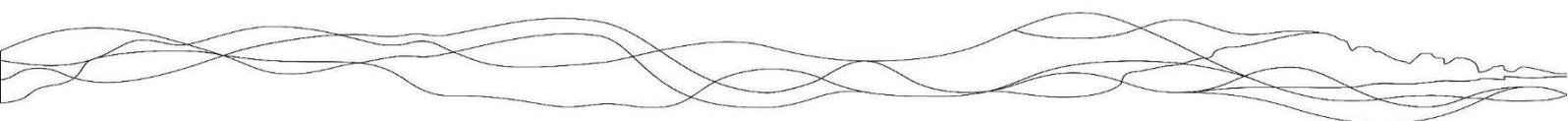


# **Local Green Spaces Assessment**

**An evaluation of Local Green Spaces proposed for the  
Thrupton Neighbourhood Plan (TNP)**

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July 2017



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# I. INTRODUCTION

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## **Background to the Project**

- I.1** Thruxton Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group is preparing a neighbourhood plan which will include a policy designating areas of Local Green Space (LGS) which are particularly valued by the local community.
- I.2** The Steering Group has commissioned the South Downs National Park Consultancy Service to undertake an independent review of the sites which have been put forward for LGS designation. This assessment sets out the policy and guidance relevant to the designation of Local Green Spaces and evaluates the sites against these.
- I.3** The South Downs National Park Consultancy Service currently operates under the umbrella of the South Downs National Park. The aim is to provide support to neighbourhood planning in other National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), market towns and rural communities.
- I.4** The Officers working within the consultancy service have the benefit of the experience of working within the South Downs National Park supporting almost 50 communities producing neighbourhood plans. We have used the outcome of around 15 examinations of NDPs to inform our assessment of what is and is not considered to be a LGS.

## **Structure of this report**

- I.5** Section 2 of this report sets out key elements of national and local policy, and guidance, for LGS designation. Section 3 summarises the methodology undertaken. Section 4 sets out the key conclusions of the assessment. The initial sieve matrix and the detailed evaluation matrix are presented within appendix 1 and 2 respectively. Appendix 3 includes a settlement scale map showing the distribution of the proposed LGS sites, followed by a site level map of each site.

## 2. POLICY CONTEXT

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### What are Local Green Spaces?

2.1. Local Green Space designation is a way to provide protection for green areas of special importance to local communities. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2012 introduced the concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designation<sup>1</sup>.

### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

2.2. Paragraph 76 of the NPPF says that local communities should be able to identify green spaces of particular importance to them through local and neighbourhood plans. These designations would rule out development other than in very special circumstances and should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.

- Paragraph 77 of the NPPF recognises that the LGS designation would not be appropriate for most green areas. It sets out the following criteria for designation of LGS sites:
  - Is 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), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
  - Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

2.3. Paragraph 78 of the NPPF states that local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

### National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

2.4. The National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) includes further guidance on the LGS designation<sup>2</sup>. The guidance addresses many common questions about the LGS designation, particularly relating to what sort of sites would be suitable for designation and what the designation means in practice. The following paragraphs in the PPG are of particular relevance for the evaluation of sites for LGS designation. Key points are summarised below:

- Paragraph 007 – LGS designation should be consistent with local planning for sustainable development and should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making;
- Paragraph 008 – generally LGS designation is rarely appropriate for land which is subject to planning permission for development;

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<sup>1</sup> DCLG (2012). National Planning Policy Framework. [ONLINE] Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> DCLG (2014). Planning Practice Guidance, Local Green Space designation. [ONLINE] Available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

- Paragraph 011 - if land is already protected by designation (such as Site of Special Scientific Interest or National Park), then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by LGS designation;
- Paragraph 014 – the proximity of a LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special e.g. if public access is a factor, then the site should be in easy walking distance;
- Paragraph 015 – there are no hard and fast rules about how big a LGS can be because places are different and a degree of judgement will inevitably be needed. However, the National Planning Policy Framework is clear that LGS designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land. Consequently blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate;
- Paragraph 017 – some areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may already have largely unrestricted public access, however land could be considered for LGS designation if there is no public access (e.g. if valued for biodiversity, historic significance and/or beauty). LGS designation in itself does not confer any rights of public access over what exists at present;
- Paragraph 018 – in terms of public rights of way, there is no need to designate linear corridors as Local Green Space simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation.

### **Test Valley Borough Development Plan**

- 2.5.** The Test Valley Borough Revised Local Plan DPD - 2011 - 2029<sup>3</sup> was adopted in January 2016 and includes strategic policies and a number of allocations. The National Planning Practice Guidance PPG<sup>4</sup> advises that a draft neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force if it is to meet basic condition (e). Although a draft neighbourhood plan or Order is not tested against the policies in an emerging Local Plan, the reasoning and evidence informing the Local Plan process is likely to be relevant to the consideration of the basic conditions against which a neighbourhood plan is tested. Therefore the Thruxton NDP, including its LGS designations, should have due regard to relevant policies and evidence supporting the Test Valley Borough Development Plan.
- 2.6.** A Green Infrastructure Strategy July 2014<sup>5</sup> was prepared by Test Valley Borough Council and this forms part of the Local Development Framework evidence base. This document sets out how Test Valley will support rural communities to protect and enhance green infrastructure including through policies set out in neighbourhood plans.

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<sup>3</sup>Test Valley Borough Revises Local Plan 2016. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/local-development-framework/dpd>

<sup>4</sup>DCLG. 2016. Planning Practice Guidance, What is neighbourhood planning, paragraph 009. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/what-is-neighbourhood-planning/what-is-a-neighbourhood-plan-and-what-is-its-relationship-to-a-local-plan/>

<sup>5</sup>Test Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy [ONLINE] Available at <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/draft-green-infrastructure>

- 2.7. Regard has also been given in the assessment to the Thruxton Village Design Statement<sup>6</sup> which is adopted by the Borough Council as a Supplementary Planning Document. This provides an appraisal of the village and guidance to guide future development and manage change.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

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- 3.1 The criteria set out above in Section 2 (Policy Context) form the basis for the evaluation of the 12 sites that have been put forward for assessment by Thruxton Neighbourhood Planning Group. The Group has carried out a large amount of research into the sites to inform their decision regarding what sites might be suitable, including land appraisals and 'Place Checks', which are set out in a series of background documents that support the Neighbourhood Plan. These documents have also informed the assessment.
- 3.2 Initially 18 sites were considered for assessment by the group but following public consultation with the community in May 2017, the number was reduced to 12 for independent assessment by the South Downs National Park Authority's Consultancy. The 12 sites put forward for assessment are shown on the Overview Map of Sites Assessed for Designation as Local Green Spaces in Appendix 3. A two stage process has been undertaken in this evaluation: a desktop study 'first sieve', followed by a detailed evaluation. The methodology is explained further below.

### Stage 1: Desktop review and first sieve

- 3.3 The first stage of this evaluation involves a desktop assessment of the sites described in the 'Neighbourhood Planning Group's Potential Local Green Space Allocation May 2017' document against 4 initial criteria in order to identify and discard sites which are clearly not able to meet the NPPF criteria. The criteria are:
- The green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
  - The green space concerned is local in character and not an extensive tract of land;
  - The green space is not allocated for another use; and
  - The green space does not already have planning permission for development.
- 3.4 There are no clear specifications in the NPPF or in the PPG on precisely what constitutes 'close proximity to the community'. As noted above, the PPG, in general terms advises that where public access is a key factor, then the site would normally be in easy walking distance of the community served.
- 3.5 Similarly there is no clear definition of what constitutes an extensive tract of land but it must be local in character and therefore large areas of green space which are of much more than local significance have been carefully considered to make a judgment as to whether they are fulfilling

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<sup>6</sup> Thruxton Village Design Statement 2006 [ONLINE] Available at <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planningpolicy/village-design-statements/thruxtonvds>

the spirit and purpose of this LGS designation. However the NPPF and PPG are clear that blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements is not appropriate.

- 3.6** Paragraph 77 of the NPPF sets out a further test; namely that the green area is demonstrably special to the local community. This criteria requires a more detailed analysis which is undertaken through stage 2 of this evaluation.

## Stage 2: Detailed analysis

- 3.7** The second stage of this evaluation involves a more detailed analysis of those sites that remain following the first sieve. This focuses on the following criteria, set out in paragraph 77 of the NPPF, which states that the LGS designation should only be used where:

- The green area is 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 in wildlife.'

- 3.8** In order to fulfil the requirements, at least one of the above five criteria must be met.

- 3.9** The assessment of whether a proposed site is demonstrably special to the local community for the five criteria is challenging because terms such as 'beauty' are largely subjective. This assessment has considered each of these five terms using the key considerations and prompts as set out below when observing on site. Information contained in the Neighbourhood Planning Group's Potential Local Green Space Allocation Report and background information has also been used.

- **Beauty** - Beauty is clearly a very subjective concept but we have used the normal meaning of the word i.e. a combination of qualities, such as shape, colour, or form that pleases the aesthetic senses, especially the sight, (Oxford Dictionaries).
- **Historic significance** – Consideration has been given to how the proposed LGS holds particular local significance with regard to the history of the community or settlement e.g. historic village events, historic buildings, structure or landscape features present on site with a particular connection to the local community.
- **Recreational value** – This value has been assessed utilising evidence included in the Neighbourhood Planning Group's Potential Local Green Space Allocation Report and background information, and first hand observations from site visits of how the site is used for recreation e.g. playing sport, informal recreation, children's play etc.
- **Tranquillity** - Tranquillity is considered to be a state of calm, quietude and is associated with a feeling of peace; a state of mind that promotes mental wellbeing. It is a perceptual quality of the landscape, and is influenced by things that people can both see and hear around them. Positive tranquillity factors include seeing a natural landscape, natural looking woodland, rivers and open vistas, and hearing natural sounds such as birdsong, an absence of human activity, or even silence.
- **Wildlife** – Consideration has been given to how the proposed LGS holds particular local significance for example through its management for wildlife, or for its role for local wildlife within the settlement.

**3.10** Two additional criteria are included into the matrix for reasons as set out below:

- **Public access** – Although not a requirement for LGS designation, public access can be a key factor as to why the site may be considered demonstrably special, for example with regard to its beauty or recreational value. This criteria has been added to assist in identifying where public access is necessary in order to fulfil the criteria.
- **Layers of designation** – The PPG asks that, where there are already protective designations on site, consideration is given to any additional benefit LGS designation would offer.

## 4. KEY CONCLUSIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT

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### Stage 1: Desktop review and first sieve

**4.1** This first stage of assessment considered each of the 12 proposed LGS sites identified in the Neighbourhood Planning Group's Potential Local Green Space Allocation May 2017 report. The details of this assessment are set out in the matrix in Appendix 1. Through this process, the following one site was discarded. The names and numbering of sites corresponds with that of the Neighbourhood Planning Group's report.

- **LGS15 (ii) - Land between Coach Park and Village to the west of Mullens Pond**  
This is a very large arable field at the north eastern edge of the village with a footpath running through the centre. The field is nearly the same size in area as the settlement of Thruxton itself. The site has been ruled out at the first desk top stage as it is considered to be an extensive tract of agricultural land, as set out in paragraph 015 of the PPG. The footpath is important to the community for providing access to the countryside and is part of a walking loop to Fyfield Church and the other side of the village. However, the PPG provides clear guidance that Local Green Spaces should not be designated simply to protect rights of way (which are already protected under other legislation), nor open countryside. We suggest that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group may wish to give consideration to including polices and supporting text in the Neighbourhood Plan explaining the importance of specific footpaths to the local community and that these and there setting should be protected.

**4.2** The desktop analysis found that the remaining 11 sites appear to fulfil the initial criteria and are therefore considered in more detail in the next stage of the assessment.

### Stage 2: Detailed analysis

**4.3** This second stage of assessment involved a detailed analysis of the remaining 11 proposed LGS sites. To support the detailed analysis of this stage 2 assessment, site visits were undertaken in May 2017 and were supported by further desk top analysis as necessary. An appraisal was made of each proposed LGS to see whether they met the criteria set in the NPPF. The details of this assessment is set out in the matrix in Appendix 2. Of these the following three sites were identified as not fulfilling the criteria at this time:

- **LGS6 - Manor House Lands with field and wood** – The site is located on the north western edge of the village settlement, and contains the site of the original fortified Thruxton Manor, which is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is also within

the Thruxton Conservation Area. The site is private gardens and woodland associated with the current Thruxton Manor. While this piece of land clearly has historic significance, it is tucked away, not publicly accessible or open to public view from roads or footpaths. In addition, the PPG advises that the question should be asked whether any additional value would be added by LGS status, where there are already protective designations on site. The site is afforded protection by being almost wholly within the Scheduled Ancient Monument designation and the additional designation as LGS would not offer any further benefit above this. It is therefore considered on balance that this site should not be designated as Local Green Space.

- **LGS11 Small parcel of land in Lambourne Way with Post Box and Notice Board**  
- This small incidental piece of grassed open land was left over when the Lambourne Way housing estate was built in the late 1960's. It was too small for a building plot due to the location of a sub-station which is immediately behind it. The land was acquired by the Parish Council and used to site the post box and a village notice board. While the site is useful for these purposes and valued by the local community, it is not demonstrably special with regard to any of the NPPF criteria, and is therefore not considered suitable to be designated as Local Green Space.
- **LGS15 (i) – Land between Coach Park and Village to the east of Mullens Pond**  
- This site is an arable agricultural field that slopes gently down towards an attractive well-used, wide footpath. This runs along the western boundary of the site adjacent to the Mullens Pond area and is bordered by a hedge that contains a variety of species. Views of the surrounding countryside can be afforded from the footpath which leads out across pastureland beyond the site to the isolated, picturesque Fyfield Church. As is the case of LGS15 (ii) - Land between Coach Park and Village to the west of Mullens Pond, the footpath is important to the community for providing access to the countryside and is part of the walking loop to Fyfield Church and the other side of the village. However, as explained above, the PPG makes it clear that it is not appropriate to designate Local Green Spaces simply to protect rights of way (which are already protected under other legislation), nor open countryside.

It is recognised that the footpath and the field have some attractive intrinsic rural qualities and that the footpath is important in providing access to the countryside. However, the site is in effect a fairly intensively used agricultural field, similar to many others forming part of the countryside surrounding the village, and does not meet the high tests of being demonstrably special to the community with regards to the specific NPPF criteria. Alternatively, we suggest that the Neighbourhood Planning Group might wish to consider the inclusion of polices and supporting text explaining the importance of specific footpaths to the local community and that these and there setting should be protected.

**4.4** In total, 8 sites were considered to fulfil the criteria.

### **Conclusion**

**4.5** The assessment undertaken has identified the following 8 sites which are considered to fulfil the criteria:

- LGS3 - The Village Green
- LGS4 - Manorial Earthworks
- LGS5 - Snowdrop Field

- LGS7 - Churchyard
- LGS8 - Recreation Ground
- LGS9 - Allotments
- LGS12 - Mullen's Pond and surrounding fields
- LGS14 - Land between Coach Park and Dauntsey Lane

**4.6** The analysis and conclusions set out in this report are the result of an independent review of the sites proposed for inclusion in the Thruxton Neighbourhood Plan, and provide an indication of the suitability of these sites for LGS designation in relation to the criteria and guidance of the NPPF and PPG. The Neighbourhood Planning group may wish to supplement this assessment with further technical or contextual information demonstrating how the site is special to the local community which may ultimately lead them to come to a different conclusion than ourselves.

# APPENDIX I: INITIAL DESK TOP ASSESSMENT

Site Name	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment?
	Planning permission?	Allocated/proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
LGS 3 - The Village Green	No	No	Yes	No	Located at the core of the village settlement and is a clearly defined village green.	Yes
LGS 4 - Manorial Earthworks	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the village settlement and conservation area, adjacent to roads and is a clearly defined small field. Contains Site of Scheduled Ancient Monument.	Yes
LGS 5 - Snowdrop Field	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the village settlement and conservation area, adjacent to road and is a clearly defined piece of land.	Yes
LGS 6 - Manor House Lands with field and wood	No	No	Yes	No	Edge of village settlement, private gardens and woodland within conservation area and is a clearly defined piece of land. Contains Scheduled Ancient Monument.	Yes
LGS 7 - Churchyard	No	No	Yes	No	Located within village settlement and conservation area, is a clearly defined church and churchyard that is publicly accessible.	Yes
LGS 8 - Recreation Ground	No	No	Yes	No	Located at northern edge of village settlement and is a clearly defined recreation ground adjacent to local school.	Yes

Site Name	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment?
	Planning permission?	Allocated/ proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
LGS 9 - Allotments	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement, this site is clearly a linear piece of land used for allotments.	Yes
LGS 11 - Small parcel of land in Lambourne Way with Post Box and Notice Board	Yes	No	Yes	No	Located within the village settlement, the site is a clearly defined area of incidental open space.	Yes
LGS 12 - Mullen's Pond and surrounding fields	No	No	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location. The site is a clearly defined wetland and pasture site. Contains Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.	Yes
LGS 14 - Land between Coach Park and Dauntsey Lane	No	SHLAA site	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location. The site is a clearly defined agricultural field with a footpath on its eastern boundary. Historic Environment Record shows an archaeological site identified in the north eastern area of site.	Yes
LGS 15(i) - Land between Coach Park and Village to the east of Mullens Pond	No	SHLAA site	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location. The site is a clearly defined agricultural field with a footpath on its western boundary.	Yes
LGS 15(ii) - Land between Coach Park and Village to the west of Mullens Pond	No	SHLAA site	Yes	Yes	Edge of settlement location. The site is a clearly defined, very large, agricultural field with a footpath running through its centre. The Historic Environment Record shows the location of an archaeological site in the northern section of the site. The site is an extensive tract of agricultural	No

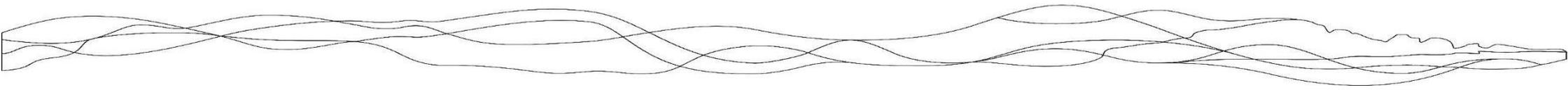
Criteria						
Site Name	Planning permission?	Allocated/ proposed for development	In close proximity to community	Extensive tract of land?	Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment?
					land as defined in paragraph 015 of the National Planning Practice Guide, and screened out for further assessment.	

## APPENDIX 2: LOCAL GREEN SPACE DETAILED ASSESSMENT

Site name	Publicly accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regards to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
LGS3 - The Village Green	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	<p>An attractive and well-kept formal open space, overlooked on three sides by mostly historic vernacular buildings, and located at the heart of the village and conservation area. The Village Green performs an important civic and recreational function and is well used by the community. The annual village fete is held here. The flag pole, presented to the Village by the Racing Circuit on the occasion of the Millennium, is raised here by the resident “Flagmaster” daily. It is officially registered as a Village Green.</p> <p>The site is demonstrably special to the community for its recreational significance.</p>	Yes
LGS4 - Manorial Earthworks	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	<p>The northern half of this site includes part of the original fortified Thruxton Manor, designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the land is located within the Thruxton Conservation Area. While not publicly accessible, the site is open to view from Church Lane. The site provides a picturesque backdrop in views from the lane due to its grouping of trees and topography, where the remains of the manorial earthworks are visible in the landform.</p>	Yes

Site name	Publically accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regards to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
								<p>Due to its position, at the western corner of the Village, adjoining the Church, churchyard and Manor House gardens, it is also provides a relatively tranquil scene. The site makes an important contribution to the special historic character and spacious, rural appearance of the earliest part of the conservation area, which has managed to survive over the centuries.</p> <p>The site is demonstrably special to the community for its history, beauty and tranquillity.</p>	
LGS5 - Snowdrop Field	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	<p>This is a delightful site that forms part of the private gardens of Thruxton Manor. It is bordered by The Street and Church Lane and is located in the far western corner of the conservation area and village. This part of the village has a quiet secluded character. At the time of the site visit, at the beginning of the Summer, open views of the site were largely hidden by mature trees along its boundary, however the site could be seen in the gaps between these. The Neighbourhood Planning Group's Local Green Space report, and comments from the community engagement, however, clearly mention views of the site from the roads and that the site is particularly noted for its abundance of snowdrops in the Spring. The site is therefore likely to be more open to</p>	Yes

Site name	Publically accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regards to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
								<p>view when trees are not in leaf, at other times of the year. Importantly, the site forms part of the setting to a number of designated heritage assets, including the listed Manor House, the fortified manor Scheduled Ancient Monument and grade I listed church. It is also a key area of open space within the conservation area. As in the case of LGS 5 – Snowdrop Field, the site makes an important contribution to the special historic character and spacious, rural appearance of the earliest part of the conservation area, which has managed to survive over the centuries.</p> <p>A tributary of Pillhill Brook runs along the southern boundary where irises and other wildlife can be seen. The trees along the southern and eastern boundaries of the site are identified as priority habitat broadleaved deciduous woodland and are also covered by a group Tree Preservation Order. The buried foundations of a building associated with the former Manor complex are also located here and the site is also part of a much larger Architectural Notification Area. Public comments received at the Local Green Space consultation exercise highlight the value of the site to the community as a result of its beauty, history, wildlife value and as a result of its perceived tranquil</p>	



Site name	Publicly accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regards to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
								character. The site is therefore demonstrably special to the community for its beauty, history, wildlife and tranquillity.	
LGS6 - Manor House Lands with field and wood	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	The site is located on the north western edge of the village settlement and includes the site of the original fortified Thruxton Manor which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It is also within the Thruxton Conservation Area. The land comprises private gardens and woodland associated with the current Thruxton Manor. While this piece of land has historic value, it is tucked away, not publically accessible or open to view from roads or footpaths. It is also afforded protection through almost being wholly within the Scheduled Monument designation and LGS status would not add any additional benefit above this.	No
LGS7 - Churchyard	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	St Peter and St Paul's Church and churchyard form part of an attractive historic grouping at the western edge of the village and are a key part of the special character and appearance of the conservation area. Originally 13th Century, the church is grade I listed. The enclosed and secluded churchyard is approached on foot via a gate from the relatively quiet Church Lane with the large Church and its castellated tower standing at the western end. Churchyards are culturally tranquil areas and this one set away from the road, with its shady trees, offers a secluded place for people to sit and contemplate. The large weeping beech tree is a magnificent and impressive feature of this churchyard. Churchyards are also often important places for wildlife given their variety of planting.	Yes

Site name	Publicly accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regards to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
								The site is demonstrably special to the community for its beauty, history, tranquillity and wildlife.	
LGS8 - Recreation Ground	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	The Recreation Ground is a large triangular piece of land at the apex of two roads at the northern edge of the village. It is adjacent to the local school and contains formal playing pitches and a play area for young children. It is an important local recreational facility for both the school and the community. The land is leased to the Parish Council and sub-leased to the 3 Villages Sports Trust for a peppercorn rent. The site is demonstrably special to the community for its recreational significance.	Yes
LGS9 - Allotments	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	The Allotments are attractively laid out on a linear piece of land at the eastern side of the Village and set up above Stanbury Road. Due to their proximity to the A303, the site is not tranquil but the mature trees on the eastern boundary reduces some of the traffic noise and screens the site from the road. Given the variety of planting, the site is important for wildlife. As the Neighbourhood Planning Group's Local Green Space Report explains, the allotments are an important and valued local recreational community facility with all of the plots occupied. The land belongs to the Church and the Parish pays a fee	Yes

Site name	Publicly accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
								to rent it on an annual basis. The site is demonstrably special to the community for its recreational and wildlife significance.	
LGS11 - Small parcel of land in Lambourne Way with Post Box and Notice Board	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	This small incidental piece of grassed open land was left over when the Lambourne Way housing estate was built in the late 1960's as it was too small for a building plot with the sub-station located immediately behind it. The Community's Local Green Spaces Report explains that the Parish Council is now the registered owner and they use this small area to site the post box and a village notice board. Flowering cherry has been planted on the land.  While the site is useful for these purposes and valued by the local community, it is not demonstrably special with regard to any of the NPPF criteria and is therefore not considered suitable to be designated as Local Green Space.	No
LGS12 Mullen's Pond and surrounding fields	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	This site has a naturalistic, non-intensively managed appearance and pastoral quality containing Mullens Pond and Pilhill Brook set within pastureland. The Neighbourhood Planning Group's Local Green Space Report explains that the current Mullens Pond was created by	Yes

Site name	Publicly accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
								<p>the abstraction of gravel for the wartime runways at Thrupton Airfield. The land is home to a range of wetland birds including swans, geese, ducks and other waterfowl. As a result of its wildlife value it has a local designation as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) for its unimproved grassland, wetlands and species. It also contains priority habitats of Purple Moor Grass and Rush pastures and Eutrophic Standing waters. In addition, the site is designated as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). While not publicly accessible, the site can be viewed from the adjacent footpath and the road and contributes to the attractive eastern entrance to the village.</p> <p>The site is demonstrable special to the community for its wildlife and beauty.</p>	
LGS14 Land between Coach Park and Dauntsey Lane	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	<p>The site is a fairly enclosed agricultural field with a well-used footpath running along its eastern boundary. The north western boundary contains Leylandii trees and an artificial bund screening the coach park runs along part of the eastern boundary. While not an especially attractive piece of countryside, a Roman villa complex was excavated here and the remains of an interesting mosaic are at the British Museum. The Historic Environment Record for this site lists</p>	Yes

Site name	Publically accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
								<p>a vast range of archaeological evidence that has been excavated at the site and archaeological journals and local history accounts of Thruxton reference and highlight its historical importance.</p> <p>Discussions with the County Archaeologist suggest that the site is of Regional importance. It is also of significance in helping to explain the early history and importance of the settlement of Thruxton. The siting of a Roman Villa here is also highlighted on the village notice board and is mentioned in local literature. The story of this occupation at Thruxton has been clearly adopted by the community as part of their local history. The site is also not afforded any additional protection by other designations.</p> <p>The site is demonstrably special to the community for its historical value and is publically accessible. The understanding of the historical importance of this site could be enhanced, subject to agreement with the landowner, by interpretation material and marking in an appropriate manner, through landscaping, the outline of some of the features of the villa complex.</p>	
LGSI5(i) Land between Coach Park and Village to the east of Mullens Pond	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	<p>This site is a rectangular, arable agricultural field. It slopes gently down towards an attractive well-used, wide footpath on its western boundary, bordered by a low hedgerow that contains a variety of species, adjacent to Mullens Pond and its pastureland. Views of the</p>	No

Site name	Publicly accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community for its:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
								<p>adjacent countryside can be afforded from the footpath which leads out beyond the site to the isolated historic Fyfield Church.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Planning Group's Local Green Space report explains that this footpath creates an important loop through the countryside to the other side of the village and the field is an important part of the village's rural setting.</p> <p>While the footpath and the field have some attractive intrinsic rural qualities, the site is a fairly intensively used agricultural field, similar to many others forming part of the countryside surrounding the village and does not meet the high tests of being demonstrably special to the community with regards to the NPPF criteria. In addition, the PPG makes it clear that it is not appropriate to designate LGS simply to protect open countryside nor rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation.</p>	
LGSI 5(ii) Land between Coach Park and Village to the west of Mullens Pond								Removed at stage I	No