

Docking Neighbourhood Plan

Local Green Space Assessment

Update

June 2025



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Introduction

Docking is preparing a neighbourhood plan which will include a policy designating areas of Local Green Space which are particularly valued by the community. A robust process has been followed to determine which green spaces within Docking should be designated.

Initial ideas were suggested by residents and the steering group as part of consultation activities in April-May 2024. In Q14, respondents were asked about green spaces in the parish that they would like to see protected. Answers could be given for each choice. 191 people answered this question and 10 skipped it. The majority of people wished to see all options listed in the table as protected. 86 respondents left comments on other green spaces they would like to see protected. This was a free text question box under Q14. Most who answered supported the idea of protecting green space. Some respondents gave specific suggestions for spaces to protect which are listed below. The spaces that were mentioned multiple times were: Oak Tree Triangle, The Pound, and the village ponds.

The Neighbourhood Plan could identify local green spaces within the Parish- these could have recreational, wildlife or historic value. What areas, if any, of existing green space would you like to see protected in the Parish?				
Answer Choice	Yes	No	Not sure	Response Total
1 Allotments	174	6	7	187
2 Bayfield green space next to the surgery	143	18	23	184
3 Church memorial grounds	170	6	9	185
4 Docking fishing pond in Little Lane	176	8	3	187
5 Grove Field in Mill Lane/Little Lane	141	15	23	179
6 Old Recreation Ground, Station Road	141	8	30	179
7 Playing field	177	3	2	182
8 The Park at Docking Hall	144	12	22	178
Are there any other green spaces you value?				86
<i>answered</i>				191

Suggestions included:

- All green and blue spaces including ponds, open fields of grassland/woodland around the village.
- Docking loop bridleway
- Grass verges
- Gravel pits and village ponds
- Green space adjoining Docking school
- Greenspace at Monks Close
- Field rear of Sandy Lane
- Field with pond corner of Bradmere Lane / Pound Lane .
- Oak Tree Triangle
- Land around Docking Common
- Land at Ludgen Hill
- Pasture on Sedgeford Road - between The Croft and West Farm
- Playing field next to the existing one.
- Sunderland Farm
- Summerfields
- The bridle path and woodland nr Little Lane
- The green spaces around Woodgate Way between the houses.
- The land around the recycling centre is alive with a myriad of wildlife.
- The Plantation - at top of Bradmere Lane
- The woods at the end of Mill Lane.
- The undeveloped meadow next to the Pound Lane housing estate.
- The strip of woodland between mill lane and the Park at Docking Hall
- The woodland near the Bradmere Lane/Burnham Market crossroads
- Village green where the sign and stocks are.
- Well Street Corner Green.
- WW2 Turrets

These spaces were reviewed to consider whether they would meet the national criteria for designation with regard to the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance.

- A site visit was undertaken by the working group for the sites wishing to be taken forward and further evidence gathered including:
 - a) Reviewing any historic evidence related to the green spaces on the Historic England website and via Heritage Gateway;
 - b) Reviewing Statutory or Local Designations within mapped data sources available in the public domain via Natural England, Historic England, Norfolk County Council, and the Borough Council of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk website.

- An assessment against the national criteria for Local Green Space was made for each of the potential areas;
- Landowners were contacted to make them aware that their land was being considered for local green space designation and to invite them to make representations;
- A final decision was recommended by the Steering Group, and confirmed by the parish council, as to which green spaces to designate for the Regulation 14 consultation.
- After the Regulation 14 consultation, responses were received by landowners objecting to some of the sites proposed. Their representations and the Steering Groups responses can be read in the Consultation Statement. It was agreed to remove or amend some of the green spaces in light of the comments. This Local Green Space document has been revised to take note of these decisions.

This document provides the assessment and reasoning of all 16 areas of green space visited or suggested for us to investigate to include in the neighbourhood development plan. Chapter 3 provides the assessment and explanation of the 16 green spaces we feel are justified and supported to be a LGS in the Docking Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy Context

Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection for green areas of particular importance to local communities. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2012 (revised December 2024) introduced the concept of Local Green Space designation.

Paragraph 106 of the NPPF sets out that communities should be able to identify green spaces of particular importance through neighbourhood plans, with para 107 Determining:

The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space 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 not an extensive tract of land¹.*

In addition, the National Planning Practice Guidance states:

Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented.

¹[National Planning Policy Framework](#)

Other designations, such as Special Areas of Conservation, do not necessarily preclude or support designation as a Local Green Space. However, it is necessary to consider whether the additional designation is necessary and would serve a useful purpose.

In applying the NPPF criteria, close proximity would normally mean easy walking distance, which based on Natural England standards would mean 1.25 miles or less.

Consideration of whether the green space is local in character, and not an extensive tract of land, suggests spaces within a locality, rather than for example, extensive green areas in the countryside.

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan includes strategic policies for the neighbourhood area. Planning Practice Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning sets out that plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan if it is to meet the basic conditions. Policy LP26 of the Local Plan 2021-2040 sets out that the Borough Council will support local communities in designating local green space for protection in neighbourhood plans where this: a. meets the criteria for local green space as detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework; and b. does not conflict with other policies in the Borough's Local Plan.

Assessment of the green spaces being designated

The Local Green Space Assessment Tool from My Community: Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces² has been used as the basis to assess each site identified by the community. This includes:

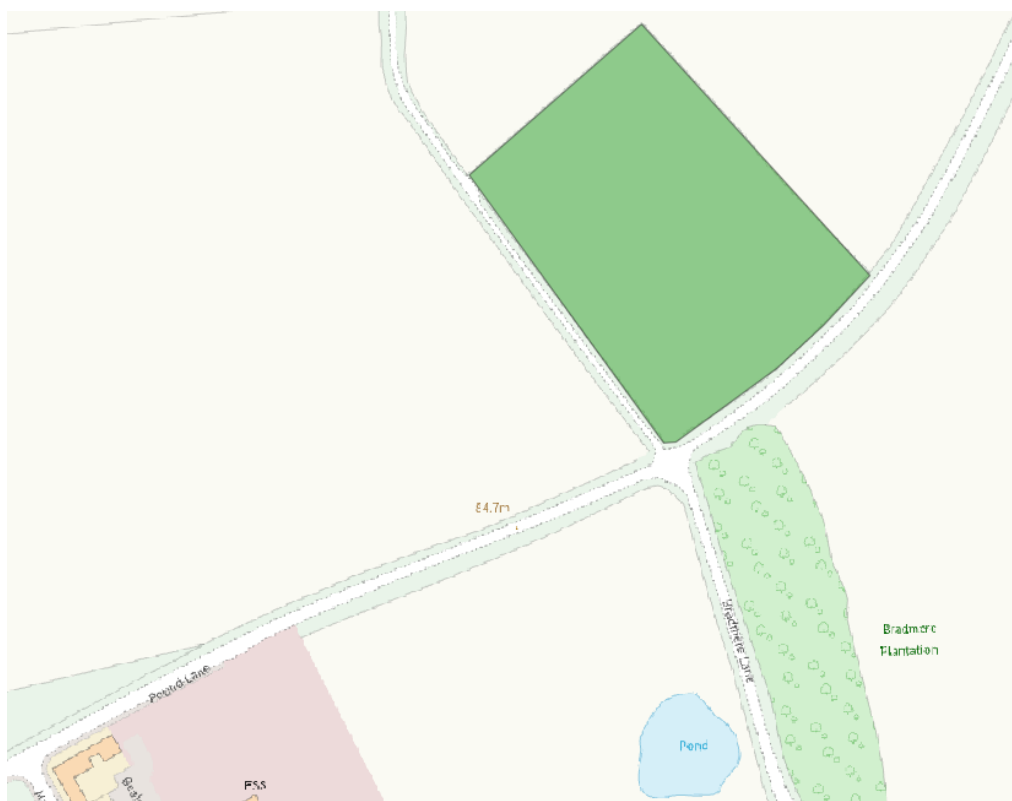
- LGS1- Allotments , North of Burnham Road and East of Sandy Lane
- LGS2- Village Pond, West on Bradmere Lane
- LGS3- Burial Ground, North of Pound Lane
- LGS4- Old Recreation Field, Station Road
- LGS5- Village Pond, West on Station Road
- LGS6- Field of Dreams, rear of Docking Church of England Primary and Nursery School
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- LGS8- Docking Village Sign Green Space North of High Street and South of Well Street

- LGS9- Recreation Ground, West of Bradmere Lane
- LGS10- Bowling Green, North of the High Street
- LGS11-Bayfield Pond, North of the High Street

² <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/making-local-green-space-designations-neighbourhood-plan/>

- LGS12-Grove Field, Mill Lane
- LGS13- Pond North of Stanhoe Road
- LGS14- Greenspaces within Woodgate Way
- LGS15- Play Area within Monks Close
- LGS16- Recreation Ground within Monks Close

LGS1- Allotments , North of Burnham Road and East of Sandy Lane



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Allotments, North of Burnham Road and East of Sandy Lane
Description and purposes	The allotments are owned by the parish council.

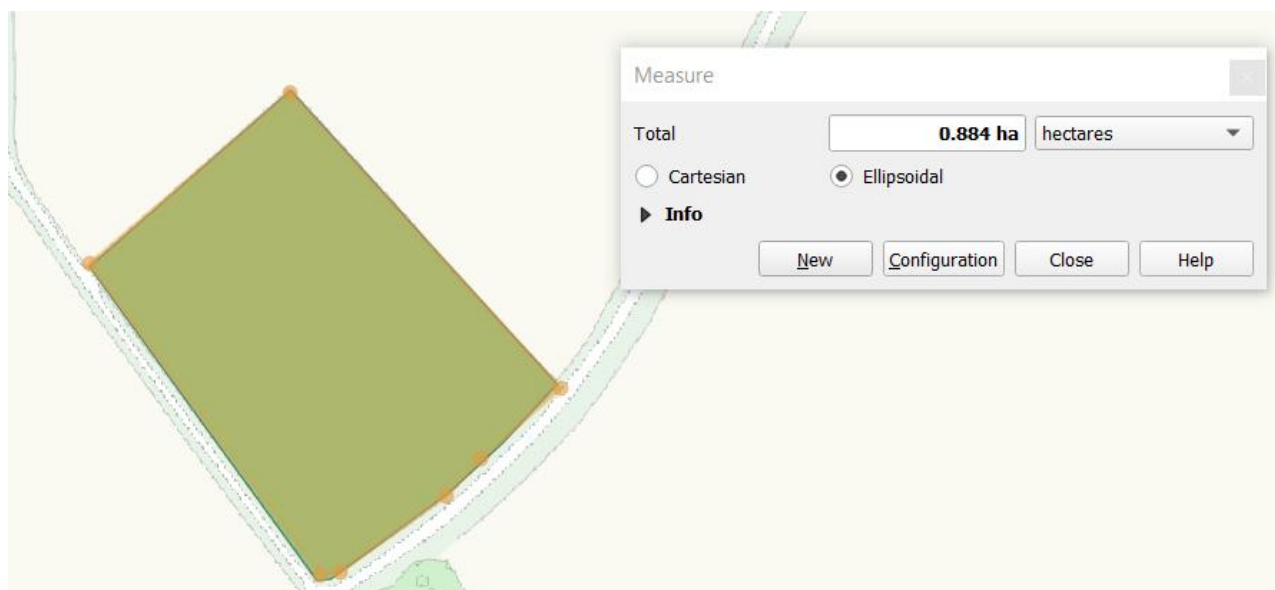
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked applications up to 2019 (5yrs ago) 18/06/2024

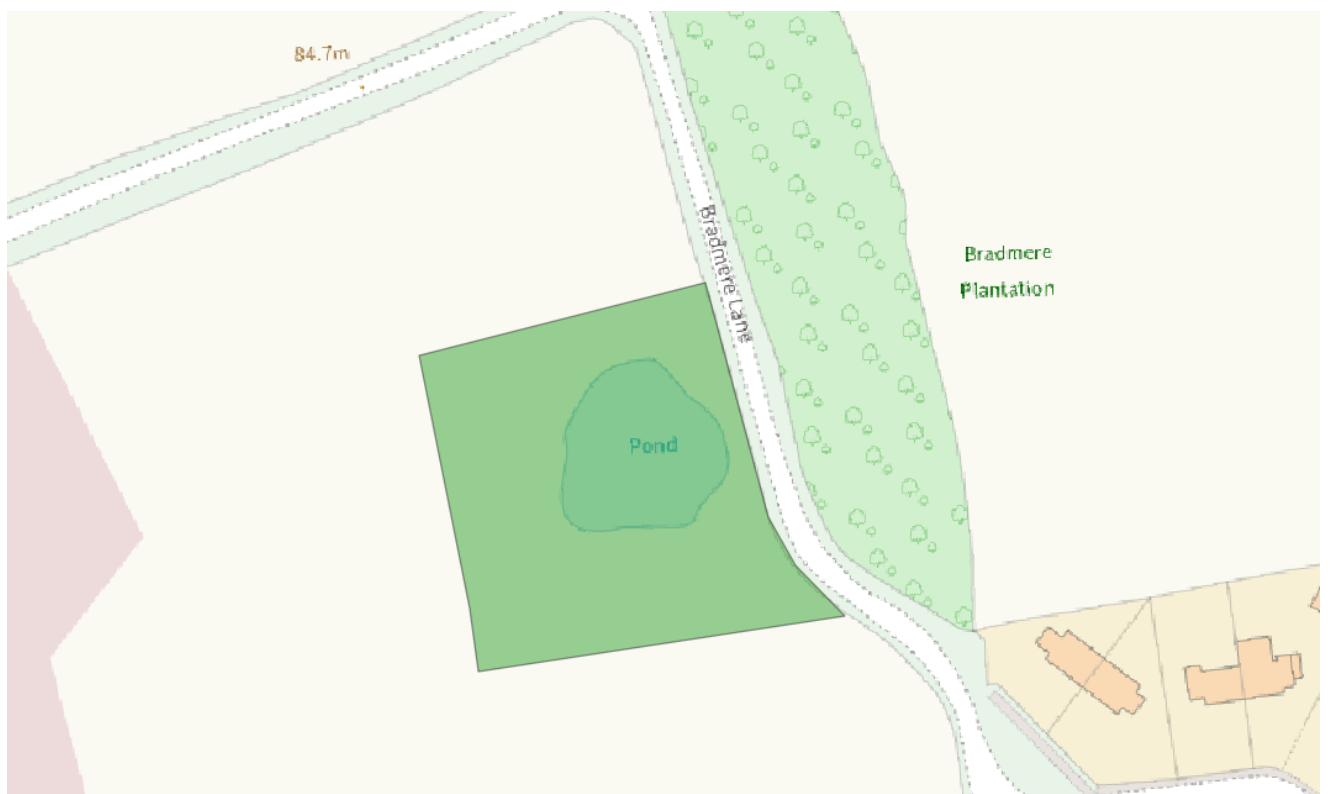
NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves.	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 250m walking distance to other community facilities and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other)	Allotments are a great use for local communities for a variety of sustainable benefits including growing food for your own family, or to socialize with other residents. This space is required for local people to grow and produce food, whilst encouraging residents to exercise and get fresh air. Supports both sustainability and the green agenda. There are 14 plots and a waiting list for vacant plots.

Criteria	Description
	The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking in April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community who use it/or wish to and 174 people said they would like to see it protected.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land.	The area size is approximately 0.884ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS2- Village Pond, West on Bradmere Lane



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Village Pond, West on Bradmere Lane
Description and purposes	This is one of the village ponds which is situated within the heart of the village. It is on Manor Pasture and this large pond sits within grassland surrounded by shrubs and trees. It is close to the newly built development on Pound Lane which was a site allocation in the Local Plan and the recreational ground is south of this site.


Check list

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	<p>None. However, to the north of the pond within this land the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk in their first draft of the Local Plan Review (2019) had included a policy called DOC1 which allocated the land adjacent to the now built out Site Allocation G30.1 along Pound Lane.</p> <p>The drafted allocation DOC1 was not taken forward into the later submission which was adopted in March 2025 due to more housing numbers were not required at this moment in time.</p> <p>The green space designated does not include this piece of land, which was proposed in the Local Plan, but it is adjacent on the same site.</p>

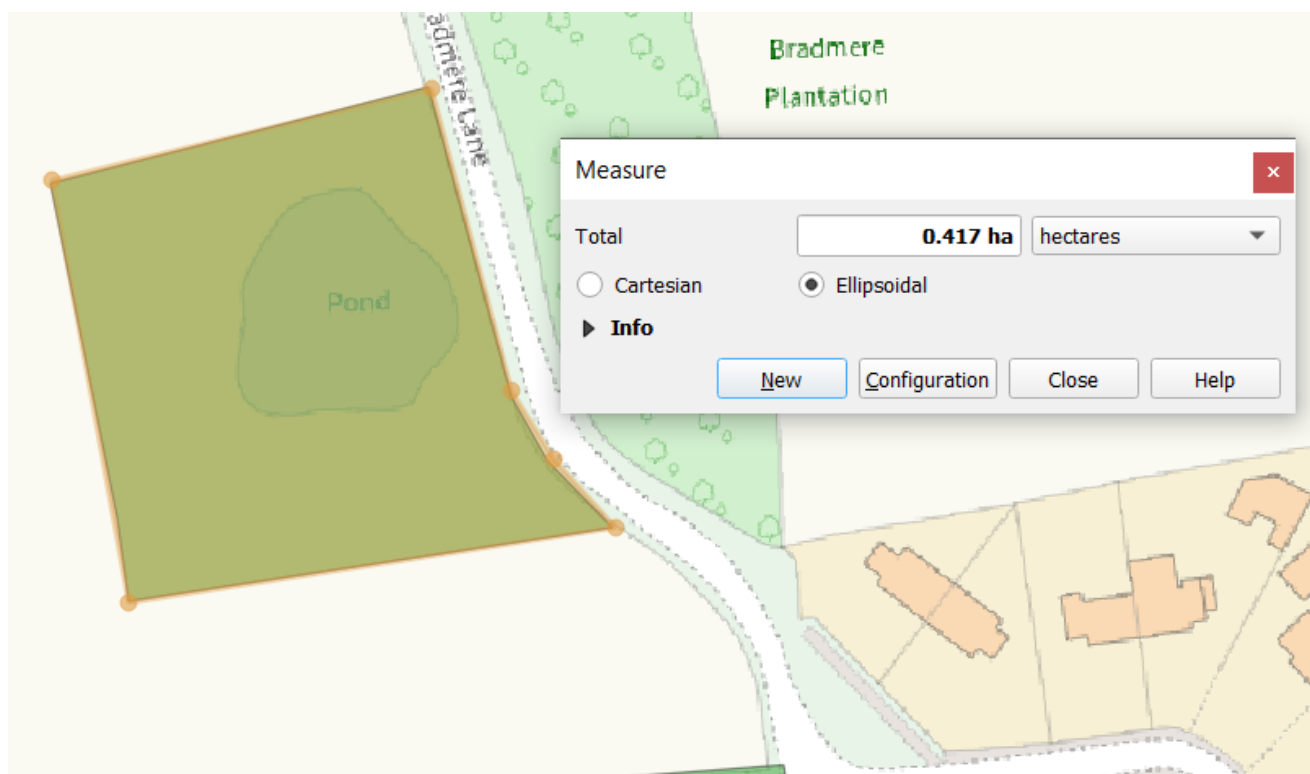
Criteria	Description
Planning permissions	None. Checked applications up to 2019 (5yrs ago) 01/07/2024

NPPF Criteria

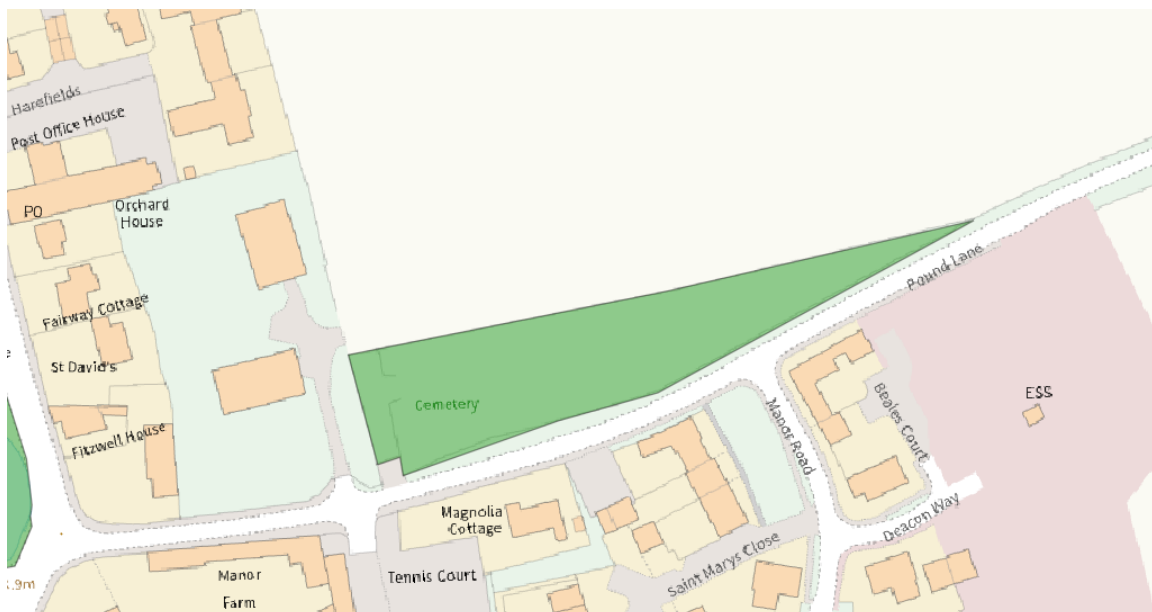
Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within 150m walking distance to other community facilities such as the recreation ground, the allotments and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	<p>The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some references to this space as a place to designate.</p> <p>The pond is special for local wildlife and a source for species and habitats which thrive in blue spaces. Local wildlife the community has witnessed here include frogs and toads. Barn owls have been seen hunting on the surrounding field.</p> <p>Toads have been a particular species which thrive within this site and is a reason why the community wish to protect the pond and the surrounding green space/corridor from inappropriate development. The village has set up a local toads watch volunteer group whereby locals help protect the breeding toads who visit this pond and collect data on the movement of toads in this area.</p> <p>Attached is a map showing the Toad and Frogs migration routes. These are from all roads surrounding the pond. However, the majority of the toads seem to migrate from the wooded area in Bradmere Lane, but approximately a third also come from Sandy Lane and Pound Lane.</p>

Criteria	Description
	 <p>The toad watch group assisted/saved over 970 toads and frogs between February- April 2025 in their migratory season to this one pond/site, which was the fifth most popular site for saving toads/frogs out of 23 other site areas recording takes place in Norfolk. Figures of all the sites are set out in the Appendix.</p> <p>To assist the toads and frogs to the site, the volunteers carefully pick them up from the roads and place them at the edge of the field that contains their migratory pond near Pound and Bradmere Lanes. They ensure they are placed close to where they were found because their path to the pond is imprinted on them when they first migrate after transforming. This path isn't always the most direct.</p> <p>The volunteer group recorded data nightly throughout the migratory season. The migration season typically runs from February to April, though it depends on the weather and temperature. This past season in 2025 was the first time the group kept formal records. The records are compiled by Toad Watch ([www.toadwatch.org])</p>

Criteria	Description
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	The area size is approximately 0.417ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS3- Burial Ground, North of Pound Lane



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Burial Ground, North of Pound Lane
Description and purposes	The green open space is the burial ground for residents of Docking. This greenspace sits north of Pound Lane.

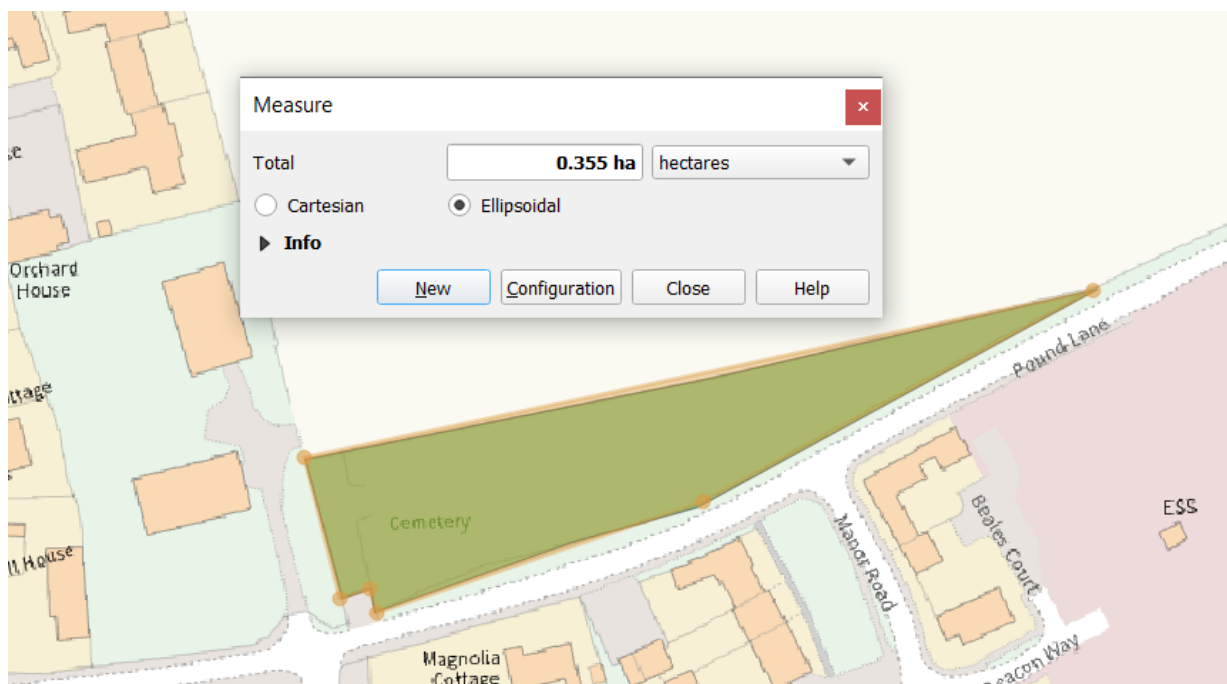
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked applications up to 2019 (5yrs ago) 18/06/2024

NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves.	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 250m walking distance to other community facilities and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other)	The cemetery can be considered demonstrably special to Docking as it has been the burial ground for residents since 2000. The greenspace was given to the local church in 2000 by the late Major Hare of Docking Hall. It is an important local facility which offers a historical and spiritual connection for current and previous villagers.

Criteria	Description
	The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some referencing this space as a place to designate.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land.	The area size is approximately 0.355ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS4- Old Recreation Ground, Station Road



Site Details

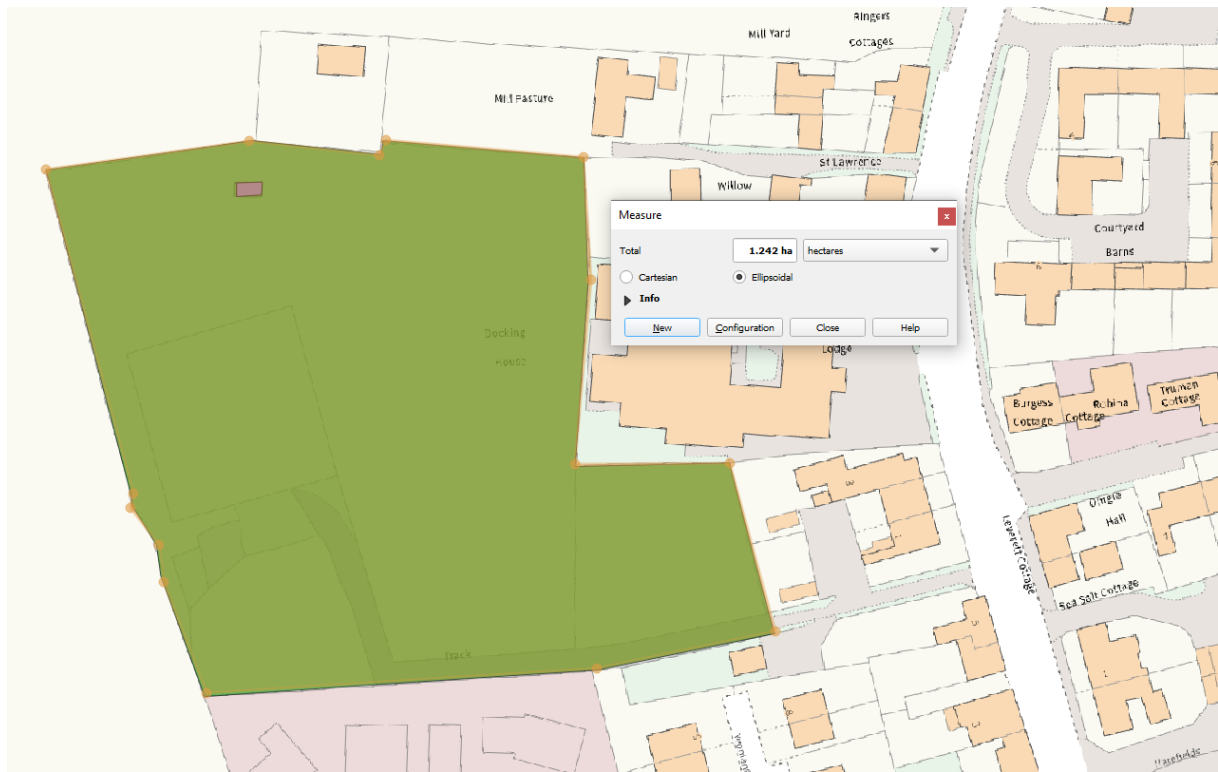
Criteria	Description
Site	Old Recreation Field, Station Road
Description and purposes	<p>The Old Recreational Ground is at present an unused green space positioned in Station Road behind the Old Police Houses. This field was given to the Parish in 1921 to use for sports and games by the school and other pursuits by village children and youths, including cricket and football matches.</p> <p>When the Playing Field in Bradmere Lane opened in 1951 the Old Recreational Ground fell into disuse. The field still belongs to the Parish. The present Parish Council wish to make this green space available for everyone to come and enjoy. The idea is to create a quiet space, with an orchard, picnic tables and chairs (wheelchair friendly) bird boxes, encouraging bees/butterflies, wildflowers etc.</p>

Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked applications up to 2019 (5yrs ago) 06/08/2024

NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 500m walking distance to other community facilities and residential dwellings. However, currently access to the field is private but the land is owned by Docking Parish Council.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	<p>The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with 141 people saying they wish to see this space designated.</p> <p>The green space is demonstrably special to the community for its historic purpose of being there as a place for the community to rest, play and socialise which the parish council plan to bring back into use.</p>
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	The area size is approximately 1.24ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS5- Village Pond, West on Station Road



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Village Pond, West on Station Road
Description and purposes	This is one of the village ponds which sits in the heart of the village. Present is the pond itself, a large tree and shrubs.

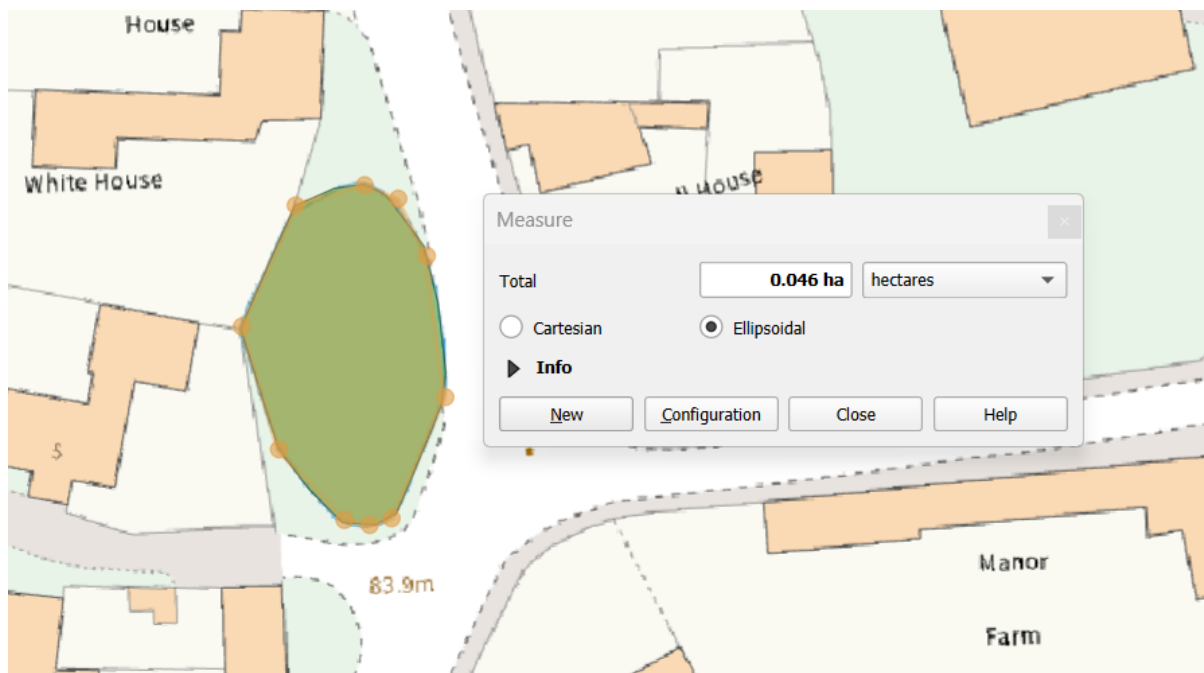
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	Within Docking Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked applications up to 2019 (5yrs ago) 18/06/2024

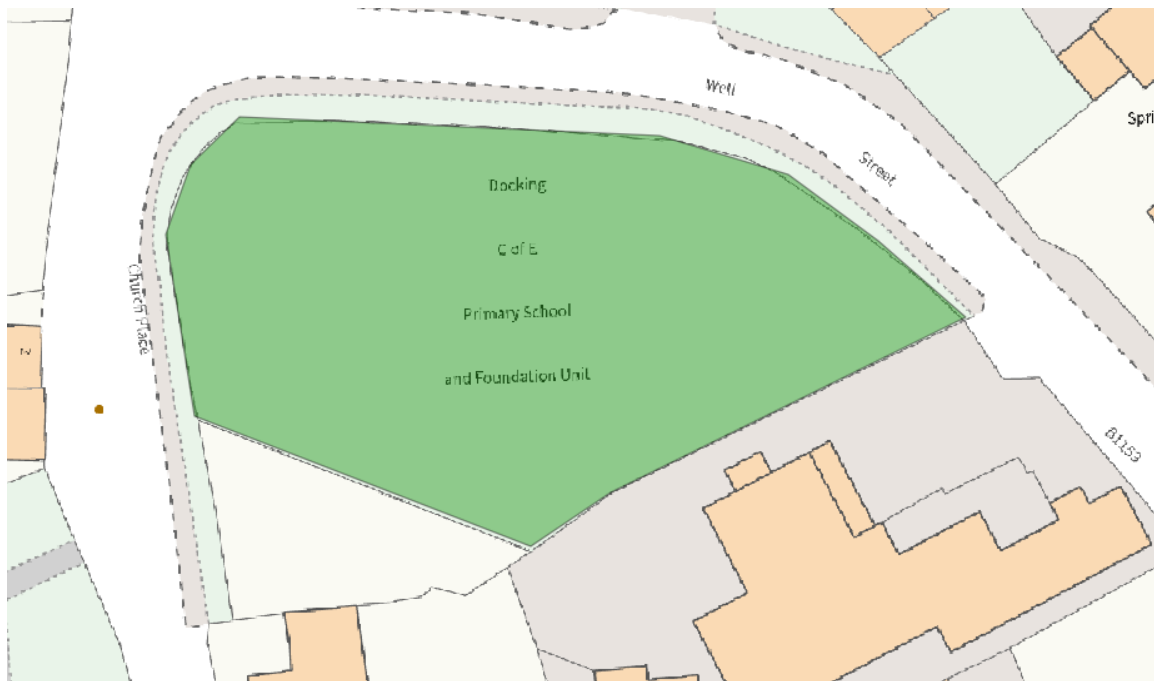
NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 150m walking distance to other community facilities and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	<p>This green space is also known as Bell Pond and is probably the best known and most photographed site in the village and is a landmark to those visiting.</p> <p>The pond is special for local wildlife and a source for species and habitats which thrive in blue spaces. Local wildlife the community has witnessed here includes ducks, moorhens and gulls. According to the data provided by</p>

Criteria	Description
	<p>Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) there were also small black ants recorded on the site in 2015.</p> <p>The pond is also valued for its tranquility and has played a part over the years as its own landmark within the village.</p> <p>The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some referencing this space as a place to designate.</p>
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	The area size is approximately 0.053ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS6- Field of Dreams, rear of Docking Church of England Primary and Nursery School



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Field of Dreams, rear of Docking Church of England Primary and Nursery School, South of Well Street Junction with Church Place.
Description and purposes	This greenspace is bounded by Church Place & Well Street given to the School for children's outside activities.

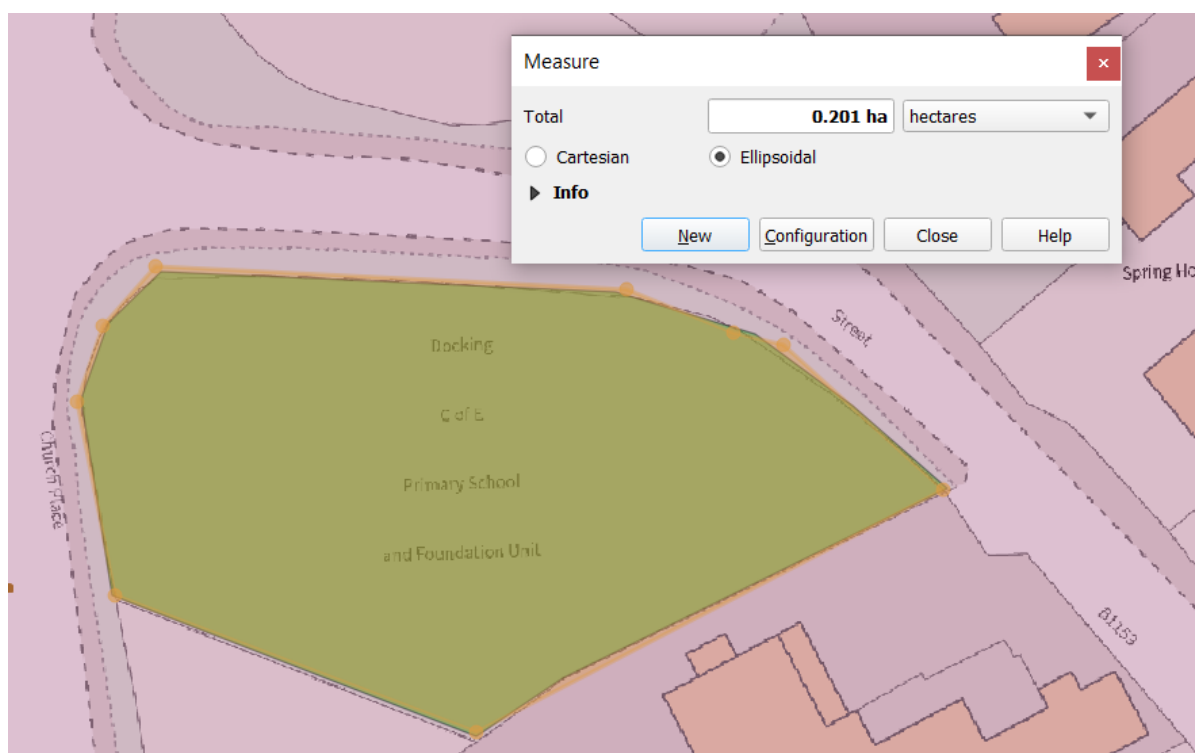
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	Falls within Docking Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	Application 20/00116/TREECA regarding a fell sycamore. No other applications. Checked 18/06/2024

NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 100m walking distance to other community facilities and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	This site is an important open green space for the school children of Docking and much liked by the Community. The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special

Criteria	Description
	<p>to the community with some referencing this space as a place to designate.</p> <p>Currently the greenspace has a variety of benches and vegetation. It is special to the community and particularly the younger generation for recreational activities such as playing and learning outside which is important for young people's physical health and mental wellbeing.</p>
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	<p>The area size is approximately 0.201ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.</p>



LGS7- Village Pond, West of Chequer Street



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Village Pond, West on Chequer Street

Description and purposes	This is one of the village ponds which is situated near the entrance to the village. Present is the pond itself, trees and shrubs.
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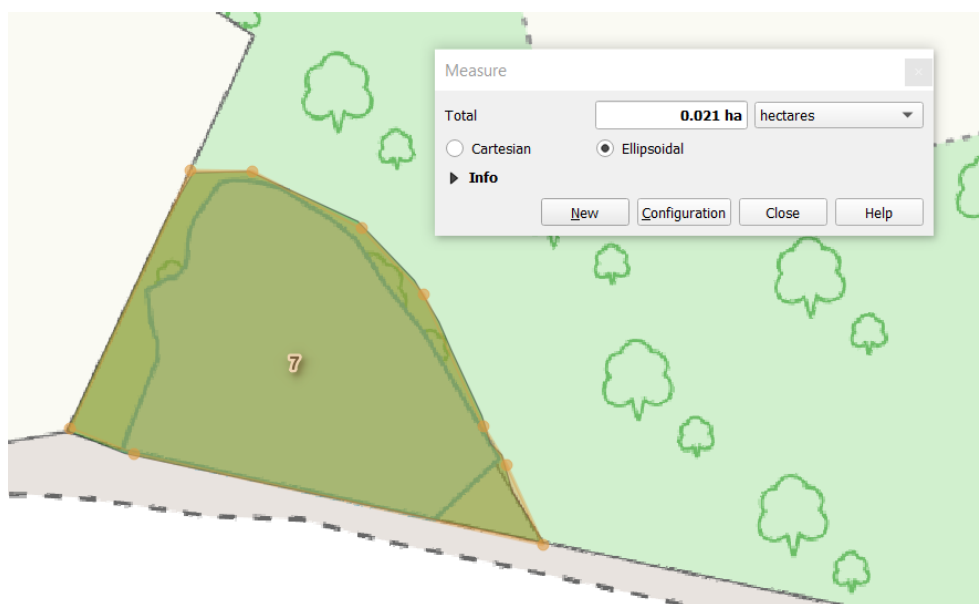
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	Within Docking Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked applications up to 2019 (5yrs ago) 01/07/2024

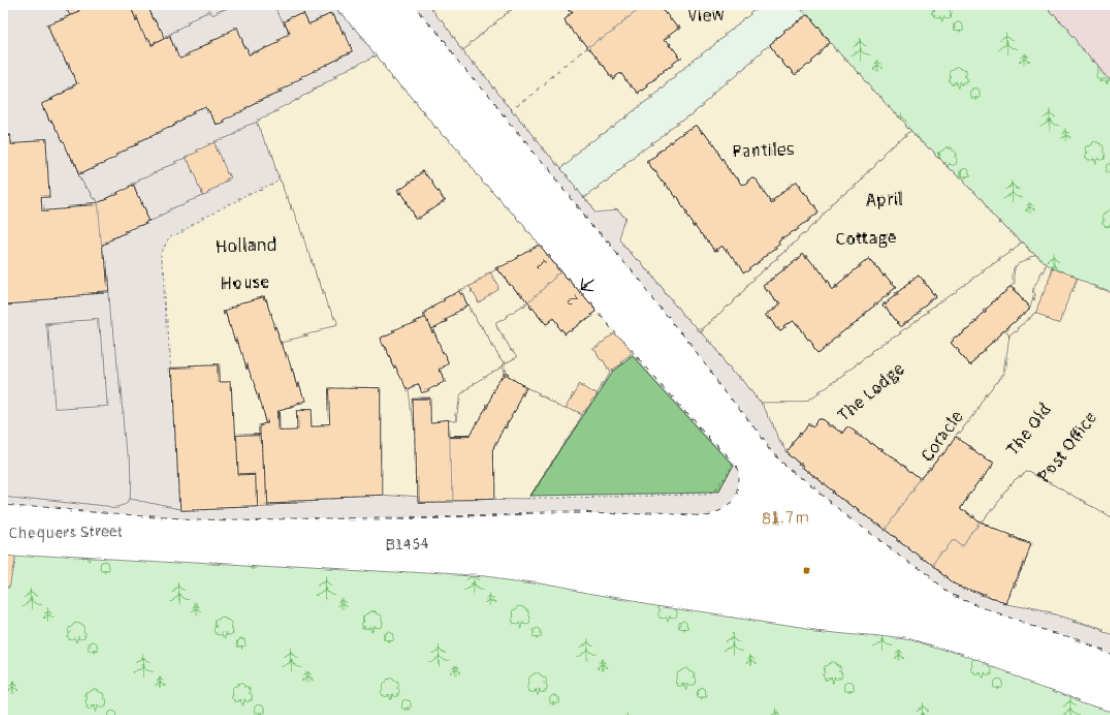
NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 150m walking distance to other community facilities such as St Mary's Church and the Primary School and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	<p>The pond is special for local wildlife and a source for species and habitats which thrive in blue spaces. Local wildlife the community has witnessed here includes ducks, moorhens and gulls.</p> <p>The pond is also valued for its tranquility and has played a part over the years as its own landmark within the village.</p> <p>The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some referencing this space as a place to designate.</p>

Criteria	Description
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	The area size is approximately 0.021ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS8- Docking Village Sign Green Space North of High Street and South of Well Street



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Docking Village Sign Green Space, North of the High Street and South of Well Street.
Description and purposes	<p>This green space is our village green housing a Walnut tree, historic stocks, bench seats and of course our famous village sign.</p> <p>It is an important open green space forming a triangle on the corner of Chequers Street and Well Street. The green space is opposite Docking Hall's tall brick and flint wall.</p>

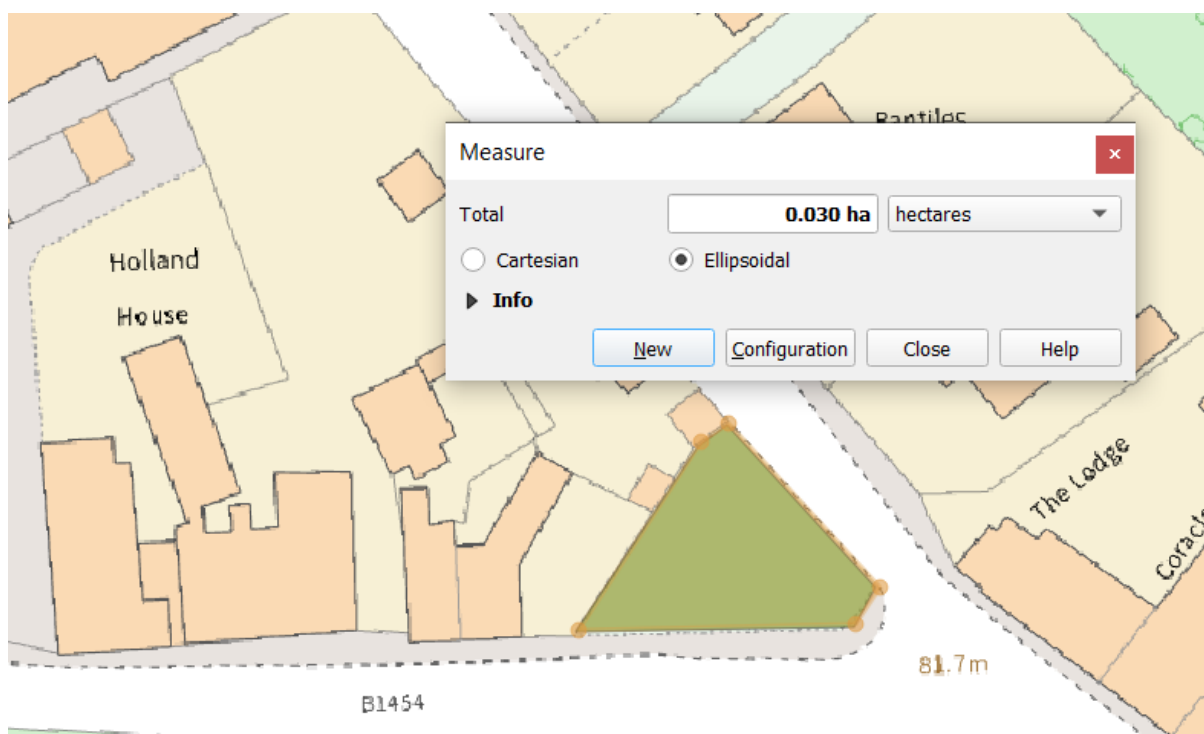
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	Within Docking Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked applications up to 2019 (5yrs ago) 18/06/2024

NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 150m walking distance to other community facilities and residential dwellings. Residents can get to this local green space by walking along a kerbed footpath.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational,	This space is special for the village's identity. It holds significance in that it has the sign for

Criteria	Description
tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	<p>people to know they are in Docking. There is recreational significance that residents/passersby can sit in this space to rest.</p> <p>The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some referencing this space as a place to designate.</p>
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	<p>The area size is approximately 0.03ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.</p>



LGS9- Recreation Ground, West of Bradmere Lane



Photo source: Docking Playing Field Facebook Page, 2025



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Recreation Ground, West of Bradmere Lane
Description and purposes	The greenspace sits in the built-up part of the village West of Bradmere Lane. This area is used by the residents and visitors for recreational purposes. The site can be entered by car, cycle or foot via Bradmere Lane and there is a new pedestrian access from Manor Road.

Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	20/00883/f- Replacement pavillion following demolition of existing. This application was permitted 18/08/2020. LGS does not affect built development.

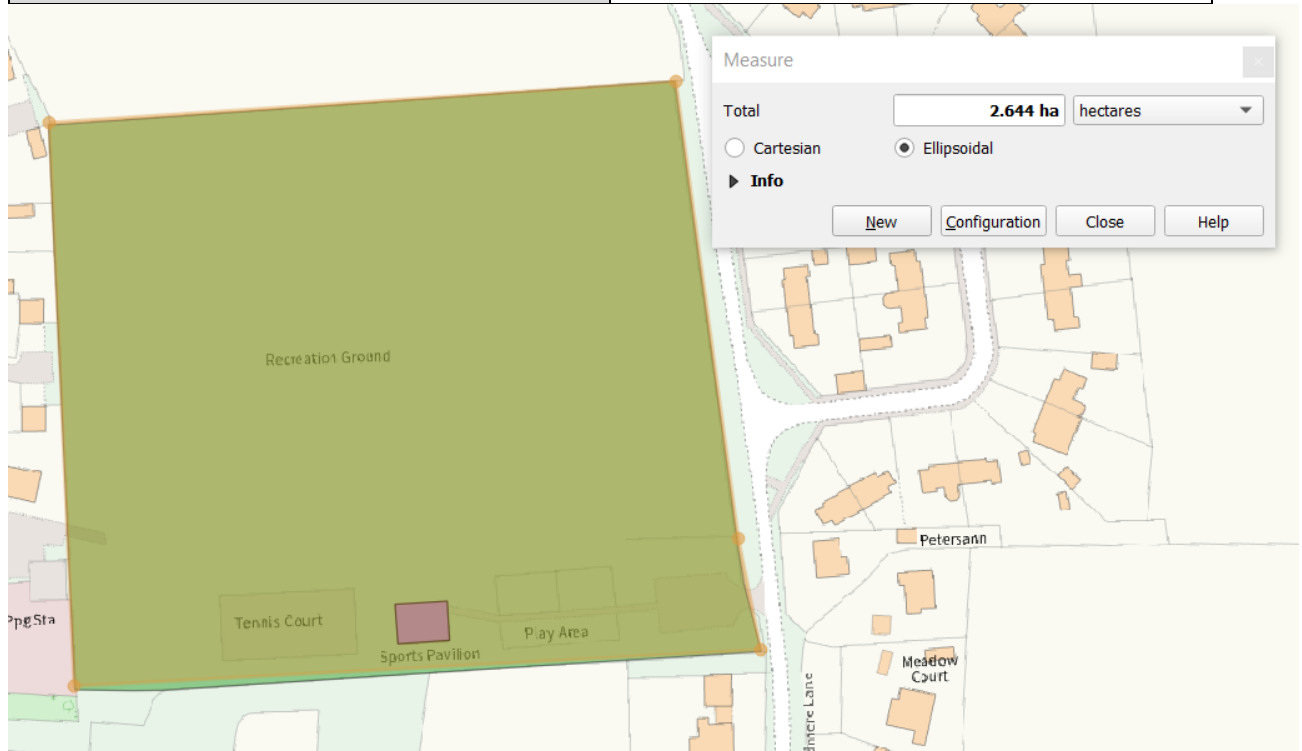
NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 200m walking distance to other community facilities and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much	A large, grassed area which includes children's play equipment and a multi-use games area (MUGA) used for exercise and

Criteria	Description
<p>here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.</p>	<p>recreational use by the community and visitors. We consider it to be demonstrable special for recreational and health and well-being value.</p> <p>The sports pavilion has been fully renovated and is available for community activities. The MUGA is marked up for tennis, football and netball and is used by sports groups/teams of all ages. The MUGA was completed in 2024 with the grand opening taking place in September 2024.</p> <p>The green space is used for community events and brings all ages together in the area. This is one of the most important open green community spaces in our village.</p> <p>The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with 177 people referencing the playing field as a space to designate and others mentioning village ponds.</p>
<p>Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space</p>	<p>2.664ha in size including the sports pavillion (0.014ha). The pavillion itself will be excluded from the green space. In total the greenspace is approximately 2.65ha.</p> <p>As explained in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) Para:015 ID:37-015-20140306³, there are no hard and fast rules</p>

³ [Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space)

Criteria	Description
	<p>about how big a Local Green Space can be, and a degree of judgement will inevitably be needed when making a designation.</p> <p>Para 106 of the NPPF (December 2024) states that a Local Green Space should only be designated if it is not an extensive tract of land, such as making blanket designations of open countryside adjacent to settlements to purposely stop development. This would not be considered appropriate.</p> <p>The recreation ground is not an extensive tract of land and serves as a green space for the local community and is considered an appropriate size in proportion to the village itself.</p>



LGS10- Bowling Green, North of the High Street



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Bowling Green, North of the High Street
Description and purposes	The greenspace sits in the built-up part of the village North of High Street. This area is used by the residents and visitors for recreational

	<p>purposes. There is also a clubhouse and storage area linked to the bowls green.</p> <p>However, this built development will not be designated as Local Green Space.</p>
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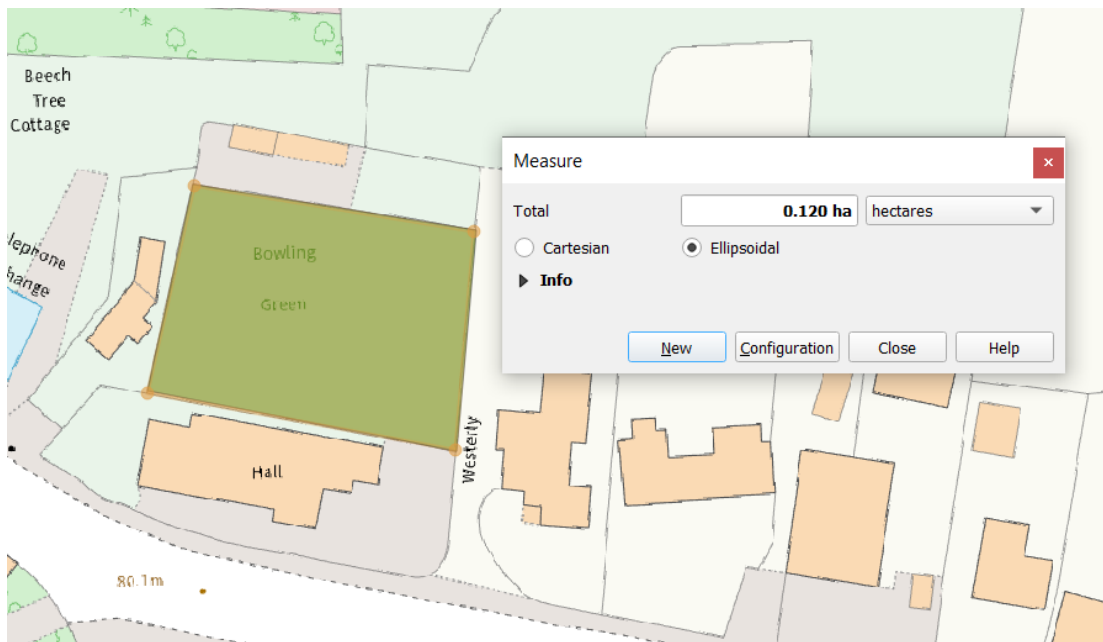
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None

NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 200m walking distance to other community facilities and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	We consider the bowls green to be demonstrable special for recreational and health and well-being value. The land has no other purpose than to provide recreational facilities to the local residents and members of the bowls team. In the Bowling season, the facility is extensively used with regular matches against other bowls clubs.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	The area size is approximately 0.12ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the

Criteria	Description
	purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS11-Bayfield Pond, North of the High Street



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Bayfield Pond, North of the High Street
Description and purposes	This privately owned area is made up of one of the villages ponds as well as being heavily vegetated with trees and shrubs particularly in the spring/summer months.

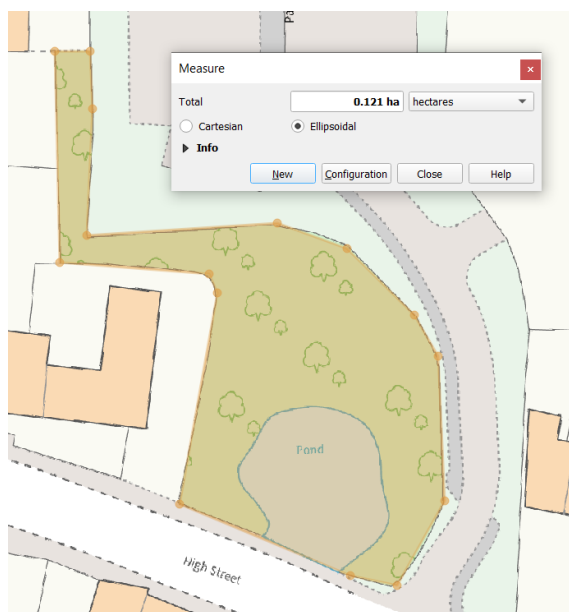
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	Part of the site falls within Docking Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked applications up to 2019 (5yrs ago) 18/06/2024

NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves.	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 100m walking distance to community facilities such as Bayfield Surgery and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other)	The pond is special for local wildlife and a source for species and habitats which thrive in blue spaces. Local wildlife the community has witnessed here includes moorhens and many invertebrates. As well as the pond, this greenspace is surrounded by trees and shrubs which enhances the village's biodiversity.

Criteria	Description
	<p>Although the green space is not visible in the spring/summer months the pond and surrounding greenery need protecting and maintaining for wildlife. During the Spring, mallard ducks are to be seen walking their ducklings from one pond to another along Mill Lane/Little Lane/East Lane/High Street. These areas play an important role for our local wildlife's corridor movement.</p> <p>The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some referencing this space as a place to designate.</p>
Local in character and not extensive tract of land.	The area size is approximately 0.121ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS12-Grove Field, Mill Lane



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Grove Field, Mill Lane
Description and purposes	Open pasture field along Mill Lane.

Checklist

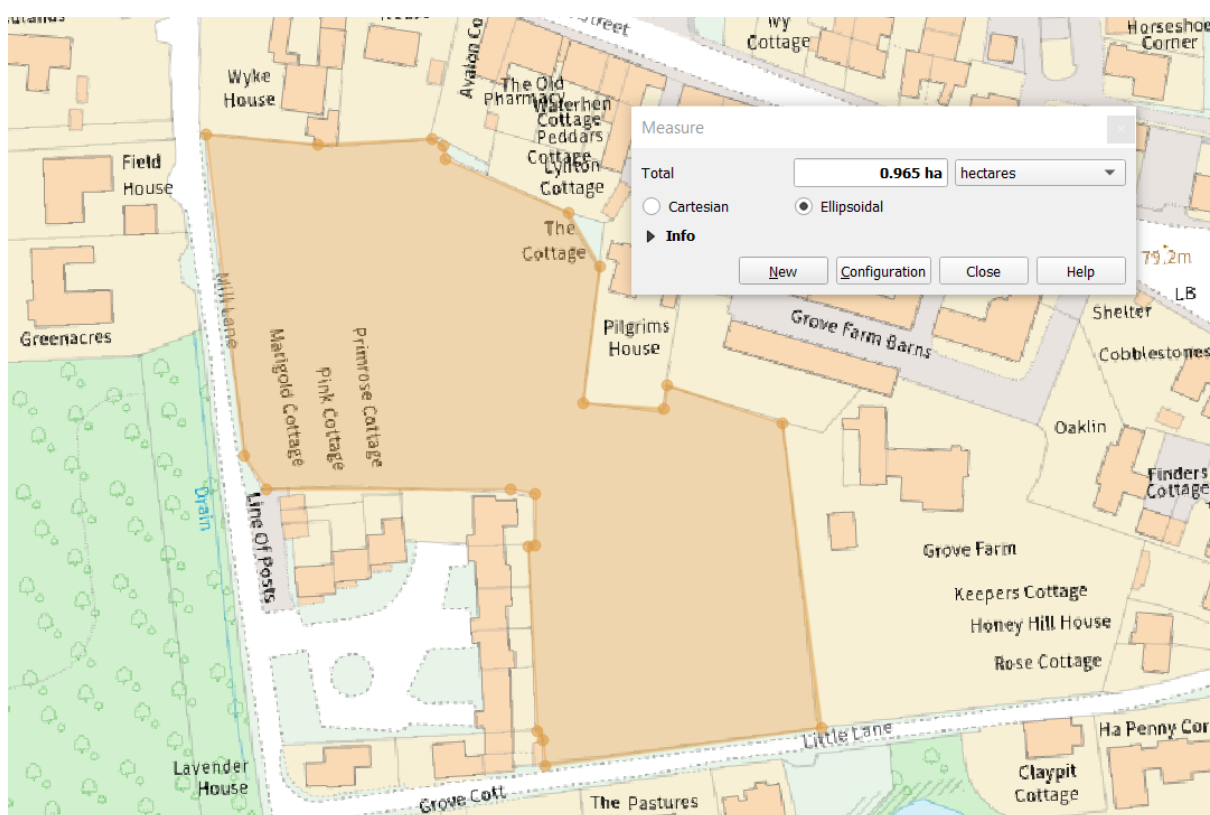
Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	Falls within Docking Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked applications up to 2019 (5yrs ago) 18/06/2024

NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 300m walking distance to other community facilities and residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	<p>This open Pasture field is the historic setting for Grove Farmhouse and the Grove Cottages within Village Conservation Area with rural views towards the Park and the aspect is enjoyed by local walkers using Mill Lane & Little Lane as a circular walk or accessing the Mill Lane byway popular with dog walkers.</p> <p>Has an attractive and original brick & stone wall to Little Lane and post & rail fencing with trees to Mill</p>

Criteria	Description
	<p data-bbox="740 275 1378 499">Lane frontage .Many species of wildlife including rare birds , raptors ,owls and bats have been spotted & feeding over this important open green space. (the drone photo on your front cover shows Grove Field & The Park).</p> <p data-bbox="740 544 1378 869">The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with 141 people referencing this space as a place to designate. At the Regulation 14 stage numerous residents also detailed why it is important to protect this green space including:</p> <ul data-bbox="788 880 1378 2024" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="788 880 1378 969">• The wildlife provides ambient relief in a relatively built-up part of Docking. <li data-bbox="788 981 1378 1350">• In 2025 residents have seen or recorded on a bird app the following species: Barn, Tawny and Little Owl, Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon and Buzzard, Blue, Great, Coal and Long Tailed Tits, Goldcrest, Wren, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Nuthatch, Redstar. <li data-bbox="788 1361 1378 1485">• Much-needed green introduction to the bridlepath and a significant enhancement to the rural nature of the village. <li data-bbox="788 1496 1378 1619">• The green spaces are important features of the walks within the village, contributing to everyone’s mental health & wellbeing. <li data-bbox="788 1630 1378 1843">• Its view is special & worthy of protection within its own right. It is part of the heritage of the parish as it’s en route to the only current footpath within the parish which attracts residents and tourists. <li data-bbox="788 1854 1378 2024">• In the past there have been a small number of sheep or cattle grazing. It unusual to have a small, neat field surrounded by rows of cottages and older dated properties.

Criteria	Description
	Young children have often enjoyed that area, particularly as it is so central, well maintained, preserved in an old village.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	The area size is approximately 0.965ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS13- Pond North of Stanhoe Road



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Pond North of Stanhoe Road

Description and purposes	One of several ponds within Docking.
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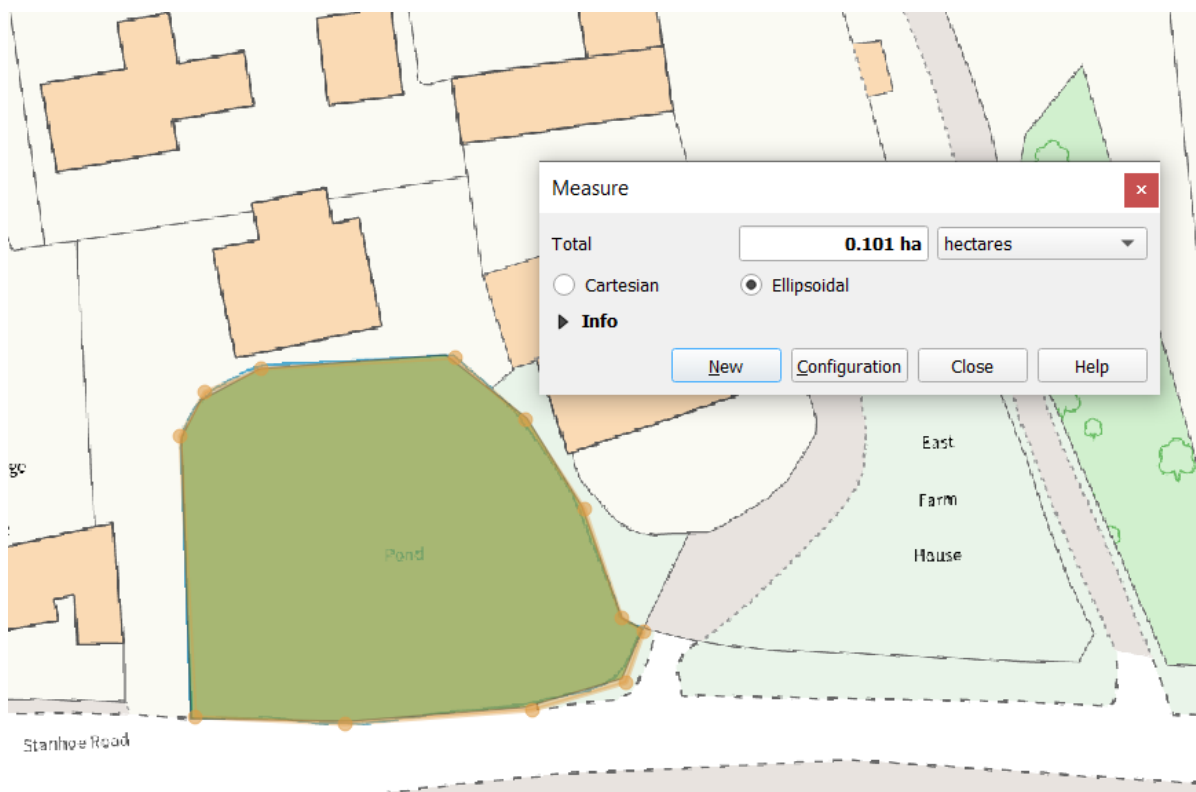
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	Falls within Docking Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked 19/07/2024

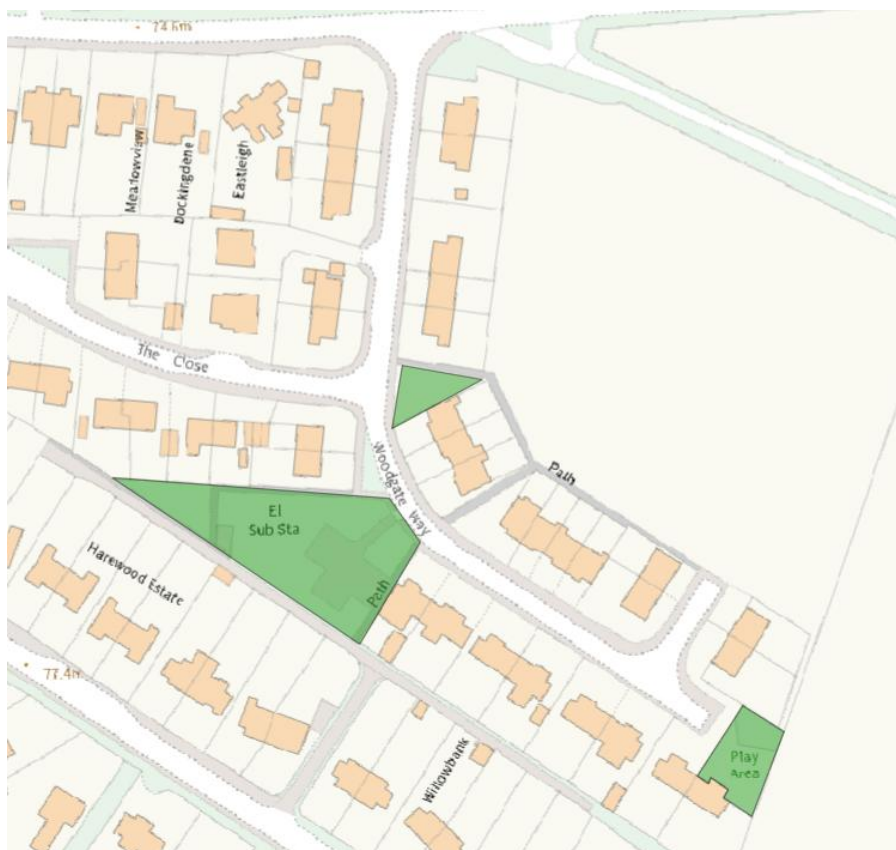
NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within the core of the village and within 250m walking distance to other community facilities such as Bayfield Surgery and is adjacent to residential dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	<p>The pond is special for local wildlife and a source for species and habitats which thrive in blue spaces. Local wildlife the community has witnessed here include ducks..</p> <p>The pond is also valued for its tranquility and has played a part over the years as its own landmark within the village.</p> <p>The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some referencing the village ponds as green spaces to designate.</p>

Criteria	Description
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	The area size is approximately 0.101ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS14- Greenspaces within Woodgate Way



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Greenspaces within Woodgate Way
Description and purposes	There are three small greenspaces which are in Woodgate way and enjoyed by the residents here.

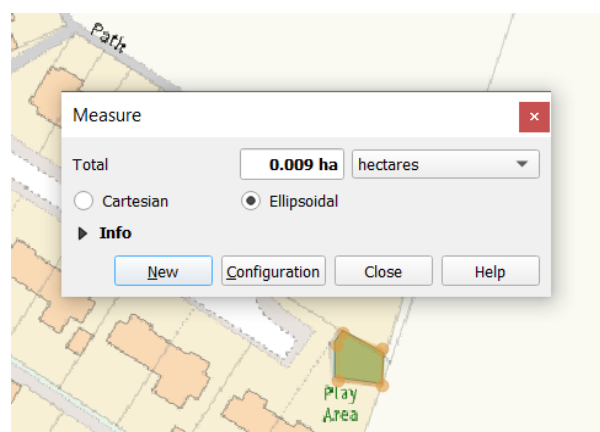
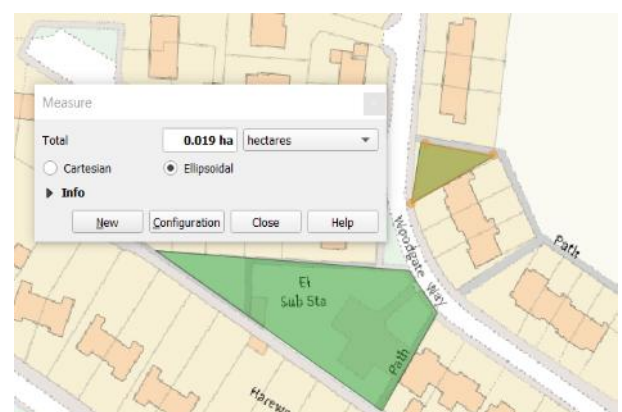
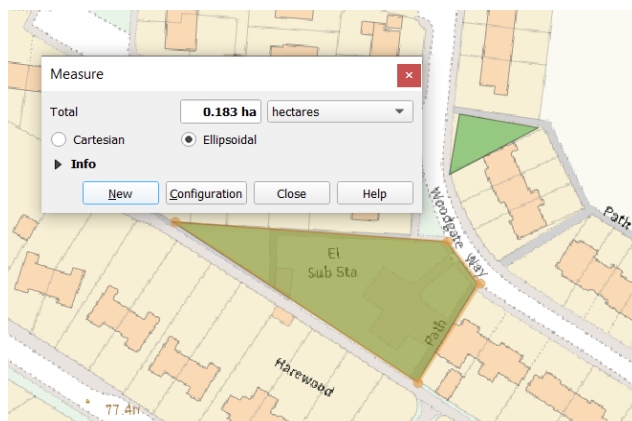
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked 24/06/2024

NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within Docking parish. It is to the edge of the built-up residential area. It is within 250m walking distance to a number of residential dwellings within this area of Docking. Residents can get to these local green spaces by walking along a kerbed footpath and walking through them to other dwellings.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	There are three grassed areas which sit within a residential cul de sac. One is considered a play space, and the other areas have large trees and grass present which can be used for resting or walking through to other areas of the parish. It is felt the green spaces can be considered demonstrably special to the local community for their tranquil and recreational use.

Criteria	Description
	The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some referencing this space as a place to designate.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	The area size is approximately 0.211ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



LGS15- Play Area within Monks Close



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Play Area on Monk Close
Description and purposes	Green space within Monks Close which has children's play equipment and benches on.

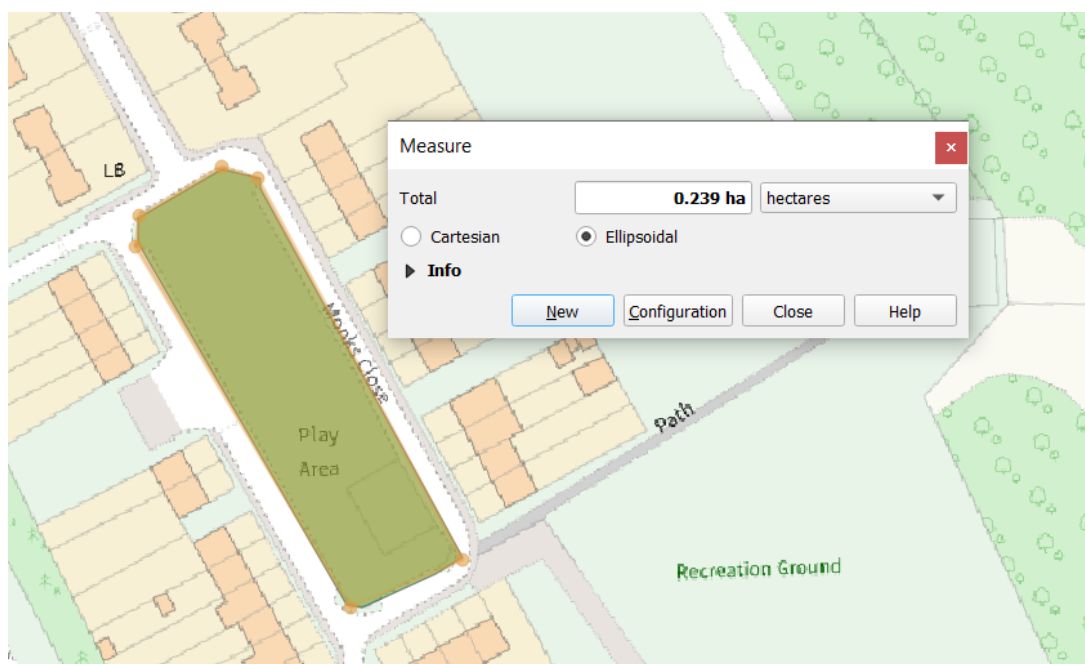
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked 18/06/2024

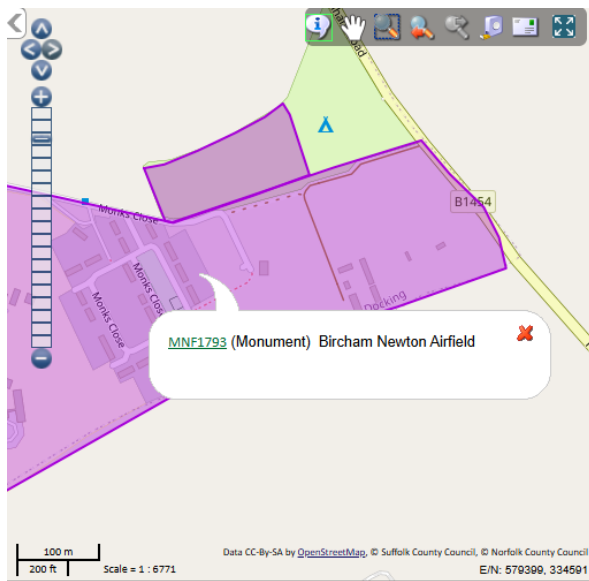
NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within Docking parish. It is within a residential area to the south of the parish which sits further away from the main Docking built up settlement. It is within 100m walking distance to a number of residential dwellings within this area of Docking. It is also close to a few businesses and the Bircham Newton Construction College. Residents can get to this local green space by walking along a kerbed footpath.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	<p>It is a small, grassed area which includes children's play equipment and some benches. We consider it to be demonstrable special for recreational and health and well-being value within this part of Docking parish.</p> <p>The area also is part of a wider monument which is Bircham Newton Airfield. As detailed on Norfolk Heritage Explorer (REF</p>

Criteria	Description
	<p>MNF1793).</p> <p>The consultation analysis from the initial community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some referencing this space as a place to designate. Some people within the main built-up part of Docking forget Monks Close and other spaces adjacent to the area fall within our parish. So, it is important we make the community in this part of our parish feel included in protecting spaces within our neighborhood plan.</p>
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	<p>The area size is approximately 0.239ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.</p>



Source: Norfolk Heritage Explorer, 2024⁴



⁴ [Map Selection - Norfolk Heritage Explorer](#)

LGS16- Recreation Ground within Monks Close



Site Details

Criteria	Description
Site	Recreation Ground within Monks Close

Description and purposes	Green space within Monks Close which has a large grassed area with a football net and children's play equipment.
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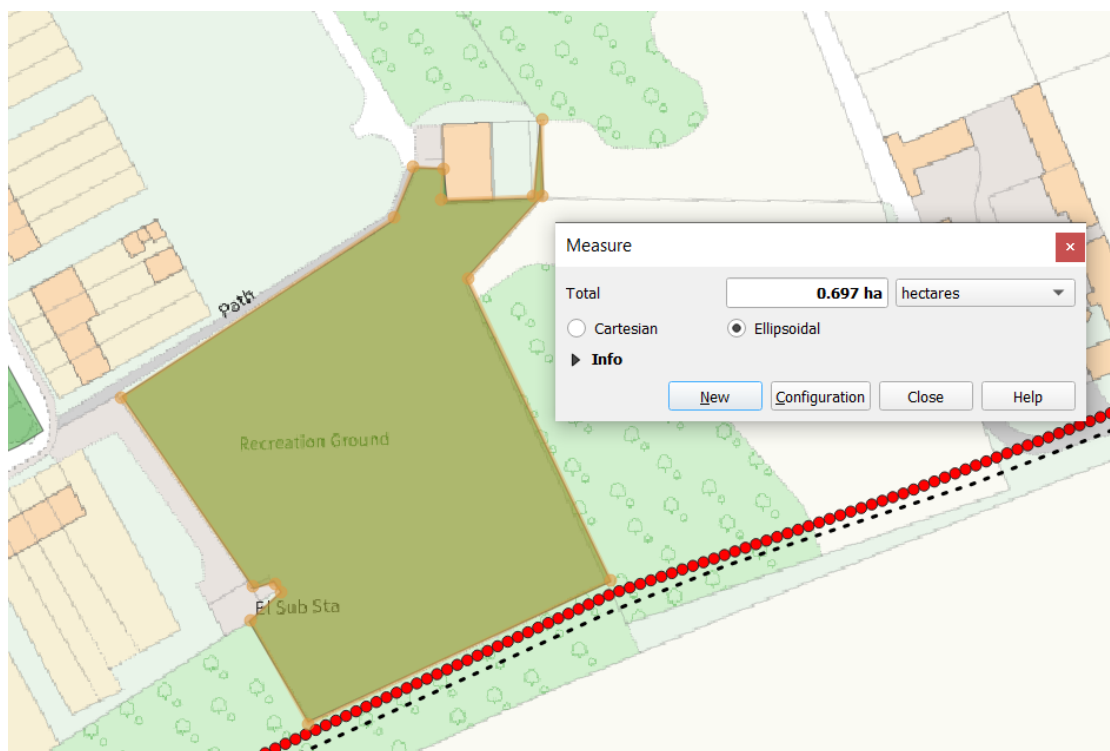
Checklist

Criteria	Description
Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None. Checked 18/06/2024

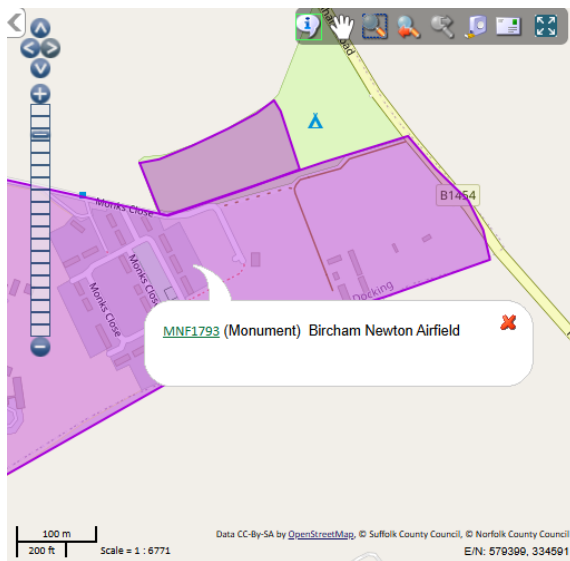
NPPF Criteria

Criteria	Description
Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	The greenspace is within Docking parish. It is within a residential area to the south of the parish which sits further away from the main Docking built up settlement. It is within 100m walking distance to a number of residential dwellings within this area of Docking. It is also close to a few businesses and the Bircham Newton Construction College. Residents can get to this local green space by walking along a kerbed footpath.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	<p>It is a large, grassed area which includes a wooden children's play equipment and a football net. We consider it to be demonstrable special for recreational and health and well-being value within this part of Docking parish.</p> <p>The area also is part of a wider monument which is Bircham Newton Airfield. As detailed on Norfolk Heritage Explorer (REF MNF1793).</p> <p>The consultation analysis from the initial</p>

Criteria	Description
	community survey conducted in Docking April-May 2024 showed that this area in the parish is special to the community with some referencing this space as a place to designate. Some people within the main built-up part of Docking forget Monks Close and other spaces adjacent to the area fall within our parish. So, it is important we make the community in this part of our parish feel included in protecting spaces within our neighborhood plan.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	The area size is approximately 0.697ha. It is local in character to Docking serving the purposes of the local area only. It would not necessarily be considered an extensive tract of land.



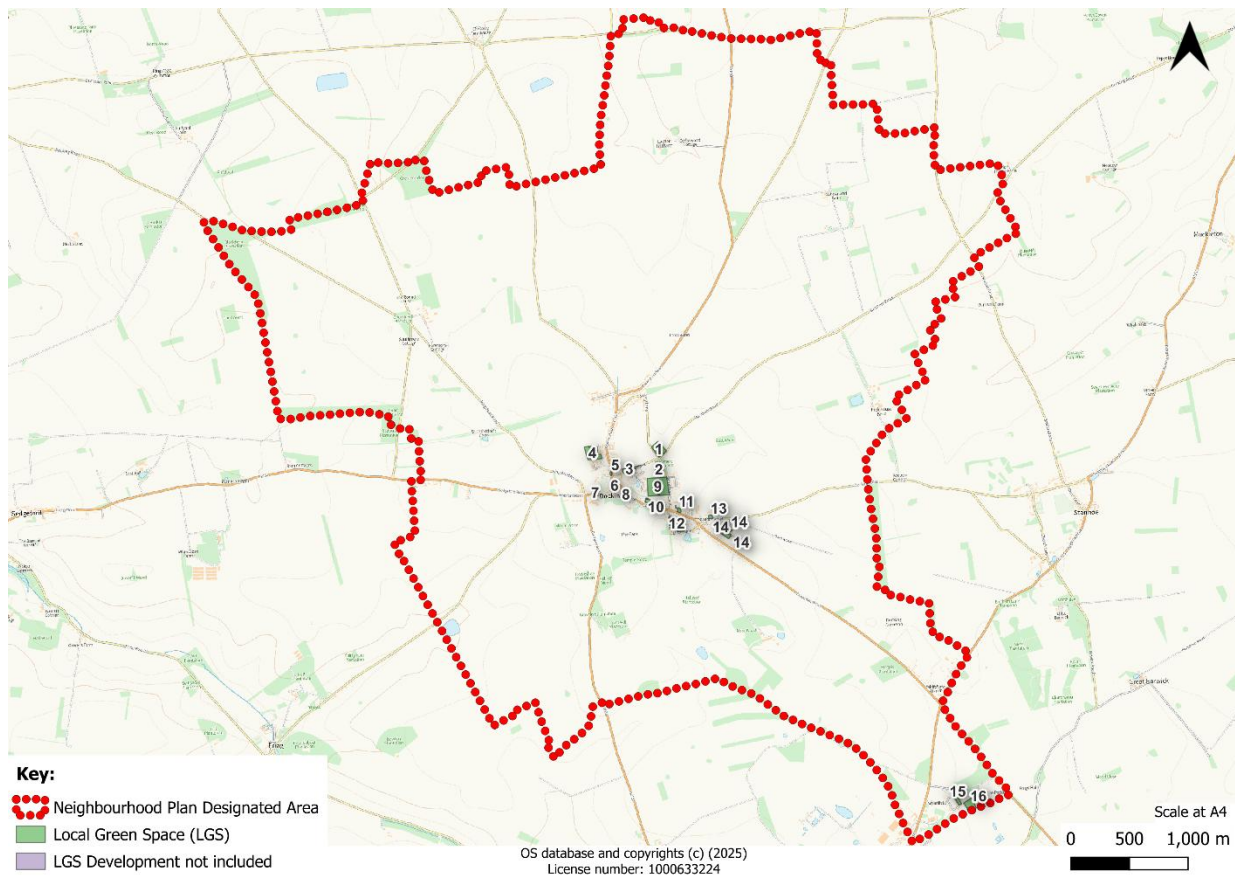
Source: Norfolk Heritage Explorer, 2024⁵

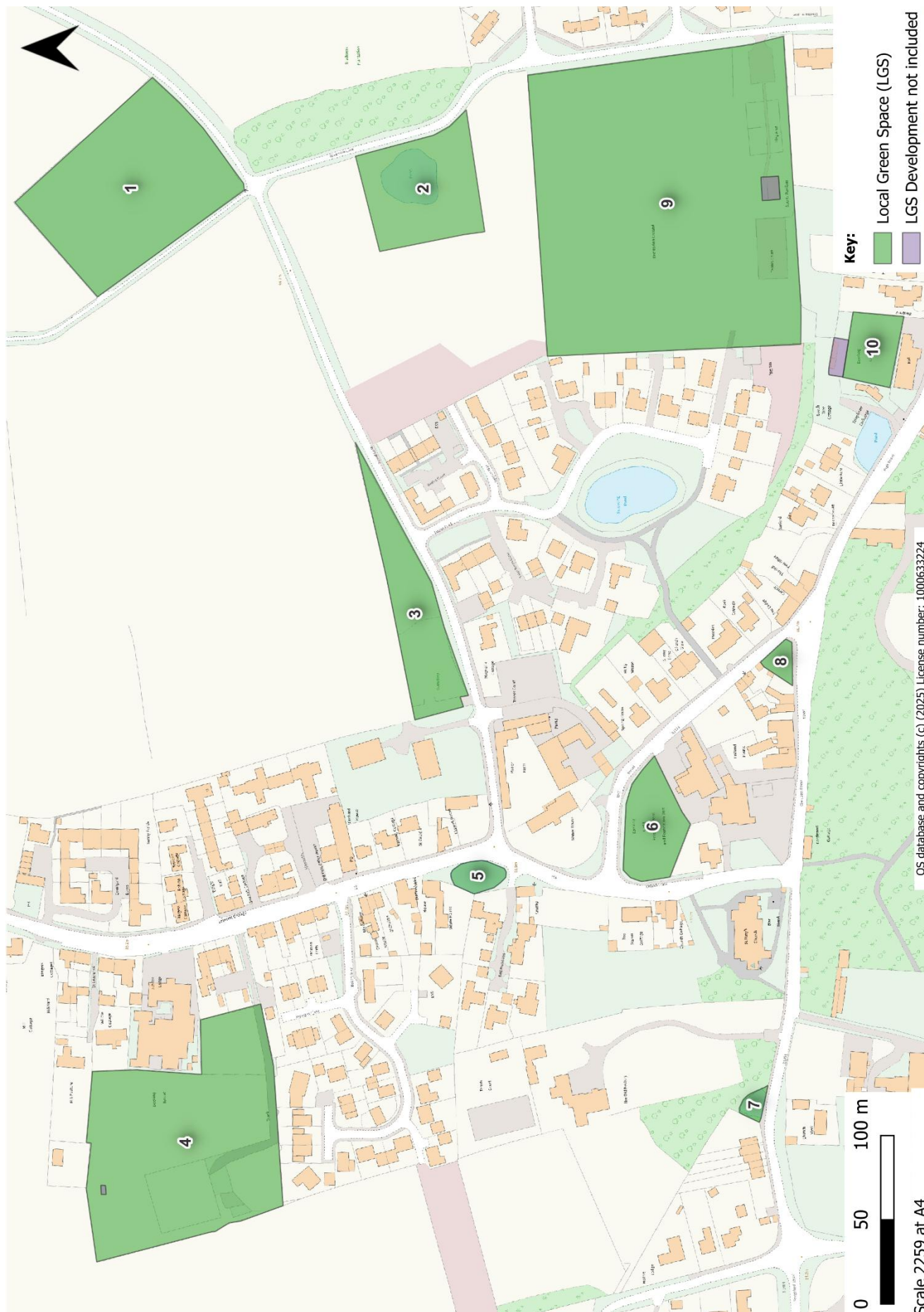


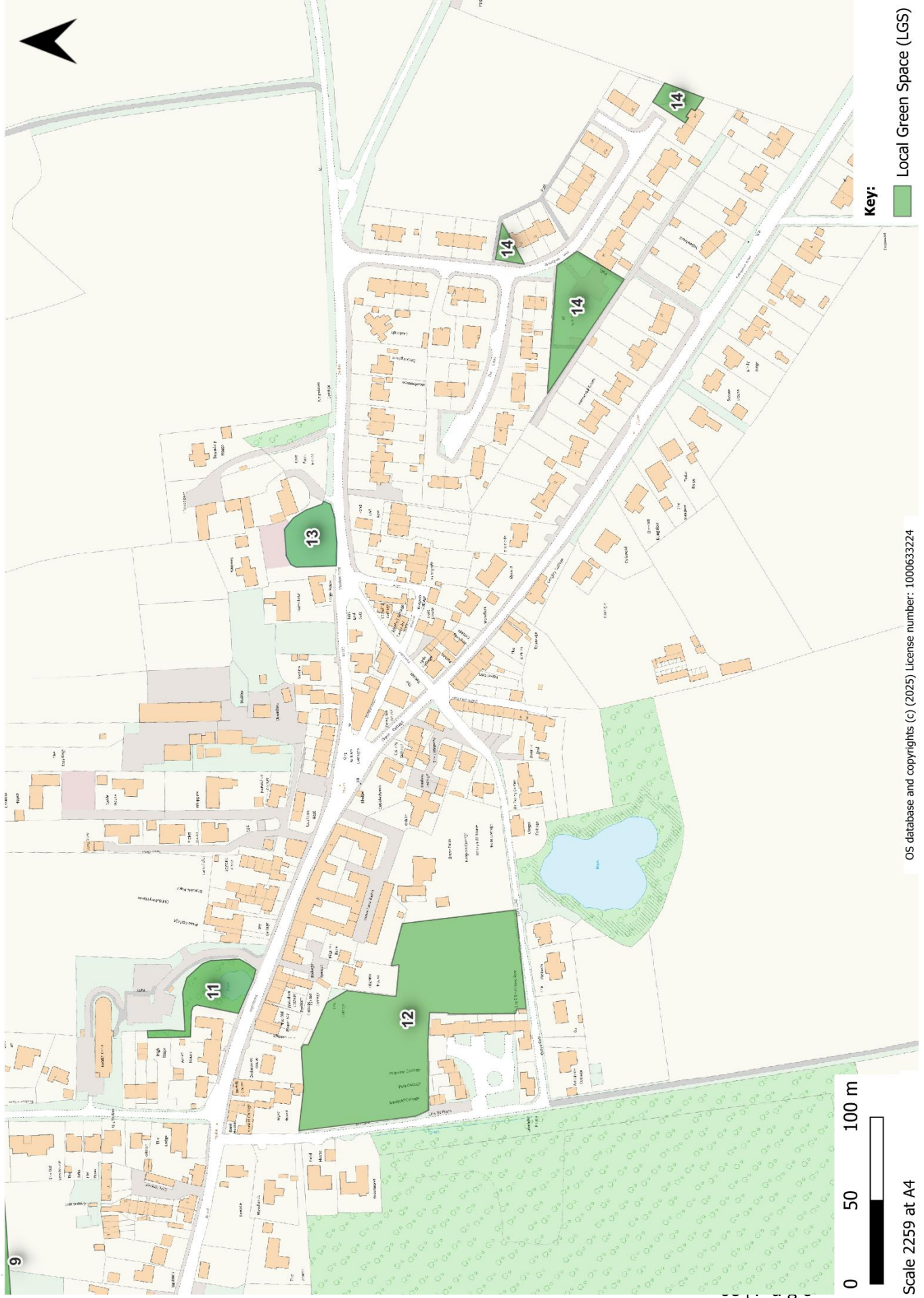
⁵ [Map Selection - Norfolk Heritage Explorer](#)

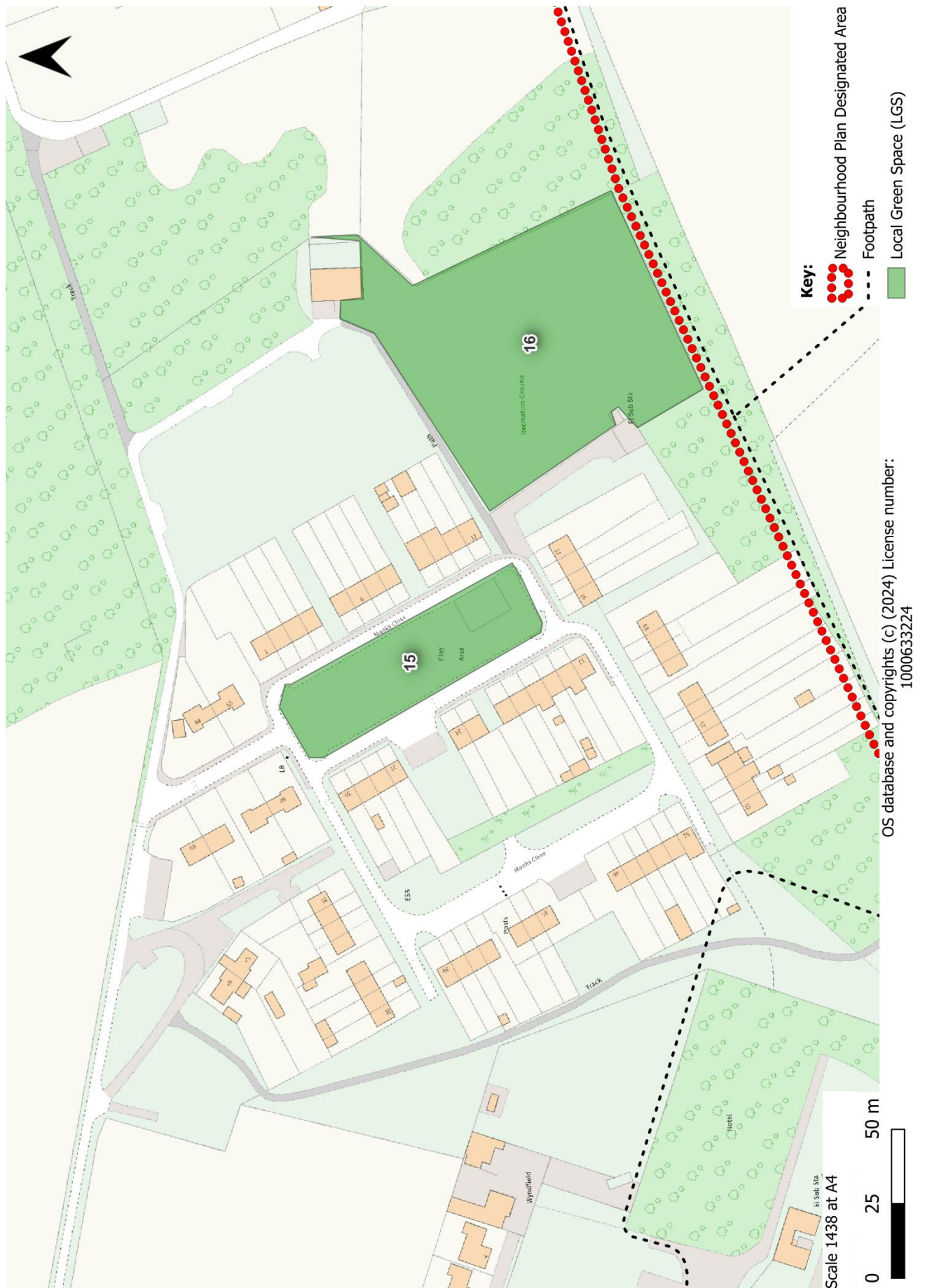
Recommended Designations

From the assessment work, 16 Local Green Spaces have been determined to meet the national criteria for designation. These are highlighted below.









Appendix 1: Spreadsheet of the Toads, Frogs and Newts saved within the 2025 migratory season among 23 sites

Site	Toads Saved	Toads Lost	Frogs Saved	Frogs Lost	Smooth Newts Saved	Smooth Newts Lost	Great Crested Newts Saved	Great Crested Newts Lost
Totals	18490	2054	1609	160	1645	290	138	15
Ashwellthorpe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carleton Forehoe	311	26	35	0	36	6	0	0
Centre Paws, Youngmans Road	340	16	33	0	18	3	0	0
Cley	579	215	62	2	43	13	0	0
Costessey	98	24	211	44	1	0	0	0
Devil's Punchbowl	5495	623	156	31	770	148	74	10
Docking	956	81	15	2	0	0	0	0
Edgefield, The green	189	9	84	3	126	5	39	0
Elsing- Bartles pond	2040	491	26	0	4	2	0	0
Elsing- Mill Street	225	64	8	0	0	0	0	0
Great Massingham	54	11	2	0	0	0	0	0
Great Melton	2	0	1	1	14	5	3	0
Hempstead	434	17	19	0	3	0	0	0
Little Barningham	61	8	1	0	0	0	1	0
Little Melton	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Massingham- Hall Farm	2906	87	0	0	0	0	0	0
Massingham- Lily Pond	891	34	2	0	0	0	0	0
Salthouse	1318	161	597	60	299	66	0	0
Selbrigg	677	22	73	1	52	1	0	0
Stibbard	102	13	10	0	16	3	0	0
Thwaite Common	891	101	82	9	213	33	1	1
West Runcton	375	20	59	0	35	0	0	0
Wicklewood	137	19	31	3	13	3	20	4
Wrampingham Rd	352	12	102	4	2	2	0	0