

7. Designation of local green space

Considering green spaces for designation

Not all green spaces will be suitable for formal designation as Local Green Space. The criteria in Paragraph 100 of the NPPF must be applied.

This section of the document sets out how designation of Local Green Spaces should be considered.

Application of NPPF Criteria

National Planning Practice Guidance states:

“Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities”.

Paragraph 100 of the NPPF sets out the criteria that green space must meet in order to be designated as ‘Local Green Space’:

“The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the space is:

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
- c) is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land”.

In addition to these criteria, 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”.

Other designations of land, such as green belt or conservation area status, do not necessarily preclude or support designation as Local Green Space. But it is necessary to consider whether the additional designation is necessary and would serve a useful purpose. Existing designations are discussed in more detail later in this guide.

In applying the NPPF criteria, there is no precise definition of 'close proximity', but it could be interpreted as meaning adjacent or in very easy walking distance. It may depend to some extent on the nature of the facility.

In considering whether a space is demonstrably special to a local community, it is clearly important to engage with the community and to assess how the community uses a space. It is also important to engage with any owners of the land in question.

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 around a settlement.

The following form has been developed to assist in the consideration of land for Local Green Space designation.