

# Audley Rural Neighbourhood Plan Info Sheet

## Local Green Space FAQ's

### Green Belt

A designated band of land around urban areas, designed to contain urban sprawl.

### Green Field

Land where there has been no previous development.

### Local Green Space

This is a formal designation that may be made by neighbourhood plans, to provide protection for green spaces valued by the local community.

### Does land need to have public access?

No. Land does not need to have public access. The Parish Council recognise that some land being considered may have no public access (e.g. green areas which are valued because of their wildlife, historic significance and/or beauty).

Designation as a Local Green Space does not itself confer any rights of public access over what exists at present. Any additional access would be a matter for separate negotiations with landowners, whose legal rights must be respected.

### What about public rights of way?

Areas that may be considered for designation as Local Green Space may be crossed by 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.

### Does land need to be in public ownership?

No. National guidance makes it clear that a Local Green Space does not need to be in public ownership. The Parish Council is contacting all known landowners as part of the initial community consultation. Landowners and the wider community will also have opportunities to make further representations on the proposed Local Green Spaces in the draft Neighbourhood Plan at Regulation-14 (a formal 6-week consultation).

### Would designation place any restrictions or obligations on landowners?

Designating a green area as Local Green Space would give it protection consistent with that in respect of Green Belt, but otherwise there are no new restrictions or obligations on landowners.

We are contacting all know landowners at an early stage on any proposals to designate any part of their land as Local Green Space.

#### What if land has planning permission for development?

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.

#### How close does a Local Green Space need to be to the community it serves?

The proximity of a Local Green Space to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special, but it must be reasonably close. For example, if public access is a key factor, then the site would normally be within easy walking distance of the community served.

#### What if land is already protected by designations such as Site of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Monument or conservation area?

Different types of designations are intended to achieve different purposes. If land is already protected by designation, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space.

#### How big can a Local Green Space be?

There are no hard and fast rules about how big a Local Green Space can be because places are different and a degree of judgment will inevitably be needed. However, [paragraph 100](#) of the National Planning Policy Framework is clear that Local Green Space 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. In particular, designation should not be proposed as a 'back door' way to try to achieve what would amount to a new area of Green Belt by another name.