

Swale Borough Council Local Green Spaces

**Final Report
February 2025**



1. Background and national policy context

- 1.1 As per paragraph 106 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), “The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them.”. These should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated.
- 1.2 The Council is currently undertaking a Local Plan Review and as such, has had the opportunity to identify potential new Local Green Space designations, as well re-consider existing ones. Paragraphs 106-107 of the NPPF, and the supporting Planning Practice Guidance, set out the criteria that need to be met for land to be designated. The land needs to be:
 - in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - demonstrably special to a local community and hold a particular significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field) tranquillity or richness of wildlife; and
 - local in character and not an extensive tract of land.
- 1.3 Furthermore, designating land as Local Green Spaces should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. In particular, local plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs, and Local Green Space designation should not be used in a way that undermines the aim of sustainable plan making.
- 1.4 For land that is designated as a Local Green Space, paragraph 108 of the NPPF sets out that policies for managing development within it should be consistent with those for Green Belts.

2. Local policy context

- 2.1 Following consultation on the Local Plan timetable in mid-2025, the plan making process was delayed due to the Highsted Decision being delayed also. The Regulation 18 version of the plan has now been consulted on between January and February 2026 with a reduced scope of vision, objectives and Development Management policies. The Regulation 19 version of the plan will be consulted on between July and September 2026. The Reg 18 version of the Local Plan, which was recently consulted upon, includes Policy INF4 Local Green Spaces which sets out the Local Plans approach to Local Green Spaces.

3. Methodology

Existing sites

- 3.1 There are 112 existing Local Green Space designations. A desktop review of these has been carried out to ascertain whether they continue to meet the criteria or not, and therefore whether their designations should be retained or not.

New sites

- 3.2 A call for sites to be considered for new Local Green Space designation was carried out in August/September 2020 and 158 sites were put forward, mainly by members of the public and Parish and Town Councils. Of these, 32 sites have existing Local Green Space designation, and 3 sites were later withdrawn by the submitter. All new sites that are not existing designations, or were not withdrawn, have been assessed against the criteria set out in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3.

4. Conclusion and next steps

- 4.1 Of the 112 existing Local Green Space designations, it has been concluded that 111 sites continue to meet all the criteria, and they are proposed to be retained as such. It has also been concluded that 1 site is proposed to be de-designated.
- 4.2 Of the 158 sites submitted through the call for sites, 29 have been considered to meet all the criteria, and they are proposed for Local Green Space designation. In some cases, sites overlap each other. Where this has happened, and all have been proposed for designation, the larger area will be taken for eventual designation.
- 4.3 A further 94 sites have been considered not to meet all the criteria, and they are therefore not proposed for Local Green Space designation. Of the remainder, 32 sites are existing Local Green Space designations (dealt with at paragraph 4.1) and 3 were withdrawn.
- 4.4 An index showing the summary of the outcomes, by settlement, can be found at section 5. The full site assessments for the submitted sites can be found in Appendix II using the references shown in the index. The full site assessment for the existing site proposed for de-designation can be found in Appendix III.
- 4.5 As there is no proposed change in the status of the sites to be retained, the landowners of those will not be directly consulted again (as they were during the preparation of the adopted Local Plan). The landowners of the site proposed to be de-designated, and the new sites proposed to be designated, will be consulted alongside the Council's Regulation 19 consultation. Any representations received will be submitted with the Council's submission to the Secretary of State for examination.

5. Index of outcomes, by settlement

Bapchild

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/137	Land at Bapchild	No

Bobbing

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/020	Bobbing village sign	No
LGS/065	Rooks View, Keycol Hill	No

Borden

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/143	Land East of Borden Nature Reserve	No

Boughton-under-Blean

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/038	Land fronting Canterbury Road	No
LGS/039	Land at junction of Stoney Road and Dawes Road	No
LGS/040	Land rear of Berkeley Close	No
LGS/041	Land west of Weatherall Close	No
LGS/042	Land east of Weatherall Close	No
LGS/145	Land at The Charltons	No
LGS/146	Land off Bull Lane	Yes
LGS/147	Land at junction of The Street/Colonels Lane	No
LGS/148	Land on corner of Colonels Lane	No
LGS/149	Land on junction of Colonels Lane/Field End Place	No
LGS/150	Land at The Ridgeway	No
LGS/151	Land at Colonels Lane (opposite Swedish Court)	No
LGS/152	Land at Colonels Lane (adjacent no. 77)	No
LGS/153	Land at Burnt Oast Road	No
LGS/154	Land at St Pauls Road	No
LGS/155	Land rear of Horselees Road	No
LGS/156	Land at South Street	No
LGS/157	Land at Brickfield Lane	Yes
LGS/158	Land at junction of Canterbury Road with Stockers Hill	No

Bredgar

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/141	Bredgar Recreation Ground	Yes

Conyer

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/121	The former Conyer Brickworks	No

Dargate

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/045	Red Road	No

Dunkirk

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/036	Land off Courtenay Road	No
LGS/037	Land at Manson Wood	No
LGS/046	Land at junction of Canterbury Road and Boughton Bypass	No

Eastchurch

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/095	Shurland meadow and cricket ground	Existing - retained
LGS/096	Dickson's field	Existing - retained
LGS/097	Anne Boleyn play area	Existing - retained
LGS/098	Bunny Bank field	Existing - retained
LGS/099	Land at Rowetts Way	Existing - retained
LGS/100	Bright's Wood	Existing - retained
LGS/101	Range Road field	Existing - retained
LGS/102	Shurland Dale holiday park frontage	No
LGS/103	Kingsborough Manor Community Woodland	Existing - retained

Eastling

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/061	Field between the Carpenter's Arms and St Mary's Church, The Street	No

Faversham

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
Dedes01	Faversham Cricket Ground	Existing - de-designated
LGS/001	Faversham Recreation Ground	Yes
LGS/002	Abbeyfields	No
LGS/003	Abbeyfields north of Gordon Square	No
LGS/004	Area alongside the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School playing field	Yes

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/005	The Cooksditch (1)	No
LGS/006	The Cooksditch (2)	No
LGS/007	Cooksditch (3)	No
LGS/008	Clapgate Springs	Yes
LGS/009	The Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School playing field	No
LGS/010	The Cooksditch (4)	Yes
LGS/011	The Town Green	Existing - retained
LGS/012	Millfield allotments behind Cheney Road	Existing - retained
LGS/013	Millfield playing field and play area	Existing - retained
LGS/014	Playing field and play area at the Windermere estate	Yes
LGS/015	Land adjacent to New Creek Road	Yes
LGS/016	Thorne Creek	No
LGS/017	Land at meeting of Clapgate and School Farm streams	No
LGS/035	School Farm Springs	No
LGS/048	Allotments between Broomfield Road and Larksfield Road	Existing - retained
LGS/049	Green spaces at Front Brents/Upper Brents	Existing - retained
LGS/050	Green space at north end of Brent Road/Bridge Road	Existing - retained
LGS/051	Playing area and pitch at junction of Bysing Wood Road and Sherwood Drive	Yes
LGS/052	Play area at corner of Springhead Road and Brook Road	Existing - retained
LGS/053	Playing field, including play area, enclosed by Barnfield Road and Reedland Crescent	Existing - retained
LGS/071	Bysing Wood	No
LGS/072	Crab Island, Front Brents	Yes
LGS/073	Meadow Gap to the SSSI	No
LGS/074	Faversham Creek to the SSSI	No
LGS/075	Land at Front Brents	Existing - retained
LGS/076	Fields from Upper Brents towards Faversham Creek	Yes
LGS/078	Footpath parallel to Brent Road	Yes
LGS/104	Pumping station, The Knole	No
LGS/105	Land at Flood Lane	Existing - retained
LGS/106	Footpath to The Westbrook stream, Beech Close	No
LGS/107	Willow Tree green, Stonebridge Way (opposite Chart Close)	No
LGS/108	The green on Stonebridge Way (adjacent Finlay Close)	No
LGS/109	Woodland at Wildish Road	Yes
LGS/110	Sub-station/community orchard at The Knole	No
LGS/111	The Stonebridge Ponds between Curtis Way, Davington Hill, Brent Hill and Flood Lane	Existing - retained
LGS/112	The cricket ground at Greenway/Alexander Drive	Existing - retained

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/113	Play area at Lower Road	Existing - retained
LGS/114	Playing field at the end of Whiting Crescent	Existing - retained
LGS/115	Ball court, green walkways and open spaces within the Moat estate	No
LGS/116	Willow beds surrounded by The Knole and Hazebrouck Road together with walkways along the stream	Existing - retained
LGS/120	Bysing Wood	No
LGS/125	Land between the recreation ground, Jubilee Way, Bromley Avenue and the Windermere estate	Yes
LGS/127	Preston Nursery	No
LGS/128	The Abbey School playing field (1)	No
LGS/129	Abbey School playing field (2)	No
LGS/130	Field adjacent Brogdale Road	No
LGS/131	Open space surrounding Finch Close	Existing - retained
LGS/132	King George V Recreation Ground	Existing - retained
LGS/133	Play area off Wallers Road and rear of Lion Field	Yes
LGS/134	Playing area and field at Lower Road/Bensted Grove	Yes
LGS/135	Allotments at St Nicholas Road	Yes

Graveney

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/029	Land adjacent to Langdon Court Cottages, Head Hill Road	No
LGS/030	Land adjacent to Four Horseshoes Park, Head Hill Road	No
LGS/031	Village hall playing field, Sandbanks Lane	No
LGS/032	Land opposite Graveney Primary School, Seasalter Road	No
LGS/033	Land opposite Murston Place, Seasalter Road	No
LGS/034	Land adjacent to Odin's path between All Saint's Church, Seasalter Road and Sparrow Court, Broom Street	No

Hartlip

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
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LGS/062	Underlynch, between Hollow Lane and Lower Hartlip Road	No
LGS/064	War memorial and garden, The street	No
LGS/066	Field backing onto The Street	No
LGS/067	The Village Pond/The Old Wheel Wash, The Street	No

Iwade

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/018	Land at Iwade	No
LGS/019	Land at Sheppey Way	No
LGS/021	Play area at Woodpecker Drive and Iwade Nature Park	Yes
LGS/022	Land to the rear of The Woolpack Inn	No
LGS/023	Land at Dunlin Walk and rear of Iwade School	No
LGS/025	Evergreen Close	No

Lower Halstow

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/024	Callum Hill and the surrounding area	No

Lynsted

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/117	The Gallops	No
LGS/118	Toll Wood	No
LGS/119	Dadman's Shaw	No
LGS/122	Land South of London Road, including the Coffin Pathway	No

Minster-on-Sea

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/068	The Glen	Existing - retained
LGS/070	Land at Windy Gap, north of Chequers Road	Existing - retained
LGS/093	Plover Road play area	No
LGS/094	The Old Orchard, Parsonage Chase	No

Newington

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/063	Recreation ground, Orchard Drive	Existing - retained

Oare

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/077	Fields on either side of Ham Road	No

Ospringe

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/054	Area surrounding St Peter and St Paul's Church, Water Lane	No
LGS/055	Triangular green fronting St Peter & St Paul's Church, Water Lane	No
LGS/056	Ospringe allotments	Yes
LGS/057	Field at Water Lane	No
LGS/059	Echo Field	No
LGS/060	Land between the M2, Water Lane and Vicarage Lane	No
LGS/126	Former chalk pit at Vicarage Lane	No
LGS/136	Green Gap	Yes

Painter's Forstal

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/058	Lorenden Park	No

Rodmersham

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/140	Land west of Farm Cottages	No

Selling

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/043	Play area next to Selling School	Withdrawn
LGS/044	The cricket ground and pond	Withdrawn
LGS/047	The cricket pitch	Withdrawn

Sheerness

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/069	Land within Barton's Point Coastal Park	No
LGS/079	Playing area and field adjacent to Vincent Gardens	No
LGS/080	Beachfields Park	No
LGS/081	Festival Playing Field, New Road	Yes
LGS/082	Green adjacent to Estuary Road and Fleet Road	Yes
LGS/083	Seager Road Sports Field	Existing - retained
LGS/084	The Fleet	Yes
LGS/085	Green space, west of Tesco	No
LGS/086	Land adjacent to Millennium Way, south of Rides Windmill	No
LGS/087	Allotments, Medway Road	Yes
LGS/088	The Paddock adjacent to Garrison Road	No

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/089	Allotments, Nursery Close	Yes
LGS/090	Sports field, Co-op Sports and Social Club	Yes
LGS/091	Queenborough Lines	No
LGS/092	Land at Bridge Road	No

Sittingbourne

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/026	Grove park	Existing - retained
LGS/027	Sports ground, Grove Park Primary School	No
LGS/028	Maylam Gardens	No
LGS/123	Moonstone Square, The Meads	No
LGS/124	The Meads Community Woodland, The Meads	Yes
LGS/142	UK Paper Leisure Ground	Existing - retained
LGS/144	Land between the A2 and Grove Park Avenue	No

Tunstall

Reference	Site Name	Designate?
LGS/138	The old school field	Existing - retained
LGS/139	Field behind The Vicarage	Yes