

North Luffenham: Local Green Space Designation – Consultation Version

As part of the development of our first Neighbourhood Plan, North Luffenham Parish Council is seeking to designate a number of green spaces located within the Parish. To do so, we need your views on the proposals so ensure that we have selected the right green spaces for the right reasons.

What are the benefits of designating such spaces?

Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas that are of particular importance to local communities. Designated local green spaces are afforded the same level of protection as green belts, ruling out development in all but very exceptional circumstances. Any type of green space could be suitable for designation and may include land where sports pavilions are located, allotments or urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis.

Why are our local green spaces important?

Protecting our green spaces is important because they provide: -

- places for relaxation, social interaction as well as venues for events and large gatherings
- green connections between multiple spaces across the parish and away from the highway
- habitats for wildlife and green corridors that contribute to local biodiversity
- places for local residents to grow their own food
- space for the provision of sports and recreational facilities from cricket pitches to children's playgrounds
- pleasant outlooks for neighbouring properties and enhance the visual amenity of the village including settings for historic buildings and landmarks
- spaces for carbon capture by trees and plants which has beneficial impact on climate change
- flood mitigation in some circumstances.

In short, local green spaces contribute the quality and visual impact of our Parish in the same way as buildings and infrastructure and help make it an attractive place to live, work and play. They add real value to the Parish and have a positive impact on the quality of life of local residents.

Sustainable Development

Neighbourhood Plans must contribute to sustainable development in the area they cover. In the case of green spaces, this means ensuring that the social, economic and environmental benefits of green spaces outlined above have a positive impact on sustainable development. As a consequence, the impact of new developments on existing green spaces and the provision of new green spaces as part of any development form an important factor in determining whether development is sustainable.

How have the Local Green Spaces been selected?

Our approach to the assessments is in accordance with the guidance and criteria contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 (Paragraphs 101, 102 and 103) to ensure that each site 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)
 - tranquility
 - richness of wildlife
- local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

Although the NPPF does not define what qualifies as ‘close proximity’ or an ‘extensive tract of land’, Natural England’s Accessible Greenspace Standards provides a helpful guide. It suggests that ‘close proximity’ should be defined as being within 2km (1.25 miles) of the local community and that an ‘extensive tract of land’ be defined as being over 20 hectares (50 acres). We have taken these guidelines into account when assessing sites for North Luffenham.

What can I do?

Review the proposed Local Green Spaces and tell us your positive or negative comments. You could give us further examples of how the space is used by the community or its value and importance, alternatively you may suggest why it should not be designated, for example it has limited community value and say why or how.

What Happens Next? - Consultation opens on **xxxx** 2021.

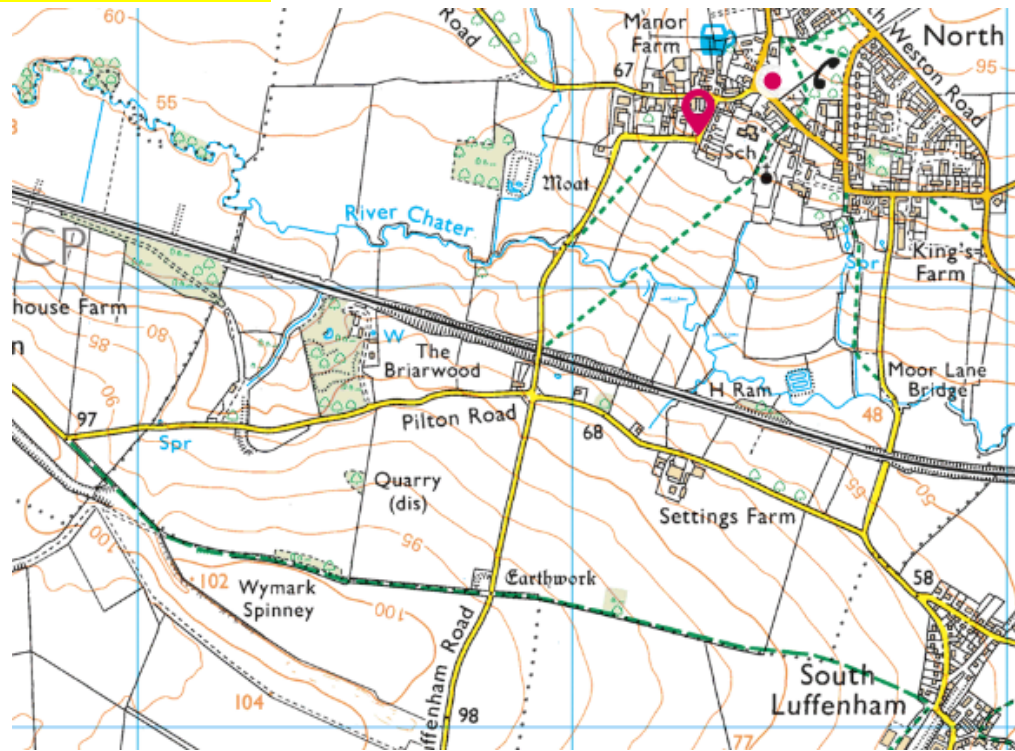
North Luffenham Parish Council will consider all the responses after the consultation closes on **xxxx** 2021 and then make a final list of those to be designated as Local Green Space for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

For further information visit: **xxxx**

The North Luffenham Circular Walk Fields.

This is a 6.6 km. loop trail which is primarily used for walking, trail running, and nature trips. It offers a wide variety of wild flowers and beautiful views. Locals have enjoyed this peaceful route and open space for over 40 years. It has no formal name as it utilises a number of protected footpaths and local roads but for the purposes of this document shall be referred to as the North Luffenham Circular Walk. It can be found on popular walking websites such as 'AllTrails'.

Fields to be protected..



(Source :

Ordnance Survey - <https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk> (Add numbers)

Check o/s licence with Pete and wording for copyright. Can we add fp numbers without invalidating the licence?

The walk traverses for fields in all: two significant fields at the Glebe Road section of the walk within the village and two others as it returns to the village **towards Digby Drive.**

Proposed Designation: Field 1.

The first photograph below shows the view of the walk taken from the churchyard and looks across fields 1 (foreground) and 2 described later in this section. The second photograph, taken from Field 1, shows the bridge of the River Chater connecting Fields 1 and 2.



<u>Field 1: where the public footpath E275 traverses from the churchyard style to the River Chater.</u>	
NPPF Criteria	Assessment
Proximity to the community	Within the village. It is looked onto by the church and the school.
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), tranquility and the richness of its wildlife	<p>Highly valued by the parish community - adjacent to the churchyard and the school grounds, adding to the vistas, tranquility and beauty of these locations.</p> <p>The public footpath across the field supports the longest and arguably most relaxing, health promoting and beautiful walk within the parish in terms of natural beauty, vistas, tranquility and its traditional rural aspects.</p> <p>It enables one of the only means of public access to the River Chater and its associated wildlife and natural beauty.</p> <p>The views in all directions when crossing the field are panoramic, varied and rich in rural charm.</p> <p>Historic in its existence as a public right of way.</p>
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	By its very nature this one of the best routes from which to enjoy the local character of the parish. It is not extensive in terms of land mass.

Proposed Designation Field 2.

The picture on the left below looks down Field 1 and across to Field 2 whilst the photograph on the right looks back towards the village from the top of Field 2.



**Field 2:
footpath**



**where the public
E275 traverses**

from the River Chater, uphill, towards the railway line and Glebe Road.

NPPF Criteria	Assessment
Proximity to the community	It can be viewed from the church, the school and a number of houses on the western edge of the village.
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), tranquility and the richness of its wildlife	<p>There are insufficient wildflower meadows in the area and nationally. This is a significant contributor to the richness, of wildlife habitats and food sources particularly in respect of endangered insects, birds and hedgehogs. It also enhances the balance of nature and the national effort to reverse the damage caused to the natural environment.</p> <p>The public footpath across the field supports the longest and arguably most relaxing, health promoting and beautiful walk within the parish in terms of natural beauty, vistas, tranquility and its traditional rural aspects.</p> <p>The views in all directions when crossing the field are panoramic, peaceful, varied and rich in rural charm.</p> <p>Historic in its existence as a public right of way.</p>
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	By its very nature this one of the best routes from which to enjoy the local character of the parish. It is not extensive in terms of land mass.

Proposed Designation: Fields 3 and 4.



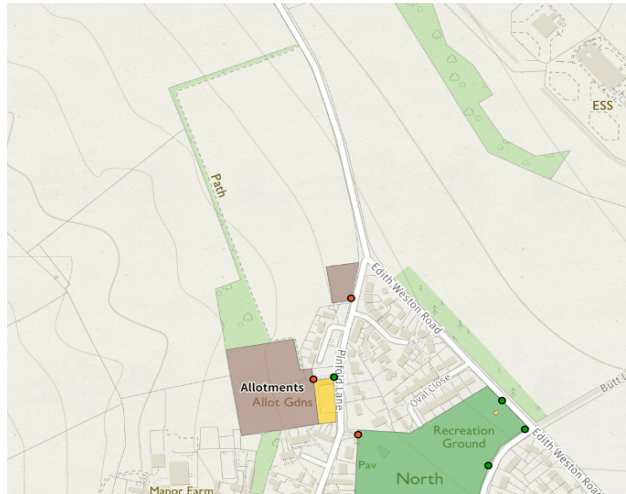
Field 3 and 4, plus the lawned area with gate leading onto Digby Drive (one owner): where the public footpath E278 traverses from Moor Lane, near the River village, onto Digby

Chater, uphill, towards the including the entrance gate Drive.

NPPF Criteria	Assessment
Proximity to the community	Located within the village.
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), tranquility and the richness of its wildlife	<p>Grazing land, historically.</p> <p>Contains habitats and food sources for wildlife, particularly in respect of endangered insects, birds and hedgehogs and thus contributes to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p>The public footpath across both fields supports the longest and arguably most relaxing, health promoting and beautiful walk within the parish in terms of natural beauty, vistas, tranquility and its traditional rural aspects.</p> <p>There are views down towards the River Chater when crossing the field.</p> <p>Peaceful, varied and rich in rural charm.</p> <p>Historic in its existence for containing a public right of way. Locals have used this walk over many years.</p>
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	By its very nature this is one of the best routes from which to enjoy the local character of the parish. It is not extensive in terms of land mass.

The Allotments and Field Gardens Woodland and Walk

The short Woodland Walk is illustrated by the dotted line on the map below. The woodland (owned by North Luffenham Parish Trust) is situated adjacent to the allotments. The Field Garden Allotments, owned and managed by the Parish Council comprise two distinct areas of land accessed from Pinfold Lane.

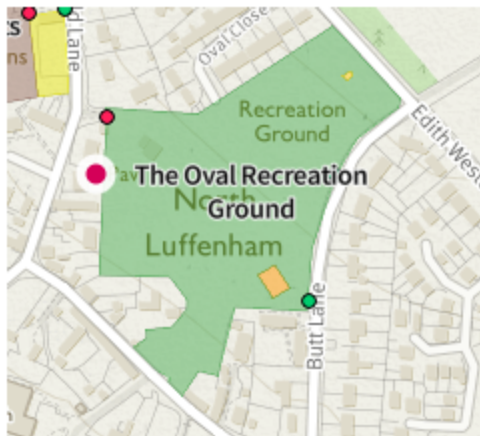


Source: Ordnance Survey



The Allotments and the Field Gardens Woodland and Walk	
NPPF Criteria	Assessment
Proximity to the community	In the heart of the village.
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), tranquility and the richness of its wildlife	<p>Easily reached on foot by local residents.</p> <p>Newly established woodland in a rural parish that has relatively few woods. It is considered excellent for dog walking - many use it for this purpose, daily.</p> <p>Wildlife habitats have been created in the Fields Garden Woodland for the declining bird population including nest boxes for owls and other birds. It provides feeding grounds for birds and other wildlife in the adjacent grasses and trees.</p> <p>The allotments have valued views sloping down towards the south and west side of the parish, and the medieval moat.</p>
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Appropriate in its size, given its purpose, as demonstrated in the map.

The Oval



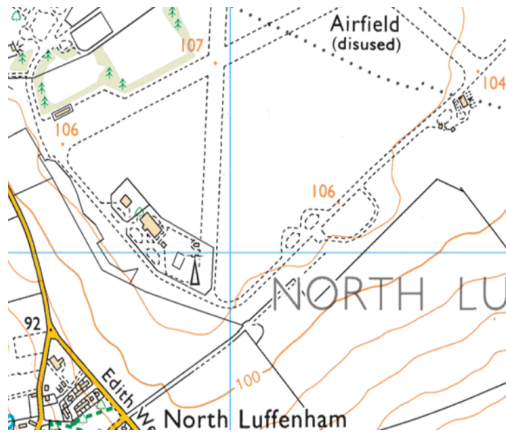
(Source: Ordnance Survey 2020)



The Oval	
NPPF Criteria	Assessment
Proximity to the community	In the heart of the village.
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), tranquility and the richness of its wildlife	<p>Easily reached by everyone in the village.</p> <p>Historically this area has been provided for the people of the parish to enjoy.</p> <p>Excellent for dog walking, sport, children's' play, general recreation, walking and socialising. Significant numbers of residents use it for these purposes every day.</p> <p>Habitats have been created in the form of a wildflower area and rewilded sections under the avenues of trees to contribute to reversing the declining bird and insect populations. Nesting boxes have been provided in many of the trees to further support this aim.</p>
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Appropriate in its size given its purpose, as illustrated on the above map.

Butt Lane

Butt Lane, from the junction of Edith Weston Road, joining with the section of land designated as a nature corridor that leads up to the parish boundary to meet with the section of land to be protected by the neighbouring parish, Edith Weston. Whilst not currently included on the definitive map the status of the bridleway is not currently known but it has been accessed by local residents, without let or hinderance, over many decades.



(Source : Ordnance Survey) (Indicate path)

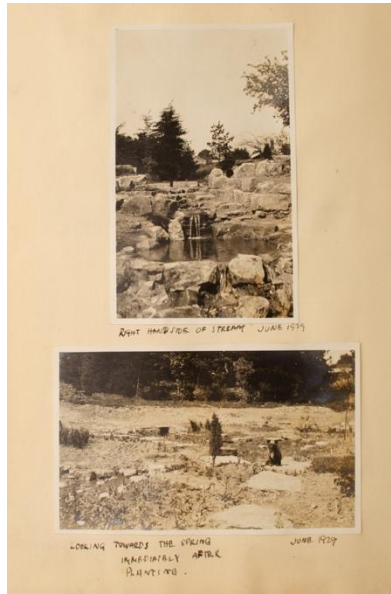
Butt Lane, from the junction of Edith Weston Road, and the section of land, up to the parish boundary.	
NPPF Criteria	Assessment
Proximity to the community	Close to the village residential area and the Oval.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example, because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility and the richness of its wildlife	<p>Highly valued by the village community. Connects the village to the local countryside adding to the vistas, tranquility and beauty of these locations.</p> <p>The public footpath along Butt Lane opens into green space that offers one of the highest and far-reaching panoramic views in the parish.</p> <p>An area of significant natural beauty and tranquility, with traditional rural aspects. It also has significant heritage value through its association with the Thor Missile Site.</p> <p>A valued walk from the village where very few alternatives are reachable on foot. It provides opportunities for residents to allow their dogs to run free.</p> <p>Historic in its existence as a public right of way preceding the use of the land for military purposes.</p>
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	By its very nature, this one of the best routes from which to enjoy the local character of the parish. It is not extensive in terms of land mass.

The Water Gardens

The Water Garden was designed by Russell Page for Guy Fenwick at North Luffenham Hall between March and May 1929. As his first and one of his highly acclaimed pieces of work, he described it at length in "The Education of a Gardener" as follows: "One of my earliest jobs was to make a rock garden in a Rutland field its owners had recently discovered the ruined walls of an old fishpond and a spring." (Page, Russell. The Education of a Gardener. Harvill, 1994.)



(Source: Ordnance Survey)



The photograph shows a page from the bound notebook kept by Russel Page dated June 1929. There is no public access to the site at present although it is visible from the footpath adjacent and referenced as springs ("Spr") on the top left of the map above.

Water Gardens.	
NPPF Criteria	Assessment
Proximity to the community	Within the village residential area. It was part of the Old North Luffenham Hall (now demolished) gardens.
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), tranquility and the richness of its wildlife	Of historic importance and beauty, with the design dating back to 1929. Despite the lack of public access, the site is valued by residents and those who appreciate garden landscaping. A habitat for local wildlife. The public footpath from Moor Lane leading to Digby Drive passes by. An area of significant local natural beauty and tranquility.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Where the natural limestone of the Oolite Belt meets the land surface. It is not extensive in terms of land mass.