



# **Local Green Spaces Assessment**

**An evaluation of Local Green Spaces proposed for the  
Storrington, Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood  
Plan (SSWNP)**

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March 2017

# 1. Introduction

## Background to the project

- 1.1 Storrington & Sullington Parish and Washington Parishes are jointly preparing a neighbourhood plan which will include a policy designating areas of Local Green Space which are particularly valued by the respective communities.
- 1.2 A Local Green Spaces Report was published by the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group in June 2016. This document describes 25 areas of green spaces identified by the group as meeting the criteria for designation as Local Green Space.
- 1.3 Horsham District Council has commissioned the South Downs National Park Consultancy Service to undertake an independent review of the sites which have been put forward for Local Green Space designation. This assessment sets out the policy and guidance relevant to the designation of Local Green Spaces and evaluates the sites against these.
- 1.4 The South Downs National Park Consultancy Service currently operates under the umbrella of the South Downs National Park. The aim is to provide support to neighbourhood planning in other National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), market towns and rural communities.
- 1.5 The Officers working within the consultancy service have the benefit of the experience of working within the South Downs National Park supporting almost 50 communities producing neighbourhood plans. We have used the outcome of around 15 examinations of NDPs to inform our assessment of what is and is not considered to be a LGS.

## Structure of this report

- 1.6 Section 2 of this report sets out key elements of national and local policy, and guidance, for Local Green Space designation. Section 3 summarises the methodology undertaken. Section 4 sets out the key conclusions of the assessment. The initial sieve matrix and the detailed evaluation matrix are presented within appendix 1 and 2 respectively. Appendix 3 includes a settlement scale map showing the distribution of the proposed LGS sites, followed by a site level map of each site.

# 2. Policy context

## What are Local Green Spaces?

- 2.1 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 introduced the concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designation<sup>1</sup>.

## National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.2 Paragraph 76 of the NPPF says that local communities should be able to identify green spaces of particular importance to them through local and neighbourhood plans. These designations would rule out development other than in very special circumstances and should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.
- 2.3 Paragraph 77 of the NPPF recognises that the LGS designation would not be appropriate for most green areas. It sets out the following criteria for designation of LGS sites:
  - Is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;

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<sup>1</sup> DCLG. 2012. National Planning Policy Framework. [ONLINE] Available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf)

- 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 is not an extensive tract of land.

2.4 Paragraph 78 of the NPPF states that local policy for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with policy for Green Belts.

### **National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)**

2.5 The national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) includes further guidance on the LGS designation<sup>2</sup>. The guidance addresses many common questions about the LGS designation, particularly relating to what sort of sites would be suitable for designation and what the designation means in practice. The following paragraphs in the PPG are of particular relevance for the evaluation of sites for LGS designation. Key points are summarised below:

- Paragraph 007 – LGS designation should be consistent with local planning for sustainable development and should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making.
- Paragraph 008 – generally LGS designation is rarely appropriate for land which is subject to planning permission for development.
- Paragraph 011- if land is already protected by designation (such as Site of Special Scientific Interest or National Park), then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by LGS designation.
- Paragraph 014 – the proximity of a LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special e.g. if public access is a factor, then the site should be in easy walking distance.
- Paragraph 015 – there are no hard and fast rules about how big a LGS can be because places are different and a degree of judgement will inevitably be needed.
- Paragraph 017 – some areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may already have largely unrestricted public access, however land could be considered for LGS designation if there is no public access (e.g. if valued for biodiversity, historic significance and/or beauty). LGS designation in itself does not confer any rights of public access over what exists at present.

### **Horsham District Development Plan**

2.6 The Horsham District Planning Framework<sup>3</sup> was adopted in November 2015 and includes strategic policies and a number of allocations. The PPG<sup>4</sup> advises that a draft neighbourhood plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan in force if it is to meet basic condition (e). Although a draft Neighbourhood Plan or Order is not tested against the policies in an emerging Local Plan the reasoning and evidence informing the Local Plan process is likely to be relevant to the consideration of the basic

<sup>2</sup> DCLG. 2014. *Planning Practice Guidance, Local Green Space designation*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>

<sup>3</sup> Horsham District Council. 2015. *Horsham District Planning Framework*. [ONLINE] Available at: [https://www.horsham.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/28563/Horsham-District-Planning-Framework-2015.pdf](https://www.horsham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/28563/Horsham-District-Planning-Framework-2015.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> DCLG. 2016. *Planning Practice Guidance, What is neighbourhood planning, paragraph 009*. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/what-is-neighbourhood-planning/what-is-a-neighbourhood-plan-and-what-is-its-relationship-to-a-local-plan/>

conditions against which a neighbourhood plan is tested. Therefore the Storrington, Sullington and Washington NDP, including its LGS designations, should have due regard to relevant policies and evidence supporting the Horsham District Development Plan.

- 2.7 A Sports, Open Space and Recreation Assessment<sup>5</sup> was commissioned by Horsham District Council and this forms part of the Local Development Framework evidence base. This document provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of various types of open space, sports and recreation facilities.
- 2.8 In addition to the above documents the Horsham District Site Allocations Plan 2007<sup>6</sup> has also been referred to when of relevance to a site being assessed.

### 3. Methodology

- 3.1 The criteria set out in Section 2 (Policy Context) form the basis for the evaluation of the 25 sites. A two stage process has been undertaken in this evaluation: a desktop study 'first sieve', followed by a detailed evaluation. The methodology is explained further below.

#### Stage I: Desktop review and first sieve

- 3.2 The first stage of this evaluation involves a desktop assessment of the 25 sites described in the communities' Local Green Space Report against 4 initial criteria in order to identify and discard sites which are clearly not able to meet the NPPF criteria. The criteria are:
  - The green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
  - The green space concerned is local in character and not an extensive tract of land;
  - The green space is not allocated for another use; and
  - The green space does not already have planning permission for development.
- 3.3 There are no clear specifications in the NPPF or in the PPG on precisely what constitutes 'close proximity to the community'. As noted above, the PPG, in general terms advises that where public access is a key factor, then the site would normally be in easy walking distance of the community served. The Horsham Sports, Open Space and Recreation Assessment uses a range of distances to define what is accessible. These were used in the desktop evaluation, along with additional practical considerations of access such as busy roads, pavements and streetlights.
- 3.4 Similarly there is no clear definition of what constitutes an extensive tract of land but it must be local in character and therefore large areas of green space which are of much more than local significance have been carefully considered to make a judgment as to whether they are fulfilling the spirit and purpose of this LGS designation. It is also important to note that many such large areas are often already protected by other designations such as SSSI, SAC or covered by sports and open space policies within Local Plans.

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<sup>5</sup> Kit Campbell Associates. 2014. *The Horsham District Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment*. [ONLINE] Available at [http://www.horshamdistrictldf.info/Core\\_Strategy/docs/Sport-Open-Space-Recreation-Assmt.pdf](http://www.horshamdistrictldf.info/Core_Strategy/docs/Sport-Open-Space-Recreation-Assmt.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Horsham District Council. 2007. *Site Specific Allocations of Land Development Plan Document*. [ONLINE] Available at [https://www.horsham.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/3694/SSAL\\_adopted07.pdf](https://www.horsham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/3694/SSAL_adopted07.pdf)

3.5 Paragraph 77 of the NPPF sets out a further test; namely that the green area is demonstrably special to the local community. This criteria requires a more detailed analysis which is undertaken through stage 2 of this evaluation.

## Stage 2: Detailed analysis

3.6 The second stage of this evaluation involves a more detailed analysis of those sites that remain following the first sieve and focuses on the following criteria set out in paragraph 77 of the NPPF which states that the LGS designation should only be used where:

- the green area is 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 in wildlife’.

3.7 In order to fulfil the requirements, at least one of the five criteria must be met.

3.8 The assessment of whether a proposed site is demonstrably special to the local community for the five criteria set out above is challenging because terms such as ‘beauty’ are largely subjective. This assessment has considered each of these five terms using the key considerations and prompts as set out below:

- **Beauty** - Beauty is clearly a very subjective concept but we have used the normal meaning of the word i.e. a combination of qualities, such as shape, colour, or form, that pleases the aesthetic senses, especially the sight, (Oxford Dictionaries) to assess the sites through site visits supplemented by the information contained in the SSW Green Spaces Report
- **Historic significance** – consideration is given to how the proposed LGS holds particular local significance with regard to the history of the community or settlement e.g. historic village events, historic buildings, structure or landscape features present on site with a particular connection to the local community.
- **Recreational value** – The evidence and findings within the Horsham Sports, Open Space and Recreation study, plus evidence included in the community Green Spaces Report, and first hand observations from site visits of how the site is used for recreation e.g. playing sport, informal recreation, children’s play etc.
- **Tranquillity** - Tranquillity is considered to be a state of calm, quietude and is associated with a feeling of peace; a state of mind that promotes mental wellbeing. It is a perceptual quality of the landscape, and is influenced by things that people can both see and hear around them. Positive tranquillity factors include seeing a natural landscape, natural looking woodland, rivers and open vistas, and hearing natural sounds such as birdsong, an absence of human activity, or even silence. Evidence from site visits and the community’s Local Green Space report were utilised.
- **Wildlife** – consideration is given to how the proposed LGS holds particular local significance for example through its management for wildlife, or for its role for local wildlife within the settlement, as observed when on site and through information provided within the community’s Local Green Space Report.

3.9 Two additional criteria are included into the matrix for reasons as set out below:

- **Public access** – Although not a requirement for LGS designation, public access can be a key factor as to why the site may be considered demonstrably special, for example with regard to its recreational value. This criteria has been added to assist in identifying where public access is necessary in order to fulfil the criteria.
- **Layers of designation** – The PPG asks that, where there are already protective designations on site, consideration is given to what additional benefit LGS designation would offer. This criteria is added so that it is clear where there is potential for layering of designation, so consideration can be given as to the benefits of LGS designation.

3.10 To support the detailed analysis of this stage 2 assessment, site visits were undertaken in November 2016 and were supported by further desk top analysis as necessary. A visual appraisal was made of each proposed Local Green Space to see whether they met the criteria set in the NPPF.

## 4. Key conclusions of the assessment

### Stage 1: Desktop review and first sieve

4.1 This first stage of assessment considered each of the 25 proposed LGS sites as set out in the Community's Local Green Space Report. The detail of this assessment is set out in the matrix in appendix 1. Through this process, the following 5 sites were discarded:

- i. **Sandgate Park** – This site is currently subject to minerals extraction which is likely to continue beyond 2018. The site is allocated in the Horsham District Land Allocations Plan for a country park which will be delivered in stages. Due to current planning permission for this minerals extraction and the extensive nature of the site it does not meet the initial criteria at present.
- ii. **River Stor and its environs** – This site is a long linear feature which bisects the parish and are considered to be extensive.
- xiii. **Rugby Ground** – The site is an extensive area of land which is of larger than local significance. It is also not in close proximity to the majority of the village.
- xiv. **The Gliding Fields** – This site is of larger than local significance and covers a large area of land which is considered extensive.
- xxii. **Warren Hill** – This is not in close proximity to nearby settlements.

4.2 The desktop analysis found that the remaining 20 sites appear to fulfil the initial criteria and are therefore considered in more detail in the next stage of the assessment.

### Stage 2: Detailed analysis

4.3 This second stage of assessment involved a detailed analysis of the remaining 20 proposed LGS sites. The detail of this assessment is set out in the matrix in appendix 2. Of these the following one site was identified as not fulfilling the criteria at this time:

- xxv. **Amberley Road** – The site is a small field adjacent to a main road into Storrington. The site was subject to planning applications for 45 and 35 homes. These applications were refused by Horsham District Council and were then subject to appeals (APP/Z3825/W/15/3128935 and 3141250). The appeals were dismissed. The decision statement noted that ‘the site also has amenity value for dog-walkers and other users of the above noted permissive paths’. The site was proposed by the community for LGS designation in association with a proposed new development site (policy 2iv) which is understood to no longer being progressed. Whilst it is clear that the permissive footpaths have value to walkers/dog-walkers information is not included within the Community’s Local Green Space Report (or otherwise available documentation) regarding how the site is currently demonstrably special to the local community, and as such does not fulfil the criteria.

4.4 Site xxi. **Milford Grange Country Park** is proposed for LGS designation in the community’s Local Green Space Report as a country park. The site is part of the landscape setting of a new development and is in the first stage of development as a country park. The site is currently under construction and is not accessible by the public. The evaluation of the proposed Local Green Spaces in this report is based upon the current uses and qualities of the sites; following this approach, the site does not yet fulfil the criteria. It is recognised that the site will have a future role for the community for recreation purposes once the country park is completed and open, and the community may consider this role as being particularly important. The decision making body may therefore find this site suitable for LGS designation in the context of its future use.

4.5 Site xxiv. **The Glebe Field** is currently subject to a planning application which has yet to be determined. For the purpose of this report, the site has been assessed using the site area as set out in the community’s Local Green Spaces Report with consideration of the current condition and use of the site. A summary of these conclusions, and a separate comment on the planning application and its potential implications for LGS designation of this site is set out below:

- *Detailed analysis conclusions* – The detailed analysis found that the site meets the criteria set out in the NPPF: The Glebe Field is demonstrably special to the community with regard to its historic significance through its association with the church and various local events, its tranquillity, and for recreation, particularly walking. It is recognised that the field is part historic core of the village.
- *Planning application comment* – As noted above, there is a planning application for development on this site which is yet to be determined. The NPPF states that LGS designation should be capable of enduring beyond the Plan period and the PPG advises that it would rarely be appropriate for LGS designation to be given where the land is subject to planning permission for development. At this stage, the outcome of the application process is not known, but depending on the timing of any decision it should be recognised the decision could impact on the suitability of the whole site as a local greenspace. In the event that planning permission were to be granted, the land which remains undeveloped would in principle still be suitable for LGS designation where it continues to meet the criteria of LGS designation. For this site, the retention of the heritage and landscape qualities, and recreation value would be the key considerations.

4.6 In total, 18 sites were considered to fulfil the criteria.

## Conclusion

4.7 The assessment undertaken has identified the following 17 sites which are considered to fulfil the criteria:

- iii. Mill Pond
- iv. Meadowside
- v. Hurston Lane Field
- vi. Storrington Memorial Pond, Pulborough Road
- vii. Windmill Copse
- viii. Sullington Recreation Ground
- ix. Field at the top of Downsvie Avenue
- x. Matt's Meadow
- xi. Fryern Dell
- xii. The Glade
- xv. Washington Recreation Ground
- xvi. Storrington Recreation Grounds
- xvii. The Triangle
- xviii. Jockey's Meadow
- xix. Vera's Shelter and Green (Heath Common)
- xx. 1<sup>st</sup> Extension Graveyard
- xxiii. Longbury Hill
- xxiv. The Glebe Field

4.8 In addition, site xxi. Millford Grange Country Park, has planning permission or a country park and the construction of this is currently underway. The site will have a role for recreation purposes for the community once finished. The decision making body may find this site suitable for LGS designation in the context of its future use.

4.9 The analysis and conclusions set out in this report are the result of an independent review of the sites proposed for inclusion in the Storrington, Sullington & Washington Neighbourhood Plan, and provide an indication of the suitability of these sites for LGS designation in relation to the criteria and guidance of the NPPF and PPG. The Neighbourhood Planning group may wish to supplement this assessment with further technical or contextual information demonstrating how the site is special to the local community which may ultimately lead them to come to a different conclusion than ourselves.

## Appendix I – Local Green Space Initial Desk top review & first sieve

Site Name	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment?
	Planning permission?	Allocated/ proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
i. Sandgate Park	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	The site is currently subject to minerals extraction which is likely to continue beyond 2018 and is sufficiently large (approximately 30 acres) to be considered an extensive tract of land. The site is allocated in the Horsham District Land Allocations Plan for a country park which will be delivered in stages. This future use is also noted in the Sports, Open Space and Recreation assessment commissioned by Horsham District Council. It is therefore the subject of current planning permissions and an allocation which secures its future and it is not felt that it fulfils the LGS criteria.	No
ii. River Stor and its environs	No	No	Yes	Yes	The River Stor bisects the parish. The river, and its environs, can be considered extensive. Proposed LGS sites iii. Mill Pond and iv. Meadowside are located on/along the River Stor and its environs and are considered separately below.	No
iii. Mill Pond	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement and is a clearly defined pond and its immediate surrounds.	Yes
iv. Meadowside	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement and is a clearly defined small local woodland.	Yes
v. Hurston Lane Field	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement and is a clearly defined field bounded by roads and suburban development.	Yes
vi. Storrington Memorial Pond, Pulborough Road	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement and is clearly defined pond, plus its immediate surrounds.	Yes

Site Name	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment?
	Planning permission?	Allocated/proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
vii. Windmill Copse	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement, this site is a clearly defined small area of short mowed grass with a small number of ornamental scale trees, surrounded by suburban development.	Yes
viii. Sullington Recreation Ground	Yes	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement, the site is a clearly defined area of grass and local play area. The planning permission granted (DC/09/06) is for construction of a youth shelter to support the current use of the site as a recreation ground and therefore does not conflict with potential LGS designation.	Yes
ix. Field at the top of Downsview Avenue (and footpath leading to far end of Water Lane)	No	No	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location. The site is a clearly defined field located adjacent to suburban development.	Yes
x. Matt's Meadow	No	No	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location and a clearly defined field.	Yes
xi. Fryern Dell	Yes	No	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location. The site is a clearly defined piece of small local woodland, adjacent to suburban development. The planning permission granted (SR/68/60) was for the provision of this woodland and amenity open space and the housing development which is adjacent and therefore does not conflict with potential LGS designation.	Yes
xii. The Glade	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement. The site is a clearly defined piece of small local woodland and is surrounded by suburban development.	Yes

Site Name	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment?
	Planning permission?	Allocated/proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
xiii. Rugby Ground	Yes	No	No	Yes	Planning permission (DC/10/0241) was granted for some additional grass block parking spaces as part of the use of the site as a Rugby Ground and in this instance does not conflict with the potential for LGS designation. However, this site is not in close physical proximity to a settlement. The site is of more than local significance and any proposals for development would be considered against the Horsham District Planning Framework Policy 43 on community facilities, leisure and recreation. It is a large site and not in the immediate vicinity of the majority of the village. It is therefore not recommended for the next stage of evaluation.	No
xiv. The Gliding Fields	No	No	No	Yes	The site is not particularly close in physical proximity to the settlement. The Gliding Fields cover a large area of land which could reasonably be considered extensive. The site is of more than local significance. It is therefore not recommended for the next stage of evaluation.	No
xv. Washington Recreation Ground	Yes	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement, this site is an area of clearly defined grass and a local play area. The planning permission (WS/30/02) granted for this site is for relocation of emergency access gates and does not conflict with the potential for LGS designation.	Yes
xvi. Storrington Recreation Grounds	Yes	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement, the site consists of a clearly defined area of grass for recreation and sports, and a play area.	Yes

Site Name	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment?
	Planning permission?	Allocated/ proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
xvii. The Triangle	No	No	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location. This site is a clearly defined small piece of local woodland. It is noted that although in close proximity to the community in physical terms, its location between three busy roads give it a somewhat detached makes it functionally somewhat detached.	Yes
xviii. Jockey's Meadow	No	No	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location. This site is a clearly defined area of grass used for recreation.	Yes
xix. Vera's Shelter and Green (Heath Common)	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement, this site is a small area of grass and the setting for a historic feature of local character.	Yes
xx. 1 <sup>st</sup> Extension graveyard	Yes	No	Yes	No	Located at the edge of the settlement of Washington, This site is a small, clearly defined historic graveyard extension of local character and setting. The planning permission which has been granted (DC/04/105) for the site was for management of trees on the site and does not conflict with the potential for LGS designation.	Yes
xxi. Milford Grange Country Park	Yes	No	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location. The site consists of an area of greensand ridge of about 4ha. The area identified for LGS designation is the landscape setting of a new development and the first stage in the development of a country park.	Yes
xxii. Warren Hill	No	No	No	No	This site is not located in close proximity to nearby settlements. The northern part of the site (up to the ridge) is wooded and very much of a similar character to the Washington Common. Subject to the protective ownership of the National Trust.	No
xxiii. Longbury Hill	No	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement, this site is a clearly defined area of local woodland.	Yes

Site Name	Criteria				Comments	Suitable for next stage of assessment?
	Planning permission?	Allocated/proposed for development?	In close proximity to the community?	Extensive tract of land?		
xxiv. The Glebe Field	No. However a planning application has been submitted. Awaiting decision.	No	Yes	No	Located within the settlement, this site is a clearly defined field of local character and setting.	Yes
xxv. Amberley Road (south of development site – policy 2iv)	No	No	Yes	No	Edge of settlement location. The site consistent of a small field of grassland adjacent to the main road. It was to form the landscape setting of a proposed allocation of housing. That allocation is no longer being progressed.	Yes

## Appendix 2 - Local Green Space Detailed Analysis Matrix

Site name	Publically accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
i. Sandgate Park								Removed at Stage I	No
ii. River Stor and its environs								Removed at Stage I	No
iii. Mill Pond	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	The Mill Pond is what remains of the former historic pond associated with a former working historic Mill, which is now lost. The Mill Pond is now a locally rich source of wildlife at the centre of Storrington. The site contains priority habitat broadleaved deciduous woodland. The Sports, Open Space and Recreation Assessment commissioned by Horsham District Council identifies this site as a natural greenspace of high quality and value, with a medium to high level of usage. The site is demonstrably special to the local community for its history and wildlife.	Yes
iv. Meadowside	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	This site is owned by Horsham District Council and is used as a for recreation and is also managed for nature conservation. The site contains priority habitat broadleaved deciduous woodland. There is a Meadowside Management Plan which covers largely the same area as proposed for LGS. The Sports, Open Space and Recreation Assessment commissioned by Horsham District Council identifies this site as a natural greenspace with a medium to high level of usage. Although site is identified as having strategic value in open space terms within the district, there are demonstrably links with the local community through the residential group called The Friends of Meadowside. The site is demonstrably special for its recreation and wildlife value.	Yes

Site name	Publically accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquility	Wildlife		
v. Hurston Lane Field	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	The site is used for the purpose of playing junior football and for holding village community events, funfairs and travelling events, and exercising dogs. The site is demonstrably special for its recreational value. It is noted that works are planned on the site to improve the surface for recreational activities.	Yes
vi. Storrington Memorial Pond, Pulborough Road	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	This pond was originally part of the historic Storrington Common. The pond is a recognisable feature of the community. The pond a valuable for local biodiversity being home to many bird species, and bug, bat and bird boxes used by the local primary school for education.	Yes
vii. Windmill Copse	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	This green area of amenity space is surrounded by suburban development. The community's Local Green Space Report states that the site provides play and recreation opportunities to those within the area.	Yes
viii. Sullington Recreation Ground	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	The Sports, Open Space and Recreation Assessment commissioned by Horsham District Council identified this site as a Park and Recreation Ground of high quality and high value. This recreational ground provides opportunities for play and recreation to the surrounding community and is demonstrably special for this recreational value.	Yes
ix. Field at the top of Downsview Avenue (and footpath leading to far end of Water Lane)	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	The site consists of a field and public right of way which traverses the site which is noted, in the community's 2016 Local Green Spaces Report, that it is well used by local residents and parents taking a shortcut to school. The PPG advises that there is no need to designate linear corridors to preserve public rights of way which	Yes

Site name	Publicly accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquility	Wildlife		
								are already protected by other legislation. The community's 2016 Local Green Spaces Report notes that the site is used for general sporting and play activities. This could be considered to be reflected in the Sports, Open Space and Recreation Assessment commissioned by Horsham District Council which identified this site as an amenity green space, of low quality but high value.	
x. Matt's Meadow	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	This site is associated with the Norbertine Order. The site is tranquil and beautiful, and is open to all for quiet recreation and enjoyment. There is a community woodland project which was established in 2007 operating on site. The site is demonstrably special against all 5 criteria.	Yes
xi. Fryern Dell	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	This site forms part of the Fryern Hill Historic Parkscape, of which there are remnant built features, and is a natural green space primarily enjoyed by walking. The site contains priority habitat broadleaved deciduous woodland. The site is rich in local wildlife and provides a very natural and tranquil environment in a wider suburban area. Part of the site is managed by the Storrington Conservation Society for informal open space and wildlife.	Yes
xii. The Glade	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	This site is a small piece of woodland managed by the Storrington Conservation Society and is managed as public open space while enhancing the wildlife value.	Yes
xiii. Rugby Ground								Removed at Stage I	No
xiv. The Gliding Fields								Removed at Stage I	No
xv. Washington Recreation Ground	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	The Sports, Open Space and Recreation Assessment commissioned by Horsham District Council identified this site as a	Yes

Site name	Publically accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquility	Wildlife		
								Park and Recreation Ground of high quality and high value. This recreational ground provides opportunities for play and recreation to the surrounding community and is demonstrably special for this recreational value.	
xvi. Storrington Recreation Grounds	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	This recreational ground provides opportunities for play and recreation to the surrounding community and is demonstrably special for this recreational value. Although site is identified as having strategic value for recreation within the district in the Horsham Sport, open Space and Recreation Assessment, the site is demonstrably special for its recreational value to the residents of Storrington in the immediate community.	Yes
xvii. The Triangle	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	This site is a small piece of isolated unmanaged woodland at a busy three road junction. The site is not identified as Accessible Woodland, and thus does not appear to have public access. It is located within the South Downs National Park and is therefore subject to the protections of that designation. The site contains priority habitat broadleaved deciduous woodland but is detached from any other areas and therefore currently provides only limited wildlife corridor value. The north edge of the site, alongside the A238, is identified as a Notable Verge for its Bee Orchid's by West Sussex County Council. It is noted that the site has not been given nature conservation designation status for its wildlife value The Community's Local Green Spaces Report notes its wildlife value and states that the Parish has twice commissioned expert surveys; which may offer an indication of the importance of the site to the	Yes

Site name	Publicly accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquility	Wildlife		
								community. A chalk stream runs through the site. Chalk streams are rare and important habitat in Sussex and so the site can be considered to be demonstrably special with regard to biodiversity.	
xviii. Jockey's Meadow	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	This site is used primarily for recreation, in particular walking by local people when travelling to and from the local school and for dog walkers. The site contains priority habitat good quality semi-improved grassland. The site is under the protective ownership of the National Trust who have made it available for local use.	Yes
xix. Vera's Shelter and Green (Health Common)	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	This site is a small area of grass and the setting for a historic feature of local character. The site is demonstrably special to the community for its historic significance.	Yes
xx. 1 <sup>st</sup> Extension graveyard	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	This site is demonstrably special to the local community for its historic significance. It is also a beautiful and tranquil environment.	Yes
xxi. Milford Grange Country Park	No	No	?	?	?	?	?	This site is proposed for LGS designation on the community's Local Green Space Report as a Country Park. The site is part of the landscape setting of a new development and is the first stage in development of a country park. The site is currently under construction and there is not public access. As the Country Park is yet to open, the site is not currently in use as the reason for which it is proposed to be designated and it is not possible to demonstrate the current role of the site for its recreational value. Please see further discussion of this site in paragraph X.X.	No
xxii. Warren Hill								Removed at Stage 1	No

Site name	Publically accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
xxiii. Longbury Hill	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	This site consists of a tranquil priority habitat broadleaved deciduous woodland, rich in a range of wildlife. Observations undertaken during a site visit indicate the site is popular with local people for walking/dog walking. The community's Local Green Spaces Report references the role of the site in the local history of the immediate area.	Yes
xxiv. The Glebe Field	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	<p>This site is demonstrably special to the community with regard to its historic significance through its association with the church and various local events, its tranquillity, and for recreation, particularly walking. The site contains priority habitat good quality semi-improved grassland. It is recognised that the field is part of the historic core of the village. The detailed analysis found that the site meets the criteria set out in the NPPF: The Glebe Field is demonstrably special to the community with regard to its historic significance through its association with the church and various local events, its tranquillity, and for recreation, particularly walking. It is recognised that the field is part of the historic core of the village.</p> <p>There is a planning application for development on this site which is yet to be determined. The evaluation of this site has been undertaken based on the proposals set out in the community's Local Green Space Report. The main body of the report provides a separate comment with regard to the planning application and its potential implications for LGS designation of this site.</p>	Yes

Site name	Publically accessible	Subject to other designations?	Demonstrably special to the community with regard to:					Comments	Does this site meet the criteria?
			Beauty	History	Recreation	Tranquillity	Wildlife		
xxv. Amberley Road (south of development site – policy 2iv)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	This site is a small field adjacent to one of the main roads coming into Storrington. The site is bisected by permissive paths. It is noted that the boundary of the South Downs National Park is on the opposite side of the B2139 to the south of the site. The site was subject to a planning applications for 45 and 35 homes. These applications were refused by Horsham District Council and were then subject to appeals (APP/Z3825/W/15/3128935 and 3141250). The appeals were dismissed. The decision statement noted that ‘the site also has amenity value for dog-walkers and other users of the above noted permissive paths’. The site is proposed in the Community’s Local Green Space Report in association with proposed development under policy 2iv and it is now understood that the wider development proposal is no longer going ahead. Whilst it is clear that the permissive footpaths have value to walkers/dog-walkers information is not included within the Community’s Local Green Space Report (or otherwise available documentation) regarding how the site is currently demonstrably special to the local community, and as such does not fulfil the criteria.	No