

## Step 2: Complete checklist

If it seems that the candidate site may meet the designation criteria, complete the designation checklist below (and provide all the relevant evidence). The checklist should be completed for each candidate site.

1	General Information
1.1	Name and address of site <i>Some sites have several names and all known names should be given</i>
<p><b>Hoton Playing Fields, Community Orchard and Wildlife Area</b>  <b>Old Parsonage Lane, Hoton Marked on the map.</b></p>	
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site. <b>Scale 1:1116</b></i>



**Map showing location within the village**



1.3	<p>Organisation or individual proposing site for designation  <i>This will normally be a Town or Parish Council or a recognised community group</i></p>
<p><b>Burton-on-the-Wolds, Cotes, Hoton and Prestwold Parish Councils</b></p>	
1.4	<p>Ownership of site if known  <i>Information on land ownership can be obtained from the Land Registry. Some land parcels are not registered however local people may know the owner.</i></p>
<p><b>Charnwood Borough Council, and leased to Hoton Parish Council on a peppercorn rent.</b></p>	
1.5	<p>Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation?</p>
<p><b>This application is being made to Charnwood Borough Council, the owners.</b></p>	
1.6	<p>Does the owner support the designation?  <i>Sites may be designated as Local Green Spaces, even if there are objections from the site owners</i></p>
<p><b>It is hoped that Charnwood Borough Council will support this application.</b></p>	
1.7	<p>Photographs of site</p>
	

1.8	Community served by the potential Local Green Space <i>i.e. does the site serve the whole village/town or a particular geographic area or group of people?</i>
	<b>The site is easily accessed and within walking distance of all those living in Hoton Village. It is also used by those in neighbouring villages.</b>  <b>The area for designation comprises a playing field with a small football pitch, tennis courts and cricket nets. There is a range of play equipment for children, an orchard with a variety of fruit trees picked for consumption by residents and a wildlife meadow which is enjoyed by all generations. In addition, there are raised flower beds and a number of picnic benches.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Planning History</b>
2.1	Is there currently a planning application for this site? If planning permission has been permitted could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?
	<b>No planning application.</b>
2.2	Is the site allocated for development in the Local Plan? If allocated, could part of the overall site still be used as a Green Open Space?
	<b>Not allocated for development.</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Size, scale and "local nature" of proposed Local Green Space</b>
3.1	Area of proposed site <i>It is unlikely that a site of over 20ha (50 acres) would be considered suitable for designation.</i>
	<b>0.963ha (2.38 acres)</b>
3.2	Is the site an "extensive tract of land"? <i>(Extensive tracts of land cannot be designated as Local Green Space) e.g. how large is it in comparison to other fields; groups of fields; areas of land in the vicinity etc.? Does the site "feel" extensive or more local in scale?</i>
	<b>No</b>
3.3	Is the proposed site "local in character"? <i>e.g. does the site feel as though it is part of the local area? And why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the local area? What is your evidence?</i>
	<b>It is a small playing field in keeping with the size of village it supports. What is now the wildlife area was formerly an orchard for the Prestwold Estate, the tennis courts are on land previously part of the Wymeswold Airfield. Surrounded by mature trees it remains an attractive and tranquil place where children and adults are able to access a wide range of play, including natural play areas. Some of the original orchard trees remain in the wildlife area, new fruit trees were planted between 2006-2008 and are maintained by the parish council, and members of the community are welcome to harvest the crops. This valued green space remains unspoilt with no buildings or other large man-made structures. Its position on the south-eastern edge of the village, on the corner of Old Parsonage Lane and Vinetree Terrace, is within safe and easy walking distance for all residents. It is also accessed by cycle and car by residents of neighbouring villages.</b>

<b>4</b>	<b>Need for Local Green Space</b>
4.1	Is there a need for a local green space in this location? <i>e.g. is there a shortage of accessible greenspace in the area? Is there a village needs survey or parish plan that provides evidence of that need. Further information – Natural England (Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard)</i>
	<b>It is the only public park / playing field in the parish. The village underwent major expansion in the late 1960s and there was nowhere for the children to play. Local residents, supported by the parish council, contacted a number of landowners and after a number of years finally secured the use of an area of orchard belonging to the Prestwold Estate in 1973. The area has since been expanded, but is still remains the only safe place for outdoor play in the village.</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves”</b>
5.1	How far is the site from the community it serves? Is the site within 2km of the local community? <i>Possible evidence – a map to show that distance</i>
	<b>It is within 0.5km of all of the main village and within 2km of the outlying areas of Hoton Hills and Hoton Park.</b>
5.2	Are there any barriers to the local community accessing the site from their homes? <i>e.g. railway line; main road</i> <i>Possible evidence – a map to show any potential barriers and how those can be overcome.</i>
	<b>It is possible for most residents to access the playing fields without traversing a busy road. There are, however, some residents who need to cross the A60, a single carriage way road that is the main route into Loughborough from Nottingham. There is, however, a safe crossing point with traffic island outside the village hall.</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community”</b>
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i>
	<b>The area was designated an asset of community value by Charnwood Borough Council in 2014. A survey carried out in the same year by the parish council provides further evidence of its value to residents. (Nomination form, copy of register and survey report attached)</b>
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>
	<b>The survey conducted by the parish council in 2014 highlighted the importance of the playing field to the local community. The responses to the questionnaire forming the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan provides further evidence.</b>
6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders <i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i>
	<b>None, but would be provided if necessary.</b>
6.4	Evidence of support from other groups <i>e.g. letters of support from organisations such as Campaign to Protect Rural England; local amenity societies; local schools etc.</i>

<b>7</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty,” (if applicable)</b>
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	<b>Yes</b>
7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.
	<b>Beauty is experienced in many different ways. This site is somewhere that people feel safe, part of the community and close to nature. These all contribute to a sense of beauty in a place.</b>
7.3	Site visibility <i>e.g. is it easy to see the site from a public place? Are there long-distance views of the site? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</i>
	<b>The beauty of this site is that it is secluded.</b>
7.4	Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations? <i>e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Conservation Area; Special Landscape Area</i> <i>Further information –Natural England</i>
	<b>No</b>
7.5	Is the site (or the type of site) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents? <i>Further information –Natural England</i>
	<b>No</b>
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?
	<b>Although it lies just outside the Hoton Conservation Area, the site is important in understanding the setting of the village and its relationship with the Prestwold Estate.</b>
7.7	Is the site highlighted in literature or art? <i>e.g. is the site mentioned in a well-known poem or shown in a famous painting?</i>
	<b>Not that we are aware of.</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its historic significance” (if applicable)</b>
8.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	<b>Yes</b>
8.2	Are there any historic buildings or remains on the site? <i>e.g. listed buildings; scheduled ancient monuments; registered parks and gardens; war memorials; other historic remains or structures.</i> <i>Further information –English Heritage; local history society</i>
	<b>The Hollow Way, a medieval road and undesignated heritage site, starts adjacent to this site. The site was previously part of the wider Prestwold Estate. Some of the land was also once part of the former Wymeswold Airfield.</b>

8.3	Are there any important historic landscape features on the site? <i>e.g. old hedgerows; ancient trees; historic ponds or historic garden features</i> <i>Further information –English Heritage; local history society</i>
	<b>Not known</b>
8.4	Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? <i>e.g. the old site of the town railway station; the old garden for the manor house etc.</i>
	<b>See 8.2</b>
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?
	<b>None known</b>
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>
	<b>No</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its recreational value (including as a playing field)”, (if applicable)</b>
9.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	<b>Yes</b>
9.2	Is the site used for playing sport? <i>If so what sport? How long has it been used for sports provision? Is this sports provision free or is a club membership required?</i> <i>Further information – Sport England</i>
	<b>It is used for a range of sports (e.g., tennis, football, cricket practice, basketball) and is free to use. It is not used for organised sporting activities (e.g., clubs) meaning that it available for use by residents and the wider public at all times.</b>
9.3	Are the public able to physically access the site? <i>e.g. are there any public rights of way across the site? Or adjacent to the site? Has access been allowed on a discretionary basis? Is there public access to the whole site or only part? Is there good disabled access to the site? (A site can still be designated even if there is no public access.)</i>
	<b>Full public access, no steps and a path to main areas.</b>
9.4	Is the site used by the local community for informal recreation? And since when? <i>e.g. dog walking; sledging; ball games etc.</i>
	<b>Yes – this is its main purpose. It has been used as such since 1973. Evidence from a play study of the village can be provided.</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its tranquillity” (if applicable)</b>
10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	<b>Yes</b>

10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>
	<b>The site is free from the noise of traffic; it is peaceful, unspoilt by human influence and somewhere people are able to relax. The tranquillity is very occasionally spoilt by noise from sports car experiences on Wymeswold Airfield and aircraft coming into East Midlands Airport (12.5km away). Respondents to the survey of the playing fields conducted in 2014 listed tranquillity as something they valued about this space.</b>
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</i>
	<b>No</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for example because of the richness of its wildlife"; (if applicable)</b>
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?
	<b>Yes</b>
11.2	Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? <i>e.g. as a site of special scientific interest; a key wildlife site etc Further information - Natural England</i>
	<b>No</b>
11.3	Are any important habitats or species found on the site? <i>e.g. habitats and species listed in the UK priority habitats and species lists or in Biodiversity Action Plans or protected species or on the red/amber lists of birds of conservation concern. Further information - Natural England; National Biodiversity Network; RSPB</i>
	<b>No</b>
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? <i>Further information - Natural England; National Biodiversity Network</i>
	<b>None</b>
11.5	Is the site part of a long term study of wildlife by members of the local community? <i>e.g. long-term monitoring of breeding birds.</i>
	<b>No</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for any other reason"; (if applicable)</b>
12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	<b>No</b>
12.2	What are the other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?
	<b>N/A</b>