

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
Both sides of B676 Burton-on-the-Wolds from SK598214 to SK603214	
1.2	Site location plan <i>The plan can be at any scale, but must show the location and boundaries of the site. Scale 1:4465</i>
<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> ParishOnline Common Land Burton on the Wolds CP </div>  <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">Date Created: 7-1-2019 Map Centre (Easting/Northing): 469791 / 321418 Scale: 1:4465 © Crown copyright and database right. All rights reserved (0100053274) 2019 © Contains Ordnance Survey Data - Crown copyright and database right 2019</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> ParishOnline Common Land by B676 Burton on the Wolds CP </div>  <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">Date Created: 7-1-2019 Map Centre (Easting/Northing): 456026 / 321483 Scale: 1:4465 © Aerial Imagery - www.getmapping.com © Contains Ordnance Survey Data - Crown copyright and database right 2019</p> </div>	

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>Burton-on-the-Wolds, Cotes, Prestwold and Hoton Parish Councils</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>John Michael Edward Seymour, 19th Duke of Somerset</p>
1.5	<p>Is the owner of the site aware of the potential designation?</p> <p>No</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>Not known</p>
1.7	<p>Photographs of site <i>Insert here or attach separately</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>This view of Burton Common is from SK603214 looking west towards the village of Burton-on-the-Wolds. The open semi improved grassland, is bordered by woodland to the west and Burton Brook and old hedge to south. On the other side of the B676 to the north the common continues but is much narrower.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Taken just after hay-making from SK598214 this photo is looking east along the extent of the proposed Green Space from the woodland.</p> <p>The Common continues up the B676 to Six Hills but it is the section adjoining the village that residents use and consider to be an important element to the identity of the village.</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;">  </div> </div>

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>
	Yes two thirds of the Green Space, the open grassland, is used by residents from the village and horse riders and ramblers from further afield.
2	Planning History
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?
	No
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?
	No
3	Size, scale and “local nature” of proposed Local Green Space
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>
	4.899HA
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>
	No
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>
	The proposed site consists of two distinctive landscape types. Closest to the village is a piece of small unmanaged woodland with mature ash and a thick understory of bramble, hawthorn, elder and other ruderal vegetation. Bordering the woodland to the south, below steep banks, is Burton Brook. Upstream of the woodland the aspect opens into grassland that is only fenced on its southern and northern boundaries. There are no fences here between the Common and the B676 which runs through it. The site is particularly local in character. Common land such as this was in the past a more obvious and characteristic feature of the Leicestershire landscape. Here in Burton parish it is still possible to see and appreciate this feature that pre-dates enclosure. At one time many of the properties in the parish had grazing rights on the Common, now just a couple of farms cut it annually for hay. The patch of woodland may not be so ancient and has probably arisen due to the land becoming narrow at this point and not suitable for haymaking with machinery. In addition the ground slopes towards the brook and is very uneven in places. On the opposite side of the brook in an arable field is the archaeological site of the Medieval Cistercian, Garendon Grange. The earthworks in the woodland may have been something to do with this complex. Although access to this small wooded area is not restricted in any way it is not much visited. Its value lies in its potential as a wildlife habitat and a screen for the village that has always identified itself as a small settlement tucked into the valley, surrounded by trees. See Burton-on-the-Wolds Design Statement 2004.

4	Need for Local Green Space
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>
	Unlike many villages, Burton-on-the-Wolds does not have a village green or a churchyard at its centre, it has to make the most of what it has got. The Common is the largest potential Green Space adjoining the village and offers public access to a landscape type that does not exist anywhere else in the village, that is, open grassland with no paths.
5	Evidence to show that “the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves”
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>
	The western end of the Common borders the village, at the junction of B676 and Wymeswold Lane, see the map.
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>
	There is a pedestrian path as far as the entrance to the EATON works, then a short stretch of grass verge until the open part of the Common is reached. B676 is a busy road and it would be safer if the footpath went all the way.
6	Evidence to show that the green area is “demonstrably special to a local community”
6.1	Evidence of support from Parish or Town Council <i>e.g. letter of support; Council minutes</i>
	Inclusion in Neighbourhood Plan
6.2	Evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals. <i>e.g. letters of support; petitions; surveys etc.</i>
	Letter from village Heritage Warden linked to green space F.
6.3	Evidence of support from community leaders <i>e.g. letters of support from Ward Members; County Councillors; MP etc.</i>
	Not at present
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>
	Not at present
7	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty,” (if applicable)
7.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	Yes

7.2	Describe why the community feels that the site has a particular local significance for its beauty.
	The open grass land gently sloping towards the village creates a long uninterrupted vista in both directions, approaching and leaving the village on B676.
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>
	The site is clearly visible from any point along the B676 from SK598214 to SK605214. The view downhill to the village from SK605214 being particularly fine as it also takes in views of the Soar Valley and hills of Charnwood.
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>
	No
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>
	Yes, Charnwood Borough Wide Phase 1 Habitat Survey 2012
7.6	Does the site contribute to the setting of a historic building or other special feature?
	No
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>
	No
8	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance for example because of its historic significance” (if applicable)
8.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	Yes, it is of particular historic significance to Burton-on-the-Wolds. Historically Melton Rd, B676, which runs through the Common linked the Roman Fosse Way (A46) to the crossing point of the river Soar at Cotes. The shape of the civil parish of Burton-on-the-Wolds follows this route way and the adjacent farms and settlements. In 1834 Burton Hall and its extensive estate, including the Common, were sold to the 11th Duke of Somerset who wanted a house in prime hunting country for his son, Archibald. Many tenant farms and estate workers houses were built about this time with grazing rights on the Common. Ninety years later the Seymour family left Burton and the Hall, the cottages and farms were sold and the estate split up but the Seymour family retained ownership of Burton Common.
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>
	A number of small farm houses built between 1818 and 1840 can be found at intervals along the B676 with frontages on to the Common

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>
	In a few places the old species rich hedgerow remains. Unfortunately large amounts of it have been cut back to a point where they are no longer a viable habitat.
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>
	Yes, the Seymour Family through their Burton Hall estate shaped the village as it is today and the Common land, still owned by them, is an important heritage feature.
8.5	Did any important historic events take place on the site?
	Not known
8.6	Do any historic rituals take place on the site? <i>e.g. well-dressing; maypole dancing etc.</i>
	No
9	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)
9.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	Yes for informal recreation
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>
	No
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>
	Yes, there is full public access, though no provision for disability.
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>
	The site is used for informal recreation, walking, running and horse riding. A public footpath crosses the Common enabling longer circular walks to be taken to either Wymeswold or Walton le Wolds and back to Burton.
10	Evidence to show that the green area “holds a particular local significance, for example because of its tranquillity” (if applicable)
10.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	No

10.2	Do you consider the site to be tranquil? <i>e.g. are there any roads or busy areas close by?</i>
	No, the B676 is a busy HGV designated route.
10.3	Is the site within a recognised tranquil area? <i>e.g. within the Campaign to Protect Rural England's tranquillity maps</i>
	No
11	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for example because of the richness of its wildlife"; (if applicable)
11.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site ?
	Yes
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>
	The Charnwood Borough Wide Habitat Survey phase 1 reports that the length of the B676 from Six Hills to Burton on the Wolds is a Wildlife Corridor of Borough value in its ref. BWC-008. The Wildlife Corridor links the 20 Acre Piece SSSI at Six Hills to Cotes Grassland SSSI, passing along the way a number of Local Wildlife sites and linking to green spaces in Burton-on-the-Wolds. Four Kilometres of common land falls into this corridor and it is at it widest close to Burton at the site of the proposed Green Space. Although not a Local Wildlife Site the northern side of the common close to the village was surveyed in 2012 by EMEC Ecology who recommended it be recognised as a Local Wildlife Site
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>
	The above survey gave a reference PLW 18 describing the proposed Green Space as "Semi-improved neutral grassland an area of floral species diversity including Lady's Bedstraw and Bee Orchids" The site is frequented by breeding kestrels and barn owls, due to the number of voles found in the grassland. In recent years buzzards have nested in the small woodland next to the village. Greater spotted and green woodpeckers nest in the ash trees. Brown hares are regularly seen on the Common and in the surrounding fields. There is a thriving colony of tree sparrows at Hurst Hill Farm.
11.4	What other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? <i>Further information - Natural England; National Biodiversity Network</i>
	Protected mammals are to be found in the vicinity and the grassland and old species rich hedgerow provides a bat feeding corridor, with the veteran ash trees supporting likely bat roosts.

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>
	The local community is being encouraged to observe wildlife here and in other Green Spaces around the village. Finds are recorded on Leicestershire's Nature Spot. The Heritage Warden has been in touch with the County Ecologist to start the process of getting this proposed Green Space also recognised as a Local Wildlife Site. It is hoped that a full botanical survey can be done in the summer and the results assessed against the Leicestershire Local Wildlife Sites criteria to see if the site will qualify.
12	Evidence to show that the green area "holds a particular local significance, for any other reason"; (if applicable)
12.1	Is this criteria relevant to this site?
	Yes
12.2	What are the other reasons why the site has a particular local significance for the local community?
	Burton Common is a notable landmark and a special feature of the village and Leicestershire. Commons such as this are sadly in decline elsewhere due to changes of use, development and road widening.



PLANIT-X



PLANIT-X