

OUR PARISH – OUR FUTURE – OUR PLAN



CATON-with-LITTLEDALE

LOCAL GREEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

To accompany the

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms part of the evidence base for the Caton-with-Littledale Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The detailed assessment of Local Green Space was carried out in July to November 2018, following feedback from the Regulation 14 consultation. (The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012)
- 1.3 The assessment explains how each of the proposed sites meets the criteria for designation as Local Green Space.

What is Local Green Space?

- 1.4 Whilst areas of open space and land of environmental value have always been identified by Lancaster City Council, designation as a local green space is something different. Introduced by central government in 2012 the designation focusses on the importance of identified areas to their local community. Importantly national planning policy makes it clear that this designation should be consistent with wider planning policy for an area and should look to complement investment in the provision of new homes and employment opportunities and other essential services. It should not be means to stop these wider development needs.
- 2.5 This document has been prepared utilising the Local Green Space Methodology adopted by Lancaster City Council to produce the *Strategic Policies and Land Allocation Development Plan Document (DPD)*.

2. Policy Background

National Planning Policy

- 2.1 In March 2012 the Coalition Government, through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), introduced a new Local Green Space designation. This has been retained within the revised NPPF issued in July 2018. This designation allows local communities, through the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan process, to identify areas of local green space which are important to them and which should be provided special protection.
- 2.2 The NPPF makes clear that the designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or areas of open space.
- 2.3 Paragraphs 99 to 101 of the revised NPPF state as follows:

99. *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. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.*

100. *The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:*

- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- b) 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*
- c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.*

101. *Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.*

Local Planning Policy

- 2.4 Planning policy at a local level is established in the Local Plan for Lancaster District. Through a series of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) the Local Plan sets out the planning policies that will be used to determine planning applications and identifies areas of the district to be allocated for development and areas that should be protected.
- 2.5 The Local Plan is currently being reviewed and provides the ideal opportunity to ensure that, as well as identifying areas for development, areas which are important to local communities are also identified and protected.
- 2.6 In accordance with regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (As Amended) Lancaster City Council submitted the *Strategic Policies and Land Allocation Development Plan Document (DPD)* and the *Development Management DPD* to the Secretary of State (Planning Inspectorate) on 15 May 2018 for examination.
- 2.7 Within the emerging Strategic Policies and Land Allocation DPD at Paragraph 2.34 it states:
- 23.4 The Council wish to provide neighbourhood plan groups with the greatest possible time in order to complete their neighbourhood plans and, where it can be possibly avoided, do not wish to interfere with the aspirations of local communities to secure neighbourhood plans for their locality. As a result, the City Council will not be seeking to identify or allocate land for either development or for non-statutory matters such as Local Green Space designations.*
- 2.8 It is for the Neighbourhood Plan to allocate Local Green Space.

3. Site Appraisals

- 3.1 The following section includes the site appraisals for the sites for designation as Local Green Space in the Caton-with-Littledale Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2 The appraisals were carried out using the methodology developed by Lancaster City Council to inform their allocation of *Local Green Spaces* in the emerging *Strategic Policies and Land Allocations DPD*. See <https://planningdocs.lancaster.gov.uk/AniteIM.Websearch/Results.aspx> for further information.
- 3.3 For further information relating to the individual sites, please visit the Parish Council Website at <https://www.catonvillage.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan>.
- 3.4 The sites included in this appraisal document are as follows:

Ref	Name
1	Beckside
2	Caton Bowling Green
3	Caton Community School Field
4	Fell View
5	Millenium Path – Crook of Lune to end
6	Parish Woodland
7	Station Field sports ground

1. Becksides verge and trees

Insert map when received from Chris

Site Reference	1
Site Name	Becksides verge and trees
Site Address	Land between Brookhouse Road and Becksides, Caton.
Settlement	Caton
Put forward through	Community Consultation
Planning Permission for alternative use	No
Allocated for alternative use	No
Designation compatible with planning permission or allocation	N/A
TEST 1 PASSED	YES
Proximity to Community	
Test 2 Comments	The site is located within the village of Caton surrounded by houses
TEST 2 PASSED	YES
Extensive tract of land	Becksides is a green crescent bounded by houses. The site is 0.108 ha. It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land
Local in character	The site lies within the heart of the village of Caton and provides walking and cycling links to the Area of Separation (designated in the Neighbourhood Plan) and then to the Millennium pathway.

Test 3 Comments

The site does not form an extensive tract of land. It has very clear boundaries and is considered to relate well to the community which it serves.

TEST 3 PASSED

YES

Test 4 Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to the local community

Beauty

This is an attractive island of green separating two blocks of houses. Local people speak of how special the beauty of the varied species of trees is to them. They provide colour most of the year. The area is extensively covered with daffodils in spring. Within village Beckside is an area of mowed grassland, maintained by the Parish Council, planted extensively with spring flowering bulbs. The trees were donated by a member of the community and make a valued and beautiful contribution to Beckside. It is a relaxing and tranquil area, with a Parish Council installed donated bench at the centre, which is well used. It creates a visually pleasurable 'village green' feel to this area of Caton.

The range of trees planted at the site, ensure a show of colour across the seasons. There is a profusion of late summer berries, and maples with a show of colours in autumn contrasting with the rowans and silver birch

Historic Significance

The area was developed in the 1950's when the houses on Beckside were developed, as part of the national post-war policy for integrating green space into estates. The green area sets the houses back from the main road and ensures a sense of space.

The trees gifted to the village by a villager, and the bench is sited to enable the less mobile villagers to enjoy the trees and birds.

Recreational value

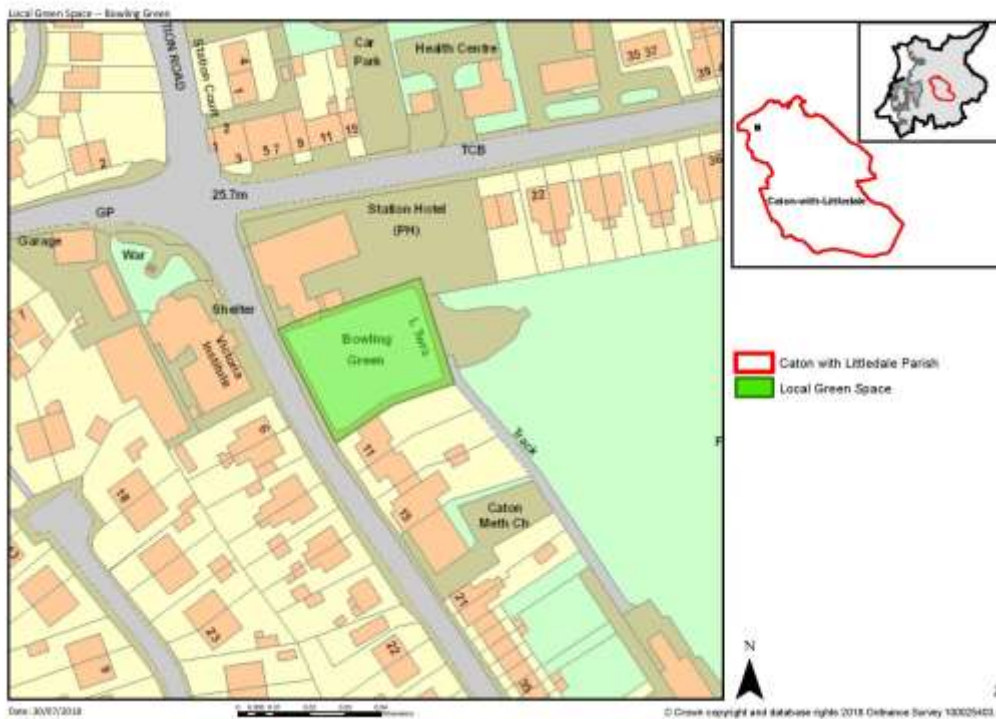
The green space is used for sitting, resting, informal play, dog walking and taking time to enjoy the peace the space offers.

Tranquillity

Residents specifically go to enjoy the tranquillity of this island of green space which is sufficiently apart from Brookhouse Road to enjoy the birds song when sitting on the bench. This area is important for elderly people who cannot walk far from the surrounding houses or wish to rest walking to and from the centre of Caton.

Richness of Wildlife	The trees planted at the site provide a haven for birds and other wildlife
Assessment	<p>This peaceful and tranquil piece of land is important in allowing villagers with limited mobility to rest as they walk between Caton and Brookhouse. It is enjoyed by those who stop to sit and those who walk past between the two centres.</p> <p>It is also well-used for informal recreation and provides a valuable green asset to the immediate area.</p>
TEST 4 PASSED	YES
Conclusion	<p>The Steering Group believes that this quiet and tranquil area of grass and trees should be designated a Green Space in order that the residents of the area can continue to enjoy the peace and tranquillity, as well as the villagers walking between Caton and Brookhouse. It sits between two groups of houses and could become a possible development target and we wish to protect it for future generations.</p> <p>The above assessment clearly shows the site is demonstrably special to the local community and satisfies the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.</p>

2. Caton Bowling Green



Site Reference	2
Site Name	Caton Bowling Green
Site Address	Brookhouse Road, Caton (opposite Victoria Institute) Grid Reference:
Settlement	Caton
Put forward through:	Community Consultation
Planning Permission for alternative use	No
Allocated for alternative use	No
Designation compatible with planning permission or allocation	N/A
TEST 1 PASSED	YES

Proximity to Community

Test 2 Comments	The site is located within the heart of the village of Caton surrounded by houses
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TEST 2 PASSED	YES
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Extensive tract of land	The site is 0.128 ha. It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land
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Local in character	The site lies within the heart of the village of Caton
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Test 3 Comments	The site does not form an extensive tract of land. It has very clear boundaries and is considered to relate well to the community which it serves.
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TEST 3 PASSED	YES
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Test 4 Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to the local community

Beauty	The Bowling Green is a superb example of a village bowling green, with a corresponding beauty. It abuts Station field, site of Caton Gala and village football. Views of the green, field and Forest of Bowland moors behind form a continuous vista from various points accessible to the public, including the pavilion.
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Historic Significance	<p>Old maps show that the area was enclosed continuously but not exactly when it became a bowling green. The boundaries were in place in a map of 1847, although the land appears to have been used as a small market garden.</p> <p>By 1895 the Victoria Institute has been built opposite, and the area has been marked as a different use, although it is not clear what. On the map published in 1919 the Bowling green is marked as part of the 'public house', Station Hotel, and was almost certainly being used for playing bowls. By 1931 the War Memorial appears opposite, and the Bowling Green is clearly at the heart of the growing village.</p> <p>The bowling green is one of the oldest of the locally based village organisations, with origins closely linked to the Station Hotel, and is a classic village bowling green with traditional facilities. Overlooking the green at first storey height is the stone-built pavilion, an atmospheric club room, from which matches may be observed.</p>
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Recreational value	<p>The site is the only bowling green within Caton. It is noted to improve health and wellbeing as it is an outdoor sport. The elderly, young and partially disabled are noted to enjoy mixing and playing. It is also noted to promote community spirit and encourages diversity.</p> <p>Membership entitles players to use the green, but the amount of seating, covered and free standing, and the family corner, cater for the popularity of the green with spectators, friends and families, for local people and other teams. The green is used throughout the week during the daytime, and for evening play and matches. The green is lit by floodlights for evening play.</p> <p>The club is very welcoming to anyone who expresses an interest in playing and can accommodate varied skill levels in the various sessions. This welcome has made many newcomers to the village feel instantly at home, with new friends, so it is easy to find out what else is going on in the community.</p> <p>Wellbeing: The location near to the Victoria Institute and the Station Inn, adds to the social dimension of the green for players. The Victoria Institute has historically offered indoor bowling in the main hall during the colder winter months, which ensures continuity for player skills and continued camaraderie for players. Outdoor bowls also complements the varied range of physical activities organised at the Victoria Institute as a 'health hub'.</p> <p>The Bowling green offers an opportunity for all ages to enjoy the well-being and health benefits of an outdoor game using physical skills, eye hand co-ordination. flexibility of movement and promoting strength. The bowling green is an increasingly valuable asset as our village community, which is already skewed towards older age groups, becomes older and less able to take part in other sports. Bowls is a social games, and the fun and laughter add to well-being.</p>
Tranquillity	<p>The site is noted to be located off the main road, behind the public house at the side of a field. The surroundings are noted to be very peaceful with a peaceful sport taken at a relaxing pace.</p>
Richness of Wildlife	N/A
Assessment	<p>The site provides a valuable recreation resource for local residents. The consultation confirms the value of this site</p>

to the local community providing an important resource for a range of ages. The area has a historical significance within Caton, and is an area known for its tranquillity.

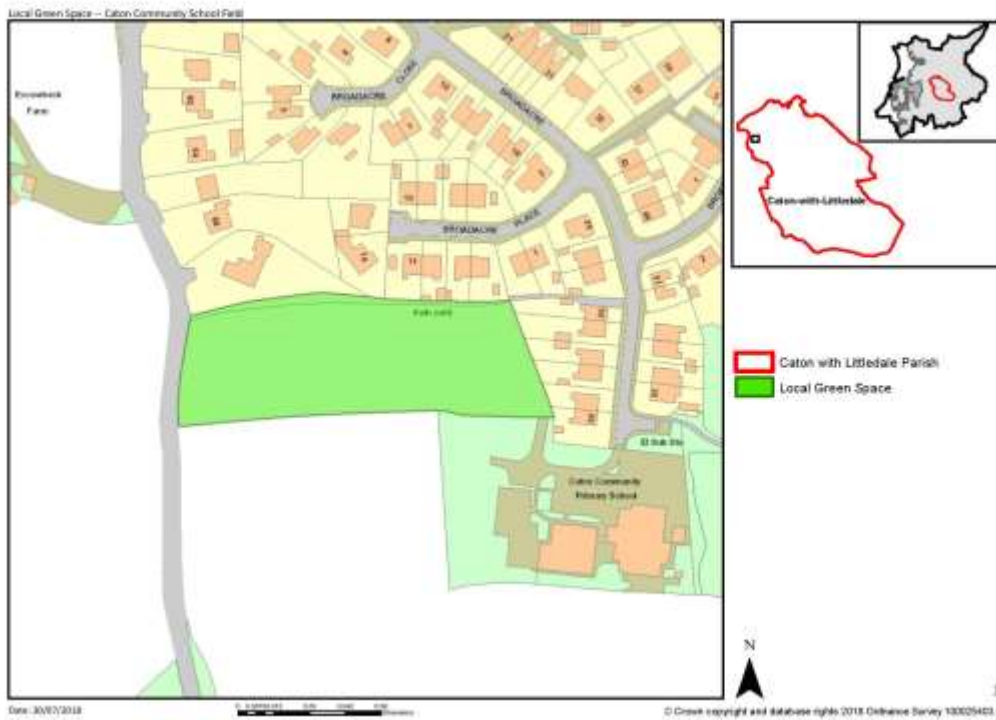
TEST 4 PASSED

YES.

Conclusion

The above assessment clearly shows the site is demonstrably special to the local community and satisfies the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

3. Caton Community School Field



Site Reference	3
Site Name	Caton Community Sports Field
Site Address	Land between Caton Community Primary school and Quernmore Road
Settlement	Caton
Put forward through:	Community Consultation
Planning Permission for alternative use	No
Allocated for alternative use	No
Designation compatible with planning permission or allocation	N/A
TEST 1 PASSED	YES

Proximity to Community

Test 2 Comments	The site is located on the edge of Caton and provides the school playing fields for Caton School. Whilst on the edge of the village it clearly serves the whole village and as such can be viewed to meet the requirements of this test.
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TEST 2 PASSED	YES
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Extensive tract of land	The site is 0.678ha. It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land
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Local in character	The site lies on the edge of Caton
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Test 3 Comments	Whilst on the edge of the village, the site does not form an extensive tract of land. It has very clear boundaries defined by its function and is considered to relate well to the community which it serves.
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TEST 3 PASSED	YES
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Test 4 Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to the local community

Beauty	<p>The site is noted to be a valued open green space in an Area of Out-standing Natural Beauty on the edge of the village of Caton. The sub-mission notes that the sports field form a transition between the urban setting of the village and the surrounding open farmland, creating an area that can be enjoyed both for its recreational value and its natural beauty. There are noted to be open views both of the surrounding farmland and to the rising moors of the Forest of Bowland. The site forms part of the open rural landscape character of this part of the AONB, which is part of the landscape character type 'undulating farmland with wooded brooks.</p> <p>The views from the field to the west are especially fine, including the wooded hillside of the once extensively landscaped grounds of Escowbeck House, including rolling hillocks through which the Escow Beck runs.</p>
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Historic Significance	<p>The open field system with traditional hedge boundaries is noted to form part of the historic character of the area of ancient and post-medieval enclosure.</p> <p>Caton school playing field has been in use by the community for centuries. The present boundaries are</p>
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identical to those shown on 'old maps', and on many of which the present footpath is marked.

Recreational value

The site is noted to have been used for formal and informal recreation uses since the school was built. There is noted to be a long history of social and recreational uses of the site since the school and more modern surrounding housing was built, and in particular more recently since the community hall was built at the school. Multiple generations are noted to have grown up using the site for play and formal sports both through the school, clubs and informal recreation. Currently the site is regularly used by residents of all ages for both formal sports and for quiet recreation. The following written evidence of a wide range of recreational activities were sent in by residents. These include:

Organised sports:

- *'This field has been used by local children before the school was built in 1974. The local children have been playing competitive football in the local Youth League on this ground since about 1970/1. The field has been in constant use since on a regular basis.'*
- *'There are regular football training sessions after school hours on at least one afternoon per week. On Saturday mornings there is junior football training and coaching organised, I understand, by one of the local churches, and junior matches occur several times per season on Sunday mornings.'*

Informal community recreational use:

- *'Quite often families with grandchildren and great grandchildren play games on the sports-field. Our grandchildren when they came to visit often used to play in the field now it is our great grandchildren.'*

Others spoke of picnics on the field, informal games, and of flying kites - the remains of one is still lodged high in the branches of the veteran oak. From their home overlooking the field it was observed that *'On a casual basis I often see families using the field - playing, exercising dogs, flying kites, even flying model aircraft.'*

An important feature stressed by many local people is that the field can be accessed safely by local children completely away from traffic. It is at the end of a quiet cul de sac: 'It is essential for children to be able to take part in

	<p>any sport and the field is ideal with no danger from passing traffic.' It is also separate from the main roads passing through Caton:</p> <p>Use of the footpath The footpath, noted as a historical feature, linked Quernmore road (then a quiet lane) and Caton residents to Rumble Row mill (the mill pond of which now said to be the site of Caton community School buildings). It now links the stile to Quernmore Road along the field edge and continues through the bungalows along the original route to Broadacre, bypassing the school. The path is in popular use as is evident by the well-worn track.</p>
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Tranquillity	N/A
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Richness of Wildlife	<p>The very large oak tree is a prominent feature of the field for everyone. One resident assessed the girth to see if it would qualify as a veteran tree: 'It is approx. three quarters of the length of the field from the school and the circumference about four metres' (at chest height). A very rough estimate of age is between 160 and 200 years old. Veteran trees are renowned for the diversity of wildlife, invertebrates, lichens etc living in and on them because of their age.</p> <p>The school children are beneficiaries of having such a wildlife and plant rich environment so close to the school. Other community groups such as church youth groups, and beavers and scouts, are also potential beneficiaries. The wide, wild hedge and trees along the south of the field encourage 'School lessons include observations on wildlife and identifying wild flowers.'</p> <p>There is also a lot of wildlife around the area, to name a few: - blackbirds, goldfinches, blue tits, great tits, long tailed tits, greenfinches, woodpeckers, sparrows, robins, magpies, pigeons, rabbits and squirrels etc even a rogue sparrow hawk. Squirrels are often seen, also the occasional hedgehog. At night owls can be heard.</p>
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Assessment	<p>The site performs an important function for the village for both informal and formal recreation. It is a wildlife haven and a safe area for children to travel to and play.</p> <p>This area provides a valued green space at the heart of the community. Many residents expressed how much they enjoyed watching children play, watching wildlife and walking along the footpath.</p>
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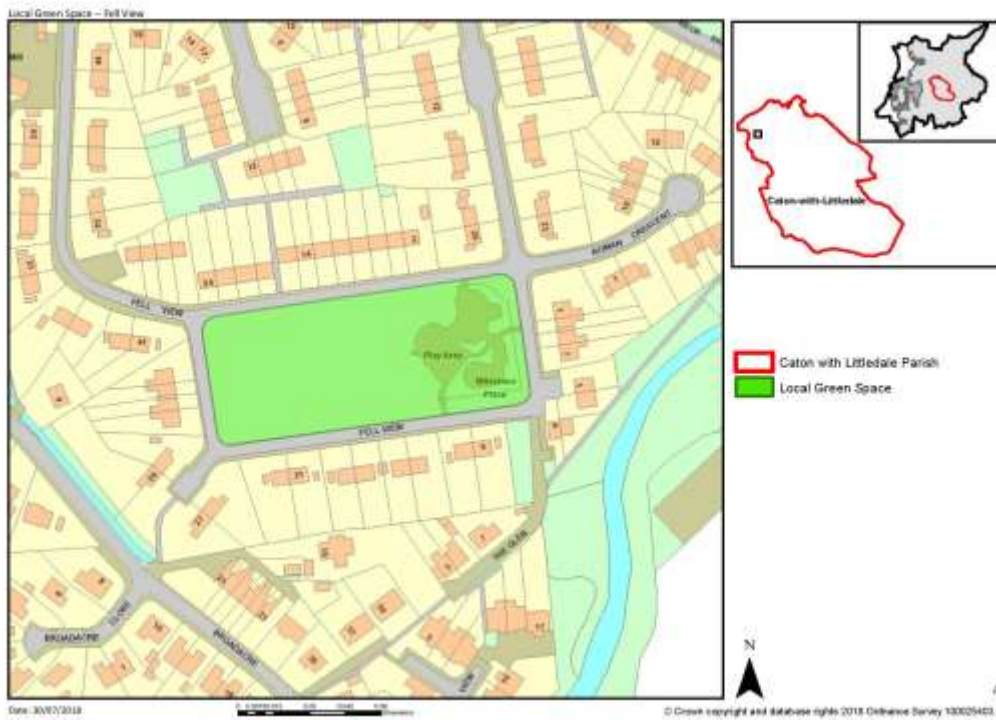
TEST 4 PASSED

YES

Conclusion

The above assessment clearly shows the site is demonstrably special to the local community and satisfies the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

4. Fell View children's play area and field



Site Reference	4
Site Name	Fell View children's play area
Site Address	Land on Fell View, Caton
Settlement	Caton
Put forward through:	Community Consultation
Planning Permission for alternative use	No
Allocated for alternative use	No
Designation compatible with planning permission or allocation	N/A
TEST 1 PASSED	YES

Proximity to Community

Test 2 Comments	The site is located within the village of Caton surrounded by houses
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TEST 2 PASSED	YES
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Extensive tract of land	The site is 0.725 ha. It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land
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Local in character	The site lies within a housing development in Caton and is bounded on all sides by Fell View
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Test 3 Comments	The site does not form an extensive tract of land. It has very clear boundaries and is considered to relate well to the community which it serves.
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TEST 3 PASSED	YES
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Test 4 Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to the local community

Beauty	The play space is a flat area of green space overlooked by houses on all sides. There are views of the uplands and moors around Caton in all directions, and provides residents living around the area with a sense of space against the panoramic glimpse of the moors. It gives the users of the play space an appreciation of the value of the Forest of Bowland whilst they play.
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Historic Significance	The area was developed in the 1950's when the houses on Fell View were developed, as part of the national post-war policy for integrating green space into estates. From this point in time it has been an informal play space at the heart of the residential estate.
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Recreational value	This area in Caton is surrounded by housing and is well used by local children, often accompanied by their parents, and young people. At one end is a well-equipped, fenced, safe playground for children under 14. As well as a sandpit, there are swings, a roundabout, a Nozip-wire, climbing net, a tree castle and other play equipment, and benches/picnic tables for parents/carers. It is inspected and maintained by the Parish Council. The rest of the area is flat open grass with a few shrubs and trees. The grassed area is cut throughout the summer and used for informal games by all age groups.
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The 'green' has always been highly valued by local residents as an open space where children could play informally and safely. Fell view green as a whole now hosts several community events for people of all ages, especially for families and children, throughout the year.

The green has also been in use by village groups, such as the Methodist church youth groups, for team activities and coaching. Since the new play park was opened, revenue grant funding from several sources and linked to the play park facilities has supported a wide range of community activities on the open green space, enabling participation by parents, carers and friends. Following the installation of the present play park, grant funding, first from the National Lottery, and since from the Co-op community grants have funded a series of successful organised events on the green, linked to play on the park. These have included:

- Family team games (several occasions) with refreshments
- Family rounders
- Traditional sports and games with refreshments
- Sports coaching
- Hog roast
- Firework display
- Outdoor bouncy event

Tranquillity N/A

Richness of Wildlife N/A

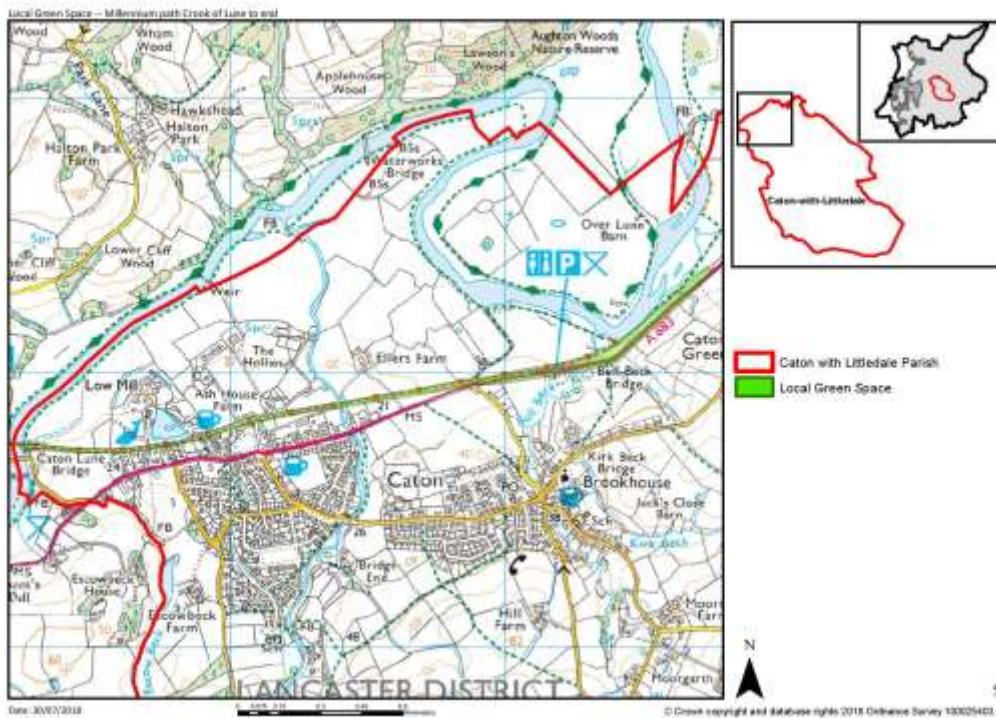
Assessment This area provides a valued green space at the heart of the community. The green plays a strong positive role in creating a feeling of belonging to this community. Many residents expressed how much they enjoyed watching children play on the green and how valuable is the much-used space for informal football - and cricket - for local children.

Since the play park was built, the local sense of ownership has been strong.

TEST 4 PASSED YES

Conclusion **The above assessment clearly shows the site is demonstrably special to the local community and satisfies the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.**

5. Millennium Path – Crook of Lune to End



Site Reference	5
Site Name	Millennium Path from the Crook of Lune to the end
Site Address	Land forming part of the Millennium pathway gfrom the area known as the Crook of Lune to the Caton Lune Bridge
Settlement	Caton
Put forward through:	Community Consultation
Planning Permission for alternative use	No
Allocated for alternative use	No
Designation compatible with planning permission or allocation	N/A
TEST 1 PASSED	YES

Proximity to Community

Test 2 Comments The pathway forms the northern edge of the village at Caton and is accessed at several points from the village.

TEST 2 PASSED YES

Extensive tract of land The site is linear area covering a distance of 2.5km, with an overall area of 3.378 Ha. It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land

Local in character The pathway forms the northern edge of the village at Caton and is accessed at several points from the village.

Test 3 Comments The site does not form an extensive tract of land. It has very clear boundaries and is considered to relate well to the community which it serves.

TEST 3 PASSED YES

Test 4 Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to the local community

Beauty The path provides exceptional and unique views across the Lune Valley towards Aughton, up the Lune Valley towards Hornby and beyond to the distant Yorkshire Dales moors and Ingleborough and also towards Caton Moor and Clougha Fell. The path provides views across the whole parish and its historic setting within the Forest of Bowland AONB

Historic Significance The Millennium path follows the route of the Midland railway line between Lancaster and Skipton, closed as part of the Beeching cuts to the network in 1966. This section is called the Millennium Park.

The land which forms part of the millennium path varies in width, with the widest parts adjoining Moor Platt traditional stone wall; and to the east of Holme Lane, where the path runs through a densely wooded area.

Recreational value The path is extensively used by the local community from local running groups, to local dog walkers and members of the community exercising.

The path is relatively flat and mostly tarmaced. It is an ideal surface and site for a multitude of leisure activities such as cycling, dog walking, riding, walking, and is suitable for use by those of limited mobility. It is lit along part of its length

and so is popular with cyclists commuting into Lancaster and Morecambe even during the hours of darkness. During the day, leisure cyclists, walkers, children with bikes and scooters, and dogwalkers enjoy being able to walk without the noise and danger of traffic on the busy A683. The track is levelled and fairly flat which makes it accessible for all age groups to enjoy.

Patterns of local use:

High proportion of local users: parents and children; dog walkers; older people who want a short flat well maintained path which they can easily walk to from home or if less mobile park near with frequent benches to rest; mobility scooters and wheelchair users with carers living locally where flat easy well maintained traffic free wide paths are essential; runners of all ages have a 1.5 mile (3 m there and back) local length; and circular route access roads (Holme Lane plus Brookhouse Road; local 'gentle peddlers' who cycle for fitness and health (eg for hip replacements!) and want to avoid traffic have 'doable' route accessed by quiet roads in the parish; local people especially families cycle for local shopping at well stocked store in Caton.

The main recreational value of the millennium path for local people is Informal and sociable physical exercise which often serves a dual purpose of accessing village facilities:

Tranquillity

The path provides a tranquil walking area away from the hustle and bustle of the main village centre of Caton.

Richness of Wildlife

Many local people and families walk and cycle, specifically to enjoy watching birds especially on the quieter stretch of the path beyond Holme Lane to the east - wading birds, many of them rare, with overwintering curlews among the most popular. The paths are also popular for observing other wildlife.

The path includes small streams, stone walls, overgrown areas of brambles, wild raspberries, nettles, and common wildflowers; small shrubs, including goat willow, elder, wild rose, ivy; and many species of trees, alders, downy birch, wych elm, ash, hazel predominating to the east (with oak, sycamore, elder, beech, hawthorne). Between Holme Lane and Station road accesses there are younger trees, many recently planted, including in addition rowan and some cherry species. Overhanging Station road and nearby south west of the path, some fine and protected beeches are a main feature.

A Brookhouse resident commented:
' The greatest value of green spaces for wildlife comes when they have a mix of habitats - including short/mown grass, grazing pasture, flower meadows not mown till autumn, bramble patches/understorey, hedges, dry stone walls(insects) & trees of different sizes. They all add together. The Parish Woods by Artle Beck behind Fell View have a good mix. The best example of this diversity is the Millennium Cycleway Green Space. If the green space is limited to the tarmac strip its wildlife value is limited to watching/listening to wildlife. It doesn't help protect the long-term future of the adjacent habitats where the insects, butterflies & the birds all thrive. Skylark, starling, song & mistlethrush, redwing & fieldfare, house & tree sparrow, lesser redpoll & grey wagtail on the becks below are all there, & they are all Red Listed. Also occurring are Amber Listed species: dunnock, bullfinch, treecreeper, willow warbler, & kingfisher + dipper on the becks/R. Lune. This is apart from all the more common, Green Listed, hedgerow & garden birds - tits, finches, robins & so on.' He goes on to say: *' the winter wildlife spectacular that can be seen from the Eastern end of the Millennium Cycleway. In the right conditions in winter you can look northwards, across the River Lune and there are hundreds and hundreds of gulls, waders and wildfowl feeding along the river and on the wet meadows. Even in very cold or windy weather, the Cycleway provides ready access that is dry underfoot to see hundreds of Red & Amber listed birds. And there are the otters - not sure whether they're a secret?'*

Assessment

The area forms a linear corridor along the beck stretching across the length of the village. There is no doubt that this area performs an important recreational function with an important landscape and biodiversity value and is demonstrably special to the local community.

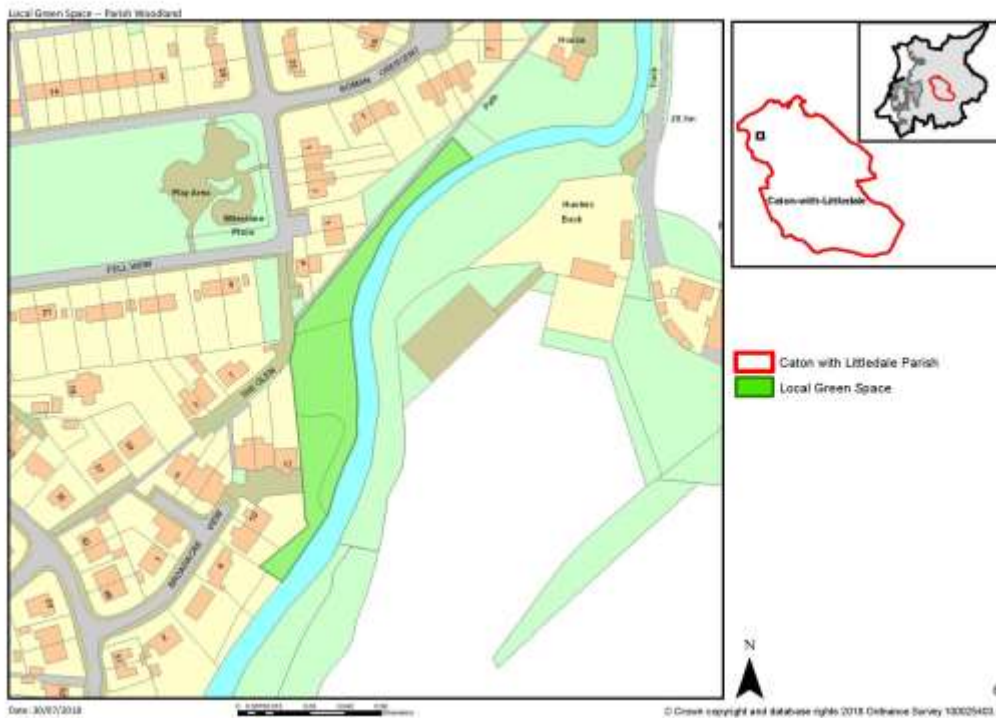
TEST 4 PASSED

YES

Conclusion

The above assessment clearly shows the site is demonstrably special to the local community and satisfies the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

6. Parish Woodland



Site Reference	6
Site Name	Parish Woodland
Site Address	The Glen, Caton.
Settlement	Caton
Put forward through:	Steering group consisting of residents of Caton Parish
Planning Permission for alternative use	No
Allocated for alternative use	No
Designation compatible with planning permission or allocation	N/A
TEST 1 PASSED	YES

Proximity to Community

Test 2 Comments	The site is adjacent to two local housing estates (The Glen and Roman Crescent within the village of Caton.
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TEST 2 PASSED	YES
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Extensive tract of land	The site is 0.285 ha. It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land
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Local in character	The site lies within the heart of the village of Caton and has a natural boundary with the Artlebeck. The area has a separate and secluded feel from the neighbouring houses.
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Test 3 Comments	The site does not form an extensive tract of land. It has very clear boundaries and is considered to relate well to the community which it serves.
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TEST 3 PASSED	YES
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Test 4 Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to the local community

Beauty	This is a distinctive 'surprise' area of natural woodland within the village along the natural banks and beaches of the Artlebeck. It is secluded with a beauty enhanced by the mottled sunlight on trees and water.
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Historic Significance	The area is shown as a woodland path on the OS first edition map and the associated footpath has been in existence since then.
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Recreational value	<p>The area contains several mature trees and a public footpath leading to a foot-bridge over the beck. The footpath through the woodland is well used by residents for running, walking and dog walking as it leads to Brook-house and to the Forge Mill area of Caton.</p> <p>The area is also used by older young people for unstructured play eg making dens.</p>
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Tranquillity	The area is shielded from the noise of the surrounding properties by the trees and is valued for its natural feel and tranquillity.
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Richness of Wildlife	
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Assessment	This is a very secluded gem of a site which is valued and enjoyed by the residents of Caton for peace and quiet and for watching the river. It is the only publicly and easily
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accessed area within the village to a substantial unspoilt river bank.

TEST 4 PASSED

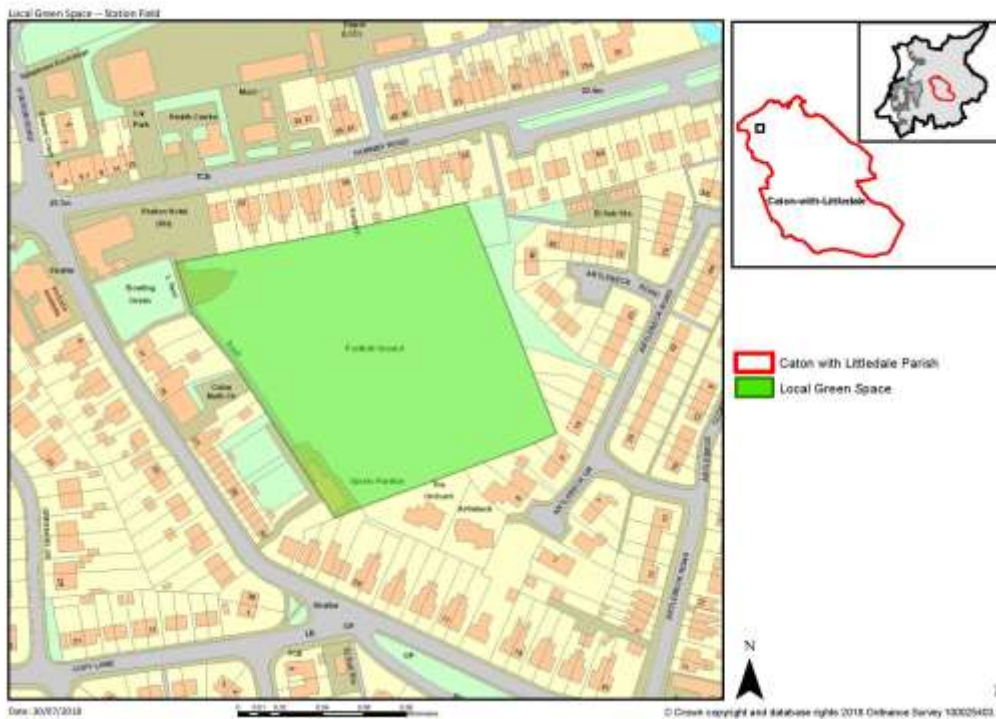
YES

Conclusion

The Steering Group believes that this quiet and secluded area of woodland should be designated a Green Space in order that the residents of the area can continue to enjoy the peace and tranquillity. It sits within a housing estate and could become a possible development target and we wish to protect it for future generations.

The above assessment clearly shows the site is demonstrably special to the local community and satisfies the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

7. Station Field sports ground



Site Reference	7
Site Name	Station Field sports ground
Site Address	Sports field adjacent to Station Hotel and Caton Bowling Green, Caton
Settlement	Caton
Put forward through:	Community Consultation
Planning Permission for alternative use	No
Allocated for alternative use	No
Designation compatible with planning permission or allocation	N/A
TEST 1 PASSED	YES

Proximity to Community

Test 2 Comments The site is located in the heart of the local community providing a valuable resource for local residents.

TEST 2 PASSED **YES**

Extensive tract of land The site is 1.624 ha. It is not considered to be an extensive tract of land

Local in character The site lies within the heart of the village of Caton

Test 3 Comments The site does not form an extensive tract of land. It has very clear boundaries and is considered to relate well to the community which it serves.

TEST 3 PASSED **YES**

Test 4 Can the site be shown to be demonstrably special to the local community

Beauty The field is noted to be a green oasis in the centre of Caton, in an otherwise built up area. It has good views of the uplands and moors.

Although a recreational area it is noted that the fringes of the field are left wild to attract a variety of flora and fauna.

Historic Significance The field is home to the historic tradition of Caton Gala held annually for the community.

Recreational value The site is noted to provide a variety of recreational facilities - football, and cricket, for over 100 years. It is home to a local football team as well as being used regularly for recreational sport and dog walking.

It is also the home to the Caton Gala which is hosted on the field every year. The submission states that designation as Local Green Space would ensure that the gala is preserved for future generations of Caton. It is also noted to be used for other local competitive events.

The site is noted to be the only recreational field within the village. It is in a good central location and is versatile to be used for a variety of recreational and village-based activities. Such areas are noted to be of significant importance in rural areas when access to other sites often relies on access to transport. It would not be possible to

	replace these facilities in such a central location within the village.
Tranquillity	The field is readily accessed and used by the surrounding local community for walking, informal games and play and is shielded from the busy local roads by sturdy stone build older houses. Individuals say they value it for its tranquillity and peace with the sound of bird song being mentioned.
Richness of Wildlife	<p>The fringes of the field are noted to be left wild and unmown providing a haven for wildlife.</p> <p>Lapwings, hedgehogs, bees, rabbits and all manner of garden birds are noted to have been seen in the field. Badgers and foxes have also been sighted.</p>
Assessment	The site clearly provides an important and valuable function for the local community. Located at the centre of the village it is noted to have a long history of use for recreational purposes and other community activities, including the Caton Gala. This site is demonstrably special to the local community sufficient to warrant its designation as a Local Green Space.
TEST 4 PASSED	YES
Conclusion	The above assessment clearly shows the site is demonstrably special to the local community and satisfies the criteria for designation as a Local Green Space.

4. Conclusions

4.1 In summary the results of the assessment are set out below (Table 1).

Table 1. Caton-with-Littledale Local Green Space Assessment Summary Table

Site	Demonstrably special	Close Proximity to community	Not an extensive tract of open land
1	✓	✓	✓
2	✓	✓	✓
3	✓	✓	✓
4	✓	✓	✓
5	✓	✓	✓
6	✓	✓	✓
7	✓	✓	✓

4.2 Based on the assessment, all of the spaces assessed are considered to meet the criteria necessary to warrant designation as Local Green Spaces.