

Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan
Local Green Space and Protected Open Space
Background Paper

November 2023

Contents

Foreword	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Planning policy background	5
3. Local green space and protected open space designation methodology	8
4. Conclusion and next steps	12
Appendix 1 All sites assessed – summary	13
Appendix 2 Local green space detailed assessment	22
Appendix 3 Local green space maps	44
Appendix 4 Protected open space assessment	50
Appendix 5 Protected open space maps	51

Foreword

In the public consultations about the Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan protection of green space and the rural character of the village emerged as an important issue and concern for our community. A way to address this concern in a neighbourhood plan is by designating sites as local green spaces or protected open spaces. It is important to do this systematically and consistently for all the possible areas identified, even if some of them already have a degree of protection. This paper explains how that has been done. It is also important to ensure that the right areas have been identified, and this paper is an invitation for you to comment on which areas you would like see protected for the future of our village.

You can let the Parish Council know your views on this background paper in the following ways:

- Using the online form available at: <https://humshaugh.info/>
- By picking up a response form from and dropping it off at the Village Shop;
- By email to: plan@humshaugh.info; or
- By letter to: Rhona Still, Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Secretary, 10 Beechcroft, Humshaugh, Northumberland, NE46 4DN.

If you have any questions about the background paper, you can get in touch using the contact details above.

Comments must be received by 5pm on Thursday the 25th of January 2024.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The local green space (LGS) designation is a way to protect green areas or open spaces against development where they are of particular importance to local communities. LGS designations are made for use in local plans or neighbourhood plans. These plans can identify on a map ('designate') areas for special protection. Once designated, LGSs receive protection consistent with national Green Belt policy.
- 1.2 Protected open space (POS) designation is a way to protect other areas of open space which are valued for their local amenity and/ or for informal or formal recreational purposes, but which do not meet the full LGS criteria. Once designated, they should be safeguarded and only lost where specific and detailed criteria are met.
- 1.3 The purpose of this background paper is to explain the process which will lead to the proposed designation of areas of LGS and POS in the Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan (HNP). It sets out the national and local backgrounds to LGS and POS and explains the methodology used in the assessments.
- 1.4 Alongside the consultation on the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan, Humshaugh Parish Council are inviting comments on the sites that have been identified for possible allocation as LGS and POS. Comments will inform the final submission draft plan. Comments can be submitted in the following ways:
 - Completing an online form available at <https://humshaugh.info/>;
 - Picking up a response form and dropping it off at the Village Shop;
 - Email to: plan@humshaugh.info; or
 - Write to: Humshaugh Parish Council c/o 4 Mithras Court, Wall, Hexham, NE46 4DJ.
- 1.5 Comments must be received by **5pm on Thursday the 25th of January 2024**.

2. Planning policy background

National Planning Policy Framework

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF – 2023) sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Section 8 of the NPPF highlights the important role the planning system can play in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.

2.2 Paragraph 98 highlights that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Paragraph 99 states that:

‘Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- *an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- *the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- *the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.’*

2.3 With regard to Local Green Space (LGS) designation, paragraph 101 states:

‘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.’

2.4 Paragraph 102 explains when the designation should be used:

‘The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:

- *in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;*
- *demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and*
- *local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.’*

2.5 Paragraph 103 identifies that local policy for managing development within a LGS should be consistent with policy for Green Belts. National Green Belt policy requires that inappropriate development, that which is harmful to the allocation, on land designated as LGS will only be permitted where very special circumstances can be demonstrated.

National Planning Practice Guidance

2.6 The NPPF is supported by guidance set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). With regard to LGS, NPPG identifies:

- Designating LGS needs to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. Plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the LGS designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306);

- LGS designation will rarely be appropriate where land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306);
- LGS may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village, neighbourhood, town or city (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306);
- If land is already protected by another designation, consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as LGS (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 37-010-20140306);
- The LGS will need to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 77 of the NPPF (see paragraph 2.3 above). Whether to designate land is a matter for local discretion. For example, green areas could include land where sports pavilions, boating lakes or structures such as war memorials are located, allotments, as well as urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306);
- The proximity of a LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special, but it must be reasonably close. For example, if public access is a key factor, then the site would normally be within easy walking distance of the community served (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306);
- There are no hard and fast rules about how big a LGS can be because places are different, and a degree of judgment will inevitably be needed. However, paragraph 100 of the NPPF is clear that LGS designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land. Consequently, blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. Designation should not be proposed as a 'back door' way to try to achieve what would amount to a new area of Green Belt by another name (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306);
- Provided land can meet the criteria at paragraph 77 of the NPPF there is no lower size limit for an LGS (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306);
- Land can be designated as LGS even if there is not public access e.g., green areas which are valued because of their wildlife, historic significance and/or beauty. Designation does not in itself confer any rights of public access over what exists at present. Any additional access would be a matter for separate negotiation with landowners, whose legal rights must be respected (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306);
- Areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may be crossed by public rights of way. There is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306);
- A LGS does not need to be in public ownership. However, the qualifying body should contact landowners at an early stage about proposals to designate any part of their land as LGS. Landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in a draft plan (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306);
- Designating a green area as LGS would give it protection consistent with that in respect of Green Belt, but otherwise there are no new restrictions or obligations on landowners (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306);
- Management of land designated as LGS will remain the responsibility of its owner. If the features that make a green area special and locally significant are to be conserved, how it will be managed in the future is likely to be an important consideration. Local communities can consider how, with the landowner's agreement, they might be able to get involved, perhaps in partnership with interested organisations that can provide advice or resources (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306); and

- Land designated as LGS may potentially also be nominated for listing by the local authority as an Asset of Community Value. Listing gives community interest groups an opportunity to bid if the owner wants to dispose of the land. (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306).

2.7 POS designation can be applied to those areas of open space which are valued for their local amenity value and for informal or formal recreational purposes, but which do not meet the full LGS criteria. NPPG identifies that open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors, and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development.

3. Local green space and protected open space methodology

Background

- 3.1 In order to seek to identify areas of LGS and POS which meet the requirements of the NPPF and NPPG, Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group prepared a methodology to be followed. The application of the methodology is described below.

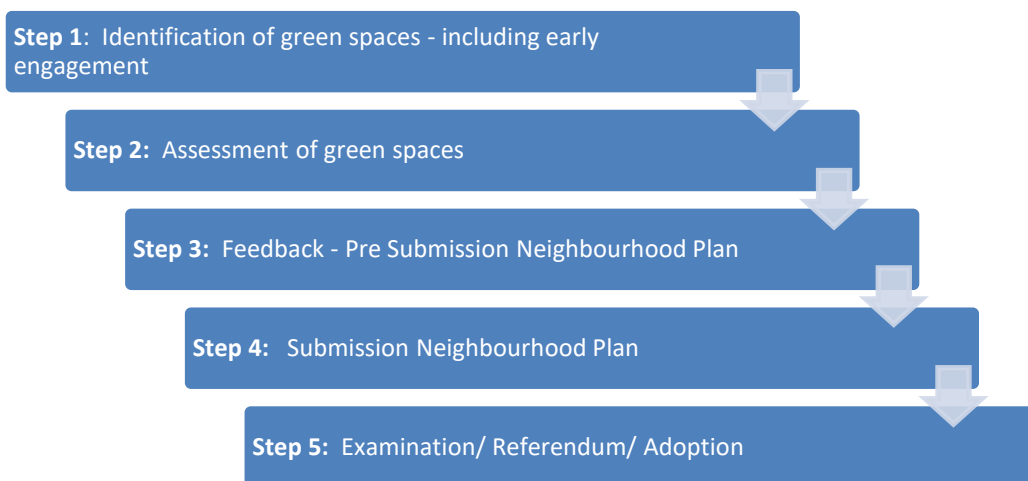


Figure 1: LGS identification process

Step 1: Identification of green/ open spaces, including early engagement

- 3.2 The first step was to identify a list of green areas and open spaces to assess as potential LGS and POS. A variety of sources of information have been used to inform this process:
- Sites allocated as POS in the Northumberland Local Plan;
 - Northumberland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Provision Assessment (2011)¹;
 - Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)²;
 - DEFRA Magic Map³;
 - Review of current information, such as local studies, character appraisal and the historic environment record; and
 - Feedback from early engagement on the neighbourhood plan, including comments received at the drop in session in October 2022 and those from the December 2022 residents survey, as well as independent feedback from residents and from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group following early engagement.

Step 2: Assessment of spaces

- 3.3 Once the list of green spaces and maps had been collected from the sources listed in step 1, a small working group assessed their suitability for designation as LGS against the criteria in the NPPF and NPPG as outlined in section 2.

¹ <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Reports.aspx>

² <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Reports.aspx>

³ The DEFRA Magic Map <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> is an interactive mapping system that holds map and data on the natural environment from across government.

3.4 To be identified as LGS all the following criteria, identified in table 1 below were required to be met.

Table 1 - LGS criteria to be met by all potential sites

Criteria	Explanation
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	LGS designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the designation would be compatible with the planning permission or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented. (NPPG Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306) Q: Does the space have planning permission?
Land is not allocated or proposed for development in the local or neighbourhood plan. Unless it can be shown that the LGS could be incorporated within the site as part of the allocated development.	LGS should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services (NPPF Paragraph 99) Designating any LGS will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the LGS designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making (NPPG Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306) The space should be capable of enduring beyond the plan Period (NPPF Paragraph 99) Q: Is the space allocated or proposed to be allocated in a Development Plan?
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	LGS designation should only be used where the green area is not an extensive tract of land. Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. (NPPG Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306) Q: How close is the space to the community it serves? Q: Where are the nearest centres of population?
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	LGS may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or a neighbourhood in a town. (NPPG Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306) The space must be demonstrably special by meeting at least one of the criteria in the following table. Q: Is the proposal to designate supported by any of the following: A friends group, local community groups, a parish plan, the parish council, ward member(s)?

3.5 The criteria in table 2 below then seek to draw out what it is about the space that makes it 'demonstrably special to the local community'. A LGS should meet at least one of the criteria in the table below, although some spaces will meet more than one of the criteria:

Table 2 - Criteria to demonstrate why a site is demonstrably special to the community

Criteria	Explanation
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its beauty?</p> <p>Does the space contribute to the visual attractiveness of the townscape or character / setting of the settlement?</p> <p>Is the space covered by other landscape or townscape designations? (e.g. conservation area)</p>
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its historic significance?</p> <p>Does the proposed space or elements of the space have local historical significance? (e.g., conservation area)</p> <p>Are there any historic buildings or structures in the space? (e.g. listed building or scheduled monument)</p> <p>Are there any important historic landscape features on the space? (e.g. veteran trees or old hedgerows)</p> <p>Does the space have a historic literature or art connection?</p> <p>NOTE: - all of the sites assessed lie within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Buffer Zone, therefore this was not considered a separate element of local historic significance.</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its recreational value?</p> <p>There is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation. (NPPG Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306)</p> <p>What variety of recreational activities does the space support? (e.g., the space is used for playing sport and for informal recreation)</p> <p>Is the space already identified in the Northumberland Open Space study?</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its tranquillity?</p> <p>Why is the space considered to be tranquil?</p> <p>Is the space used for quiet reflection?</p>
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	<p>How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its richness of wildlife?</p> <p>Is the proposed space formally designated for its wildlife value? (e.g., is it a SSSI, SNCI or local nature reserve).</p> <p>Are any important habitats or species found in the space?</p> <p>Does the proposed space support notable species of fauna or flora? (e.g., protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 or Habitat Regulations 2010, Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006)</p> <p>Does the proposed space support any notable bird species or notable assemblage of invertebrates?</p> <p>Does the proposed space support irreplaceable habitats</p>

Criteria	Explanation
	such as ancient semi-natural woodland and veteran trees? Does the proposed space function as part of a wildlife corridor or green infrastructure enabling the dispersal of species of flora and fauna?
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of another reason not covered by criteria above	Are there any other reasons why the proposed space has a particular local significance for the local community?

3.6 The assessment then concluded whether all the nationally required criteria have been met and listed the relevant local criteria and whether the space is suitable as LGS.

3.7 For sites that did not meet the required criteria, consideration was then given to whether they should be allocated as protected open space – this considered whether the space was valued for any of the following reasons:

- as a natural and semi-natural greenspace;
- as amenity green space; or
- for formal or informal recreation.

3.8 Protected open space designation would not be considered appropriate for large areas of arable land which form part of the wider countryside. These would be protected as a result of their open countryside location. As part of the assessment, the working group were mindful of allocations within the Northumberland Local Plan – the local plan only allocates two sites as protected open space sites within the parish, Humshaugh Playing Field and Land at Haughton Square.

3.9 To inform the initial assessment engagement also took place with land owners of sites proposed for designation.

Step 3: Feedback - pre-submission neighbourhood plan

3.10 The pre-submission neighbourhood plan proposes the allocation of 12 areas of local green space and 3 protected open spaces. Through consultation on the plan, the parish council will seek further feedback on the proposed designations.

Step 4: Submission neighbourhood plan

3.11 Responses received to the consultation on the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan will be considered and will inform the preparation of the submission plan, which will be subject to a further six-week public consultation organised by Northumberland County Council.

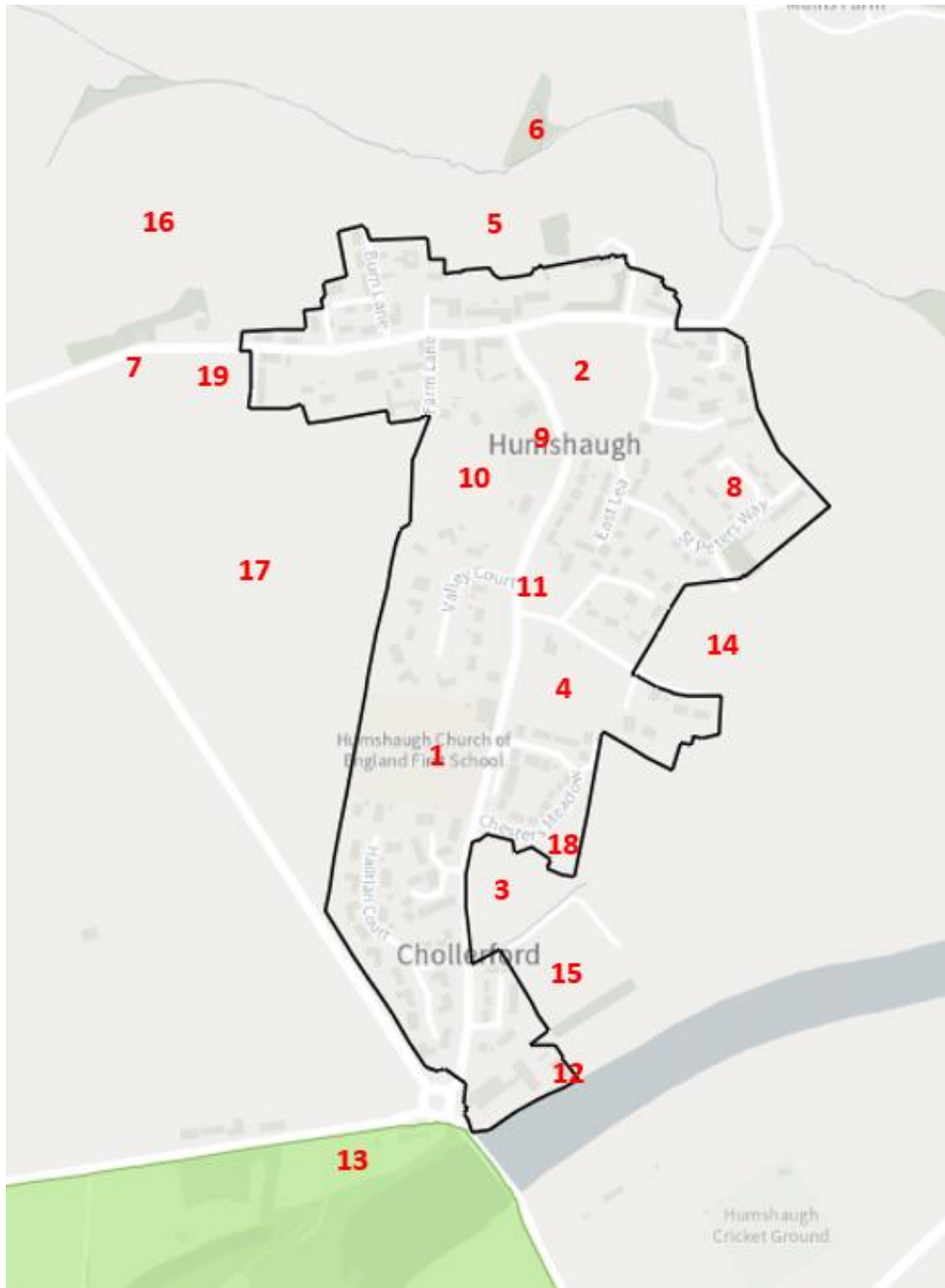
Step 5: Examination/ referendum/ adoption

3.12 Following the submission of the neighbourhood plan, it will then be examined by an independent examiner. The examiner will review the evidence base for the plan – including whether there is evidence to justify the allocation of LGS and POS. Once the plan passes examination it will then go to referendum and will be formally ‘made’ by Northumberland County Council.

4. Conclusion and next steps

- 4.1 This background paper explains the process which will lead to the designation of areas of LGS and POS in the Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan. It summarises the national and local background to LGS and POS and explains the methodology that has been used in the assessments.
- 4.2 All the sites that have been assessed for designation are included in Appendix 1 – this provides a brief explanation of the reasons why a site has or has not been proposed to be included in the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan. Further details on those that have been proposed to be allocated as LGS are included within Appendix 2 and site maps included within Appendix 3.
- 4.3 Appendix 4 contains the assessment for the areas of POS proposed to be allocated within the neighbourhood plan, with maps included within Appendix 5.
- 4.4 Responses received to this consultation will inform the preparation of a pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan that will be subject to further consultation.

Appendix 1 All sites assessed – summary



Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
1	Playing field and play area	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	✓	Allocated as POS within the NLP (5147 – outdoor sports and recreation). Centrally located, within the settlement boundary and adjacent to the school. Used regularly by the local community and school. Important to the character of the village and the setting of the conservation area. Appropriate for designation as LGS.
2	The Orchard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	Centrally located and within the settlement boundary. Important to the character of the conservation area and adjacent listed buildings. A tranquil site with rich wildlife value. Appropriate for designation as LGS.
3	Bog Field (South of Chesters Meadow)	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	Although lying outside the settlement boundary it is adjacent to it, with residential dwellings lying to the north west and south. Important to the character of the village. A tranquil site, rich in wildlife. Appropriate for designation as LGS.

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
4	The Leggit Field	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	A tranquil site, within the centre of the village. It is one of a network of green spaces which shapes the rural character of the village. It is adjacent to the conservation area and two listed buildings, contributing to their settings. The site is also rich in wildlife. Appropriate for designation as LGS.
5	Field to the North of the Crown Inn	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	Whilst the site is demonstrably special to the local community, it is considered that in the context of the village it would be an extensive tract of land, which forms part of the wider countryside to the north of the village. Consideration has therefore been given to a smaller site which includes the burn and woodland (site ref 6) and for the remainder of the field designated as POS as a result of its value as a semi-natural greenspace which is its main purpose. The site is also enjoyed by the local community as a result of a public right of way on its eastern boundary.

Humshaugh Neighbourhood Plan: LGS and POS Background Paper

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
6	Humshaugh Burn Wood	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	The woodland includes an outdoor classroom used by the local school. A tranquil and wooded site. Appropriate for designation as LGS.
7	Humshaugh War Memorial	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	Although the memorial is protected because of being grade II listed, given the importance of the site to the local community as a result of its historic significance and tranquillity, it is appropriate for designation as LGS.
8	Houghton Square	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	Allocated as POS (amenity greenspace) within the NLP (6348). One of the sites that forms part of the network of green spaces which shapes the character of the village. Also important for its recreational value and tranquillity, it is therefore appropriate for designation as LGS.
9	St Peters Church Yard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	Although churchyards are protected from development by law, it is considered that given the importance of the site to the local community (beauty, historic significance, tranquillity, and richness of wildlife), it should be identified as LGS.

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
10	The Glebe Field	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	Demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historical significance, tranquillity and richness of wildlife and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community. The site therefore meets the LGS designation requirements.
11	Entrance to Doctors Lane	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	The site contains two mature cherry trees, memorial bench and flowerbed. It is important to the character of this part of the village and forms part of the setting of the conservation area. One of the spaces which shapes the rural character of the village. The site therefore meets the LGS designation requirements.
12	Riverbank, east of Chollerford Bridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	Whilst the site is important to the character of the local area and the setting of the adjacent listed Chollerford Bridge and George Inn, as well as being used for informal recreation and rich in wildlife, it lies in flood zone 3 and is therefore unlikely to be developed.


Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
13	Riverbank, west of Chollerford Bridge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	Whilst the site is: important to the character of the local area and the setting of the adjacent listed Chollerford Bridge and George Inn, used for informal recreation and rich in wildlife, as it lies within the Green Belt it is already protected.
14	Doctors Lane Field	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	Whilst the site is demonstrably special to the local community, it is considered that in the context of the village it would be an extensive tract of land. It appears as part of the open countryside which adjoins the village. Given its biodiversity and amenity value it is considered appropriate for designation as protected open space.
15	Simmond's Court Field	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	Formerly a football field – now overgrown. Adjacent to the settlement boundary. Considered that open countryside policies would protect the site from development in the future.

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
16	Evans Trust Field (north of war memorial)	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	Whilst the site is demonstrably special to the local community, it is considered that in the context of the village it would be an extensive tract of land. It appears as part of the open countryside which adjoins the village. However, because of its biodiversity and amenity value it is considered appropriate for designation as protected open space. The site is enjoyed by the local community who make extensive use of the permissive path that runs from the C219 opposite the War Memorial north around the field edge to cross a small marshy area and the Humshaugh Burn to join a public bridleway. The public enjoy views of farm animals, the countryside, and wildlife.

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
17	Land South of War Memorial	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	Whilst the site is demonstrably special to the local community, it is considered that in the context of the village it would be an extensive tract of land. It appears as part of the open countryside which adjoins the village. The site has been considered as a potential protected open space, however, the conclusion was that this would not be appropriate as it is not a natural/ semi natural green space, nor does it have a recreational value – although there is a right of way which runs alongside the eastern boundary. The site would be protected from development as an agricultural field within the open countryside.
18	Chesters Meadow Amenity area	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	Important to the character of the local area. A tranquil site, used for informal recreation primarily by residents of Chesters Meadow. The site therefore meets the LGS designation requirements.






Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
19	Field opposite Douglas Terrace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	Important to the character of the local area, the character of the conservation area and the setting of the grade II listed war memorial. A tranquil part of the village and a site which is also rich in wildlife. The site therefore meets the LGS designation requirements.

Appendix 2 Detailed Assessment of proposed LGS

Site Ref	LGS01	
Site Name	Playing field and play area	
Ownership	The Children of Humshaugh (Trustees - Humshaugh Children's Playing Field Trust)	
		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission for development
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as protected open space (outdoor sports and recreation) within the NLP (5147)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 1.55ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Centrally located within the village and adjacent to the village school who use the park and field on a regular basis.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	Located adjacent to the main road and is one of a network of green spaces which shapes the rural character of the village.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	The playing field and play area is managed owned by Humshaugh Children's Playing Field Trust ⁴ . It is used regularly by the local school, resident children and children visiting the village (tourists or relatives of residents). The play area has modern, fun swings, climbing apparatus etc and the playing field

⁴ <https://www.fieldsintrust.org/FieldSite/Humshaugh-Playing-Field>



		has football nets, a BMX circuit, a zip wire, and a ramp for skateboarders.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	
Conclusion		
The site meets the LGS designation requirements. It is demonstrably special to the local community because of its recreational value and beauty and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community.		

Site Ref	LGS02	
Site Name	The Orchard	
Ownership	Valerie Ann Nelson (the majority) and Lois Gwendoline Dodds (SE corner).	
    		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission for development
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land within the settlement boundary
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 1.5ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Lies within the centre of the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	The Orchard is a walled field, located in the heart of the village. It is one of the green spaces which forms a network of spaces that are an essential part of the character of the village. As a result of its location, it provides a focal point. It is highly valued by residents and visitors walking into the village to go to the shop, pub, or accommodation.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	The site is an important part of the character of the conservation area. The site is overlooked by the Grade II Listed St Peter's Church and forms an important part of its setting.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	No public access.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The site contributes to the tranquillity of this part of the village.
The proposed space is of particular	✓	Sheep graze in the field and includes a small

local significance because of its richness of wildlife.		allotment. The DEFRA Magic Map identifies Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds (England), including Grey Partridge and Lapwing. Nuthatch and Skylarks have also been spotted. The Orchard contributes to climate change adaptation with water captured in the 1.5 hectares, reducing flood risk further downstream in the nearby North Tyne River and Tyne.
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Conclusion

The site meets the LGS designation requirements. Although there is no public access to the site, it is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historic significance, tranquillity and richness of wildlife and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community.

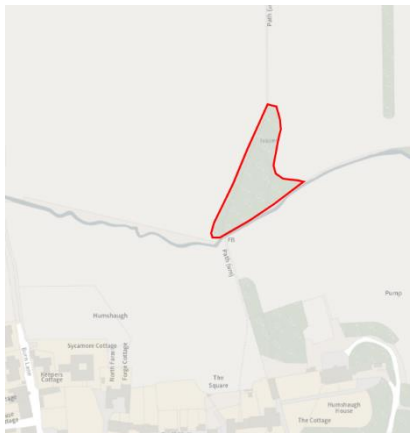


Site Ref	LGS03	
Site Name	Bog Field (south of Chesters Meadows)	
Ownership	Duchy Homes Limited	
 		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission for development. In August 2019, planning permission was refused for 20 dwellings on the site (19/00861/FUL)
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land, outside but adjacent to the settlement boundary.
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 1.1ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	It is one of the green spaces which forms a network of spaces that are an essential part of the character of the village.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	No public access.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The site contributes to the tranquillity of this part of the village.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	The field hosts a wide variety of birds including Oystercatchers, Pheasant, and Snipe. Seasonal murmuration of Starlings also occurs and has been spectacular. This site has the following species identified on the DEFRA Magic Map: Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds (England), Black Grouse, Grey Partridge, and Lapwing.


Conclusion

<p>The site meets the LGS designation requirements. It is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, tranquillity and wildlife value and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community.</p>
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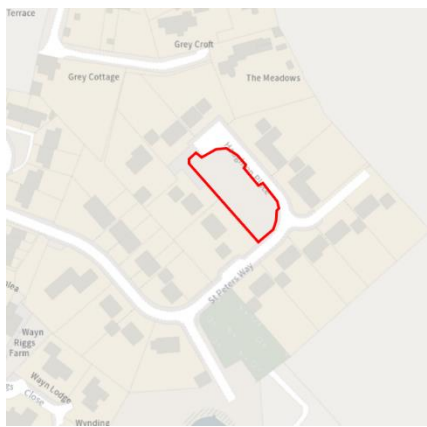


Site Ref	LGS04	
Site Name	The Leggit Field	
Ownership	Mrs Davidson, Grundseth and McKee	
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission for development.
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land within the settlement boundary.
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 0.8ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	In the centre of the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	Located adjacent to the main road and is one of a network of green spaces which shapes the rural character of the village. In the summer, the grazing land comes alive with yellow blooms with the young bulls feeding or snoozing in the meadow.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	The site is directly adjacent to the conservation area and contributes to its setting. The site is also important to the setting of two Grade II listed buildings which are located to the west (Hopewell House, Humshaugh CofE Primary School). In addition, there is the Grade II listed Round House, also very close but set back 30m from the road to the rear of the school. The site contributes to rural and historic experience for the many visitors who come into Humshaugh during their holidays, at weekends and on day trips to Hadrian's Wall or to stay, visit the village shop and/or village pub. The field has ancient Ridge and Furrow running at

		right angles to the main road. This is very prominent in the winter due to the water, frost and snow (see photographs above).
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	No as there is no public access.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The site contributes to the tranquillity of this part of the village.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	The field contributes to climate change adaptation with water captured within the furrows between the ridges, reducing flood risk further downstream in the nearby North Tyne River. This site has the following species identified on the DEFRA Magic Map: 1 - Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds (England), Black Grouse, Grey Partridge, and Lapwing. The field also hosts a wide variety of birds including Oystercatchers, Pheasant, Skylarks and Snipe. Seasonal murmuration of Starlings also occurs and has been spectacular.
Conclusion		
<p>The site meets the LGS designation requirements. Although there is no public access, it is demonstrably special to the local community because of its beauty, historic significance, tranquillity, and richness of wildlife and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community.</p>		

Site Ref	LGS05	
Site Name	Humshaugh Burn Wood	
Ownership	Valerie Ann Nelson	
  		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land outside of the settlement boundary.
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	0.30 ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Located to the north of the village.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	Important to the character of the local area
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	Public footpath 528/005 runs through the site. The woodland is used as an outdoor classroom by the school.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	A tranquil area of woodland adjacent to the river
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	The DEFRA Magic Map has identified this area for Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds (England), Grey Partridge and Lapwing
Conclusion		
The site meets the LGS designation requirements. It is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, recreational value, tranquillity and richness of wildlife.		


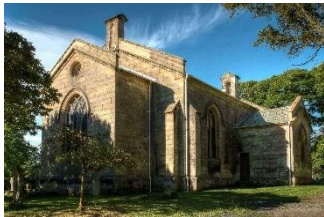


Site Ref	LGS06	
Site Name	Humshaugh War Memorial	
Ownership	Land owned by Christopher George Dinning and Joan Margery Dinning War memorial is an asset of Humshaugh Parish Council	
		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land outside of the settlement boundary.
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Small site – approximately 10m x 10m
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	On the edge of the village, within walking distance.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	The war memorial is Grade II listed, it lies within the Humshaugh Conservation Area. It is included on the Northumberland Historic Environment Record. The War Memorial was built in memory of those villagers who died whilst serving in the World Wars. Annual memorial services are held at the site.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	Residents, walkers and visitors to the area regularly rest on the bench next to the memorial and quietly reflect on the sacrifices made by young men from the village and enjoy the tranquil feel of the site which is emphasised by the adjacent open fields on

		both sides of the road.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	
Conclusion		
The site meets the LGS designation requirements. It is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its historic significance and tranquillity and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community.		




Site Ref	LGS07	
Site Name	Haughton Square	
Ownership	Haughton Square (Humshaugh) Management Company	
  		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as protected open space (amenity green space) within the local plan (6348)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 0.1 hectares
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Within the residential area, with dwellings on all sides
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	Open grassed area planted with spring flowers on the periphery. Important to the character of the area.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	Provides an informal recreation space which is available to the village but given the location, tends to be used by Haughton Square and children from East Lea have also been down to play games.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	Provides breathing space and tranquillity to the residents of Haughton Square development.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	

Conclusion






<p>The site meets the LGS designation requirements. It is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its recreational value and tranquillity and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community.</p>
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Site Ref	LGS08	
Site Name	St Peters Church Yard	
Ownership	Church of England	
   		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission.
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land within the settlement boundary
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 0.6ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Within the centre of the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	<p>The site is well maintained with a range of mature trees on the perimeter including cherry trees which line the wall facing the main road and overhang the pavement between the road and the church yard wall. The cherry trees provide a beautiful view to those passing, especially in May when the blooms begin shedding, lining the path with pink and white "confetti".</p> <p>It is also one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of the rural village community.</p>
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	<p>The Church of St Peter was consecrated in August 1818 and was the first church in the vicinity since the ancient medieval chapel at Haughton fell into disuse, so this site has been a valued place of worship and community for over 200 years. The Church is a grade II listed</p>

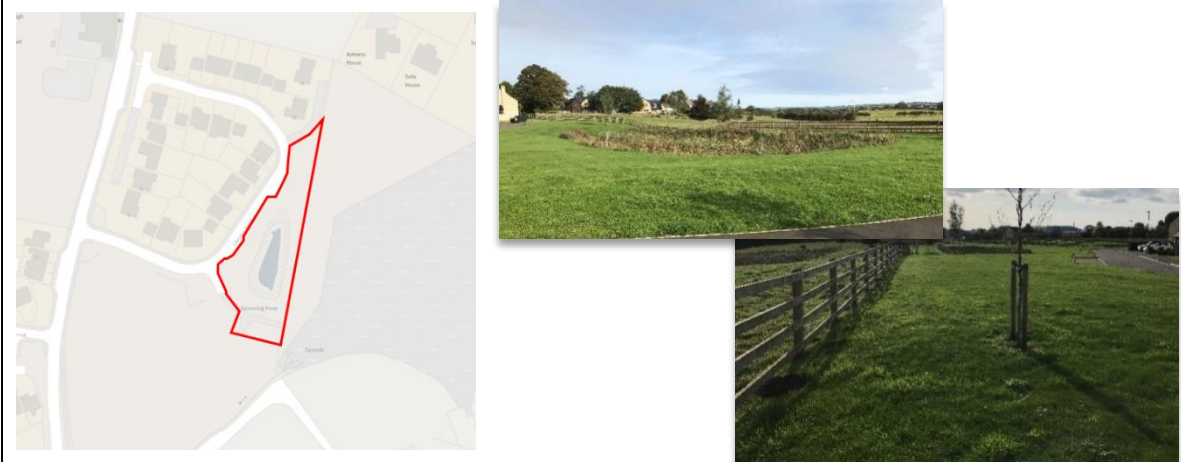
		building, as is the Nixon Headstone which also lies within the site. The site lies within the conservation area.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	A tranquil site. The graveyard is open to all denominations and is regularly visited by relatives paying respect and remembering their loved ones. There are benches in an area of contemplation which is open to everyone.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	This site has the following species identified on the DEFRA Magic Map: 1 - Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds (England), Grey Partridge and Lapwing.
Conclusion		
Although churchyards are protected from development by law, it is considered that given the importance of the site to the local community (beauty, historic significance, tranquillity, and richness of wildlife), it should be identified as LGS.		

Site Ref	LGS09	
Site Name	The Glebe Field	
Ownership	Church of England	
  		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land within the settlement boundary
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 0.29 ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	In the centre of the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	The Glebe Field of St Peters is well maintained with a range of mature trees. The site also includes a small orchard containing apple and pear trees. It is also one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of the rural village community.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	Adjacent to the Church of St Peter, which was consecrated in August 1818 and was the first church in the vicinity since the ancient medieval chapel at Haughton fell into disuse, so this site has been a valued place of worship and community for over 200 years. The Church is a grade II listed building. The site forms part of its setting and lies within the conservation area.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	A tranquil site which, alongside the adjacent church yard, provides an area of tranquillity at the heart of the village.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its	✓	This site has the following species identified on the DEFRA Magic Map: 1 - Arable Assemblage

richness of wildlife.		Farmland Birds (England), Grey Partridge and Lapwing.
Conclusion		
<p>The site meets the LGS designation requirements. It is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historical significance, tranquillity and richness of wildlife and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community.</p>		

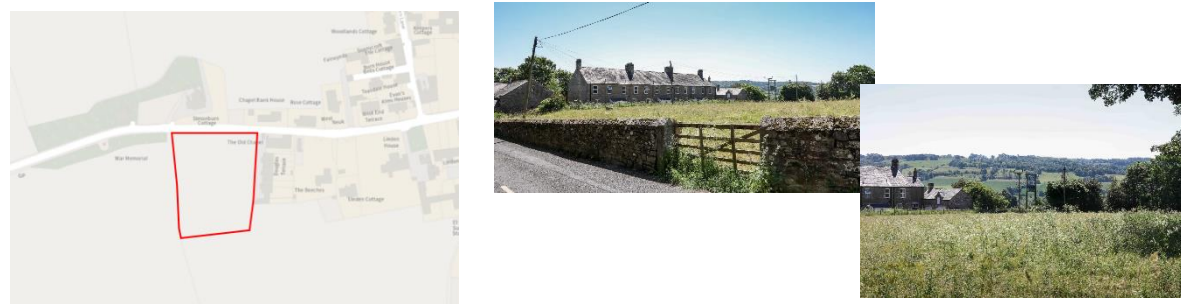
Site Ref	LGS10	
Site Name	Entrance to Doctors Lane	
Ownership	Northumberland County Council	
    		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land inside the settlement boundary
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 0.15ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	In the centre of the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	The site contains two mature cherry trees, memorial bench and flowerbed. It is important to the character of this part of the village.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	The site is important to the setting of the conservation area which it borders.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	The flowerbeds within the site are maintained by volunteers.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The memorial bench provides a place to sit and reflect and a place to rest for residents, visitors, and walkers. This is one of the spaces which shapes the rural character of the village, contributing to the overall tranquillity of Humshaugh as a rural community settlement.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	

Conclusion
<p>The site meets the LGS designation requirements. It is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value and tranquillity and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community.</p>

Site Ref	LGS11	
Site Name	Chesters Meadow amenity area	
Ownership	Duchy Homes (Humshaugh) Limited	
		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission.
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land within the settlement boundary
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 0.31ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Near the centre of the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	Open grassed area containing a SUDs Pond with Bulrushes. Important to the character of the area.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	Provides an informal recreation space which is available to the village but given the location, tends to be used by residents of Chesters Meadow as a children's play area and for public celebration events (Platinum Jubilee, Coronation etc).
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	Provides breathing space and tranquillity to the residents of Chesters Meadow development.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	

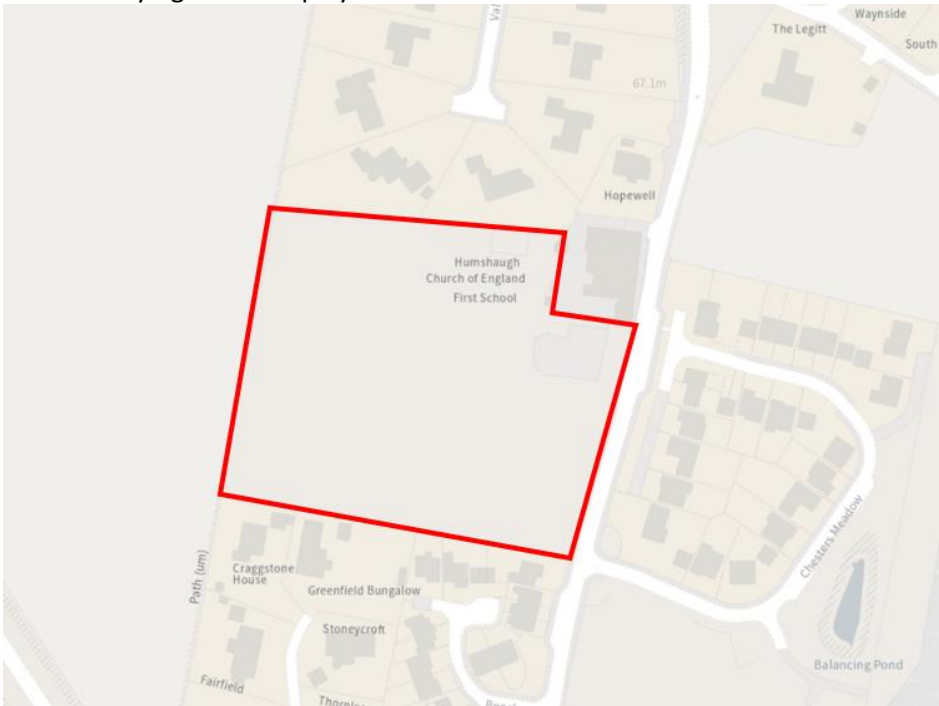
Conclusion

<p>The site meets the LGS designation requirements. It is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, recreational value and tranquillity and is one of the sites that form the network of green spaces which shape the character of our rural village community.</p>
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Site Ref	LGS12	
Site Name	Field opposite Douglas Terrace	
Ownership	The Evans Trust	
		
All the following criteria must be met (✓ or x)		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	No planning permission.
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Unallocated land, part of which lies adjacent to the settlement boundary.
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	Approximately 0.58ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	North west corner of the village
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		Comments
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	Important to the character of the local area.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	Lies within the conservation areas. An important part of the setting of the grade II listed war memorial. The draft conservation area character appraisal highlights that the adjacent Douglas Terrace forms an important firm edge to the village.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The site provides the surrounding residents and visitors with tranquillity and breathing space, providing an important green buffer to the historic core of the village.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	✓	The DEFRA Magic Map identifies Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds (England), Grey Partridge and Lapwing. The field is used for grazing cattle.
Conclusion		
The site meets the LGS designation requirements. It is demonstrably special to the local community as a result of its beauty, historical significance, tranquillity and richness of wildlife.		

Appendix 3 Maps of proposed LGS designations

LGS01 Playing field and play area



LGS02 The Orchard



LGS03 Bog Field



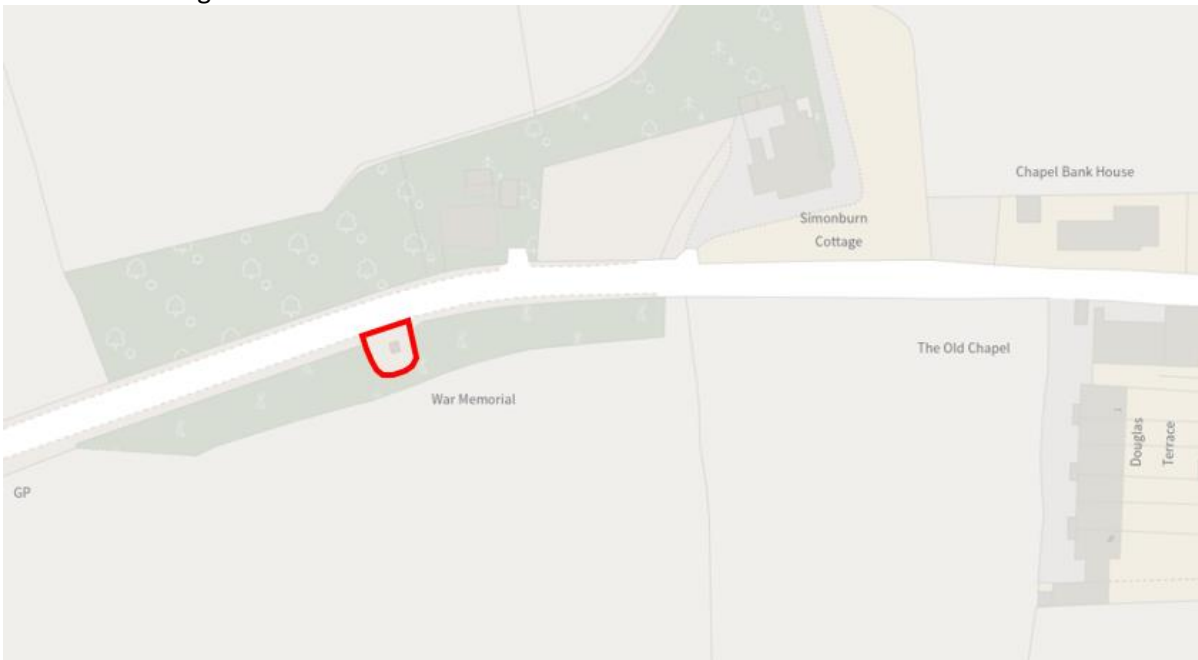
LGS04 – The Leggit Field



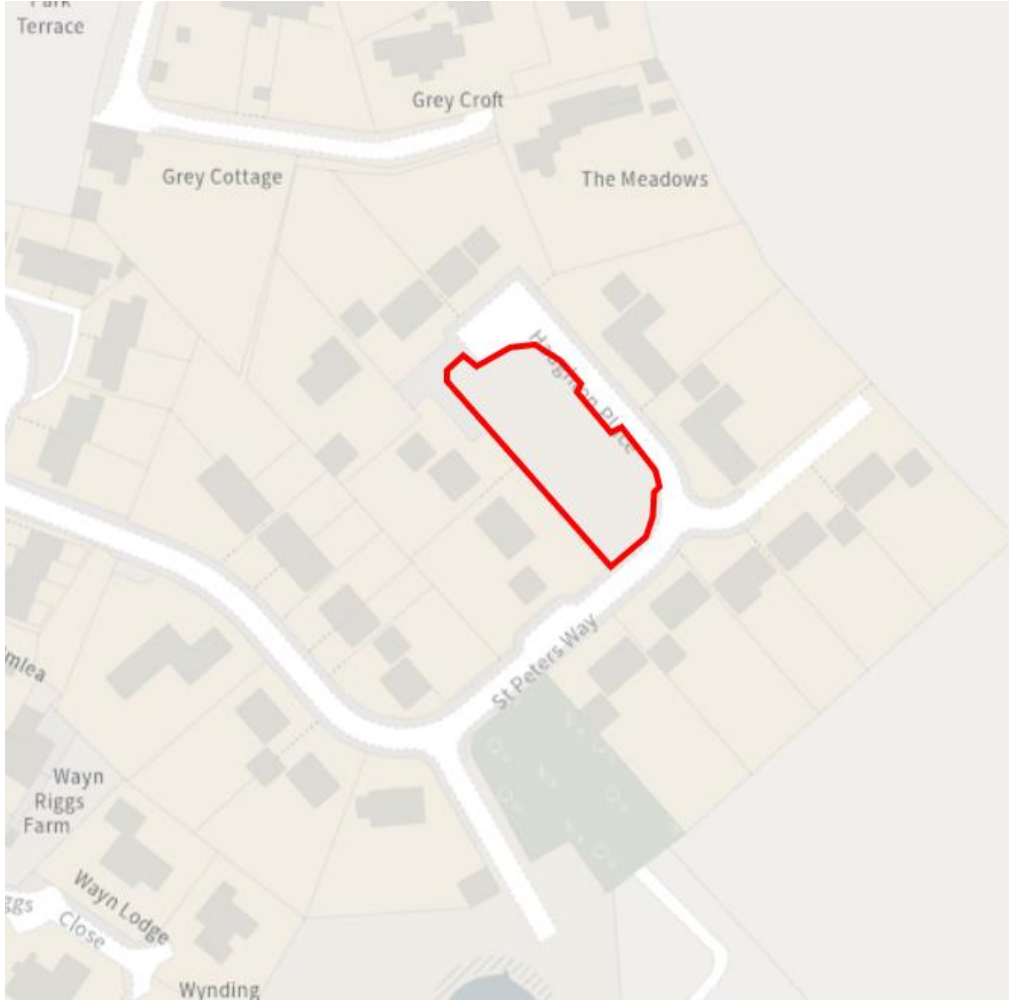
LGS05 Humshaugh Burn Wood



LGS06 Humshaugh War Memorial



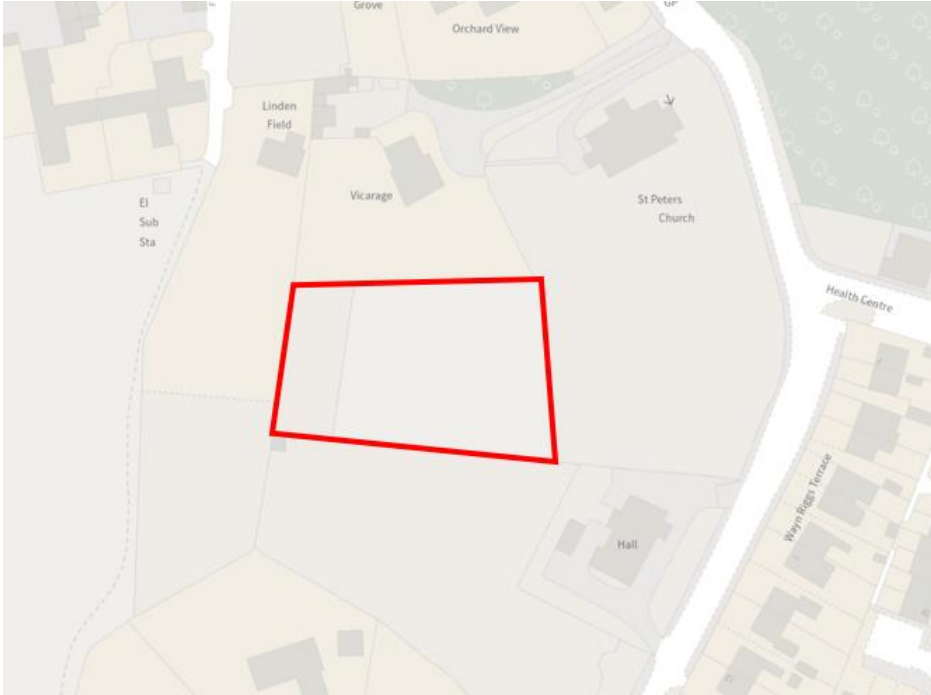
LGS07 Houghton Square



LGS08 St Peters Church Yard



LGS09 The Glebe Field



LGS10 Entrance to Doctor's Lane









LGS11 Chesters Meadow Amenity Area



LGS12 Field opposite Douglas Terrace

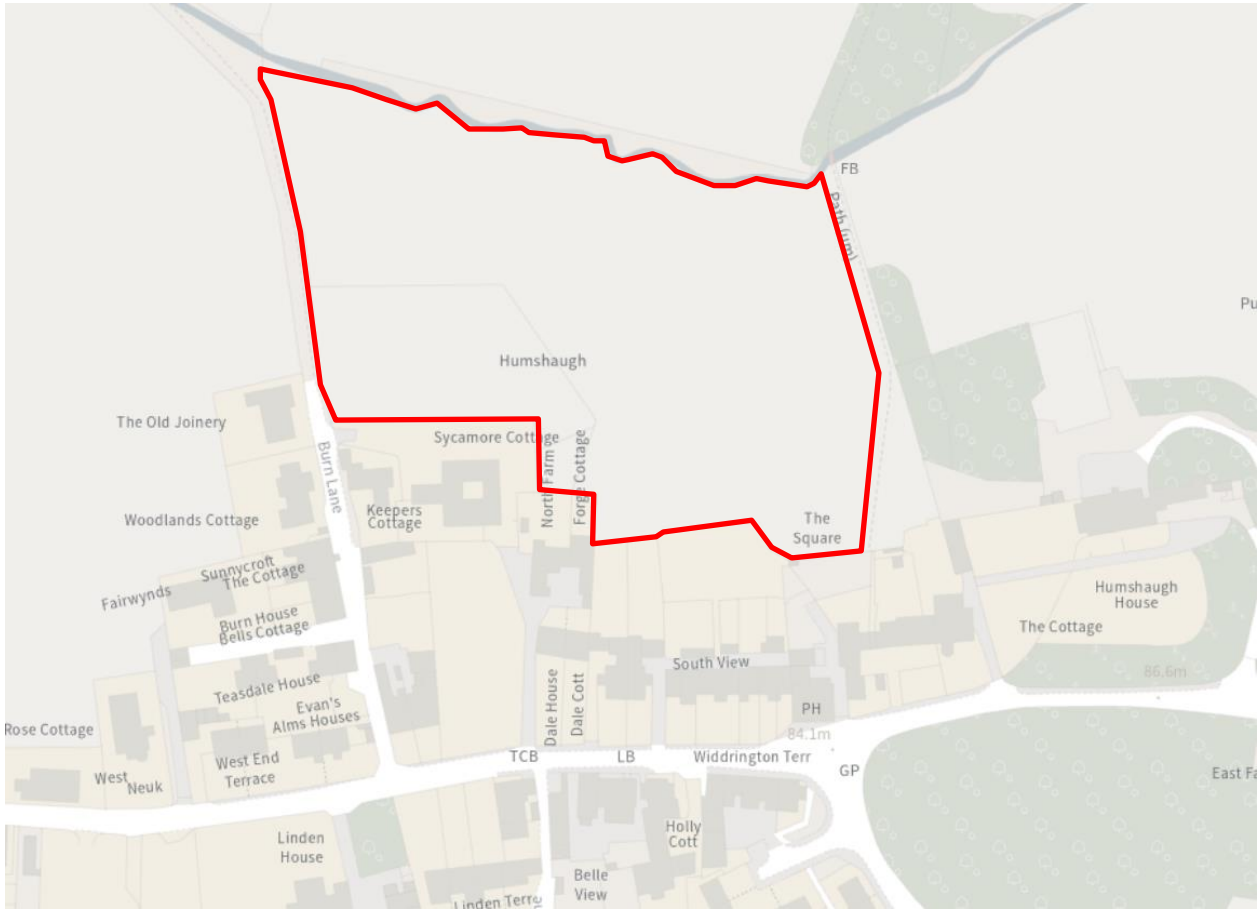


Appendix 4 Protected Open Space Assessment

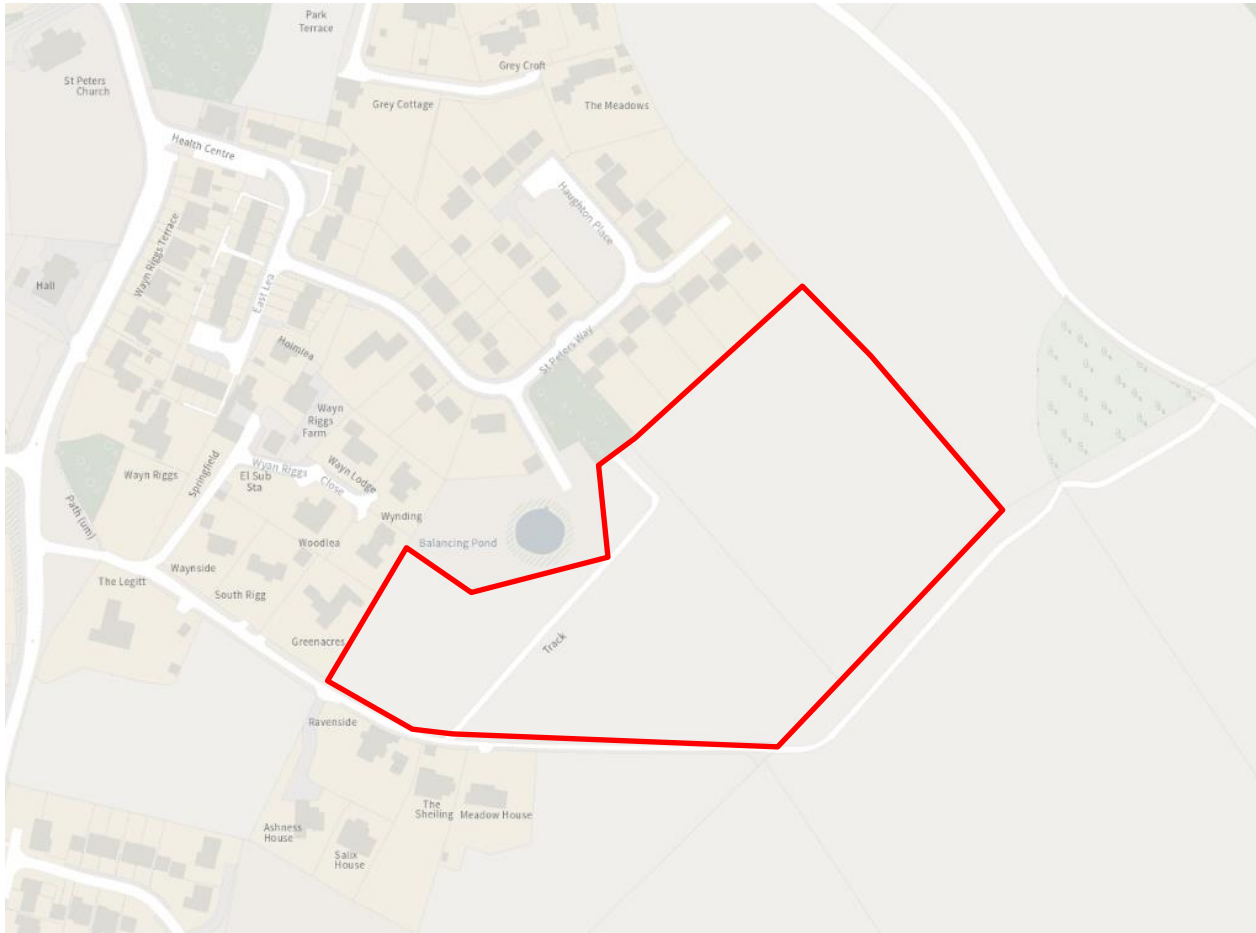
Reference	Site/ ownership	Description of amenity value
POS01	Field to the North of the Crown Inn – owned by Valerie Ann Nelson	Important to the character of the northern part of the village and wider setting of the conservation area. Valued as a natural green space.
	 	
POS02	Doctors Lane Field – owned by CAE Braithwaite, NE Braithwaite, CFS May	Highly valued by the local community. Provides tranquillity, space and open views of the surrounding countryside. A prominent site when viewed from Chollerton Road. Used for informal recreation. One of the spaces which shapes the rural character of the village, contributing to the overall tranquillity of the village. In addition to the bulls and sheep who graze the field, the DEFRA Magic Map identifies Arable Assemblage Farmland Birds (England), Black Grouse, Grey Partridge and Lapwing. The field also hosts a wide variety of birds including Oystercatchers, Pheasant and Skylarks. Seasonal murmuration of Starlings also occurs and has been spectacular. There are also occasional herons in the pond and marshy areas, and often hares and deer.
	 	
POS03	Evans Trust Field (north of war memorial) – owned by Evans Trust	Highly valued by the local community. Adjacent to the settlement boundary. The field has grazing sheep most of the year. The field is unusual in that it forms a large circular mound with a small copse at the top. The site is enjoyed by the local community who make extensive use of the permissive path that runs from the C219 opposite the War Memorial north around the field edge to cross a small marshy area and the Humshaugh Burn to join a public bridleway. The public enjoy views of farm animals, the countryside, and wildlife. The site provides a tranquil setting to this part of the village. In winter months the mound is also used by local children for sledging. In addition, the fields are also observed to have migratory birds, including greylag geese that settle each year.
	 	

Appendix 5 Protected Open Space Maps

POS01 Field to the North of the Crown Inn



POS02 Doctors Lane Field



POS03 Evans Trust Field

