

Murton

Neighbourhood

Plan



APPENDIX F **Murton Parish: Local Green** **Space Report**

Pre-Submission **Draft for** **Consultation**

(Regulation 14)
April 2021



Introduction

In Section 6.3 of the Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, *Murton's Green Infrastructure and Landscape*, seven sites are proposed as Local Green Spaces.

1. The Village Pond, off Moor Lane
2. The Village Green, Murton Way/Murton Lane
3. Allotments, Moor Lane
4. St James's Churchyard
5. Grassed area, off Osbaldwick Link Road
6. The Copse, Moor Lane
7. Moor Lane verge

Our proposal is to be found in Section 6.3.12, ***ENV1 Local Green Space***.

This Appendix provides additional evidence for these proposed designations and a brief explanation of the methodology used.

Discussions were guided by the National Planning Policy Framework, the emerging City of York Local Plan and a comprehensive booklet produced by Locality, entitled, *Neighbourhood Planning. Local Green Spaces*.¹ and by our advisor.

Evidence

The National Planning Policy Framework introduced the concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designation.

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

¹ Neighbourhood Planning. Local Green Spaces. Locality.

should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period².

The NPPF gives guidance for their selection.

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 land³.

The NPPF also points out that

Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts⁴.

The protection of green spaces of importance to local communities is woven throughout Section 9 of the City of York Local Plan, *Green Infrastructure*, and which begins with the statement

In planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of York's networks of green infrastructure it is essential that the Local Plan conserves and enhances York's landscapes, geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environment, recognising the important role of green infrastructure⁵.

Designation

National planning policy enables a local plan to protect sites deemed to be significant. Whilst the NPPF establishes the concept of LGS designation and provides guiding principles, it gives communities preparing a Neighbourhood Plan discretion to determine how to implement this at the local level.

² National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communications and Local Government. February 2019 para 99 page28

³ National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communications and Local Government. February 2019 para 100, page28

⁴ National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communications and Local Government. February 2019 para 101, page28

⁵ City of York Local Plan Pre Publication Draft Regulation 19 Consultation. February 2018, Section 9 pages 165-174

It was noted that there is an absence of definitions of what is 'special' or what comprises an 'extensive tract of land' and this was welcomed as it allows local groups to have leeway in making proposals.

Following discussions within the Working Party and seeking advice from residents, a short list of possible sites was drawn up followed by further discussions⁶.

The sites on the short list were then assessed against the criteria enumerated in the NPPF⁷. The simple form designed and used successfully by the Huntington Parish Neighbourhood Plan was adapted and used⁸.

Most of the sites are given some protection through the draft Green Belt in the emerging City of York Local Plan but there are advantages in also including them in the Neighbourhood Plan as Local Green Spaces, where it can give additional safeguards. For example 'Green belts do not recognise the landscape quality or community value of land'⁹.

Through our process, a small number of sites were identified which were considered to be locally significant, valued by the community and met the tests set out in the NPPF.

⁶ Neighbourhood Planning. Local Green Spaces. Locality.p5.

⁷ National Planning Policy Framework, Ministry of Housing, Communications and Local Government. February 2019 para 100, page 28

⁸ Huntington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Supporting Evidence - Local Green Spaces

⁹ Neighbourhood Planning. Local Green Spaces. Locality.p14.

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 1 The Village Pond



The Village Pond at Eastertime

Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. It is located on Moor Lane at the end of Murton Hall and is in the conservation area.
Is it beautiful?	Especially beautiful in the Spring with daffodils in profusion
Does it have local and historic significance?	It is the last of at least 6 ponds in the 18 th century Township. Most probably dug out as a drinking place for farm horses. There is no written record of its name.
Does it have recreation value?	It is a good place to relax with seating. Used by walkers and cyclists as a resting place.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Although there is much traffic along Moor Lane a peak times, it is well set

	back from the road and at other times, it seems a thousand miles away from the City as it is adjacent to farm land usually used for cattle.
Does the site have wildlife value?	The pond provides a relatively undisturbed environment which encourages ducks and other pond life to flourish. It is a favoured place for ducks to breed. Following dredging, new wild flowers are being sought to compliment those along the wide verge along Moor Lane adjacent to the Grade II listed wall of Murton Hall.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	It is at the entrance to the village from Holtby and Stockton on Forest and as such is an arresting site marking the start of the village.
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No
Other	

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 2 The Village Green



The Village Green consists of two triangular pieces of land at the junction of Murton Way (on the right) and Murton Lane. There is also a wide strip of land between Murton Lane and the field on its right

Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. It is in the centre of the village where three roads of the Parish meet, Murton Way, Murton Lane and Main Street (leading to Moor Lane) meet.
Is it beautiful?	Yes. A green area with a variety of trees and plants. It gives the village a sense of space.
Does it have local and historic significance?	It consists of two triangular pieces of land at the junction of the three roads plus a wide strip of land on the west

	side of Murton Lane from the junction to opposite Smary Lane. This area , in its present form dates from 1934 when the road was realigned by the North Riding County Council. To enable this, the County Council bought land from the owner of Prospect Farm, Harold Boynton. The land is registered as Village Green under the responsibility of the Parish Council.
Does it have recreation value?	It is used by walkers and cyclists as a resting place. There is a bench and shade from the trees.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Although it is at a junction of roads which are overused at peak times, it does have a restful feeling, helped by fields which are populated by alpacas and sheep.
Does the site have wildlife value?	Yes, particularly many blackbirds
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	It is a major feature of village, giving a physical centre to the conservation area.
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No
Other	

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 3 Allotments



Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. The site is 200 metres along Moor Lane from the edge of the village.
Is it beautiful?	It provides an open space along the Moor Lane which is otherwise dominated by hedgerows and fields.
Does it have local and historic significance?	The two plots of land have been owned by the Township at least since the early 19 th century. One plot was the site of 4 Poor Houses, known as Town Houses, built in the early 1800s. There were two pairs of semi-detached single storey cottages. They

	were condemned in the early 1930s but still inhabited until the 1950s and only demolished at the end of that decade. The remains of a small brick building can be seen and which might have been an outside privy.
Does it have recreation value?	At the moment, the area is underused. It has considerable potential for serious development of traditional allotments
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Although alongside Moor Lane which can be busy at times, it can be described as usually quiet. Its partial screening helps to create a sense of separateness.
Does the site have wildlife value?	It has been proposed as a Local Green Space as it has significant potential for enhanced biodiversity
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	See above
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No
Other	

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 4 St James's Churchyard



This photograph shows a charity event organised by the village, using the new extension that was funded principally by the village's Murton Centenary Committee

Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	The church, a chapel-at-ease, is along Murton Way, in the conservation area.
Is it beautiful?	The churchyard is set alongside Murton Way and on the other three sides there are fields, two of which are used for sheep farming. The views of the conservation area and further give it a rural setting.
Does it have local and historic	The church building dates from the

significance?	<p>beginning of the 13th century. It was devastated by a storm in the 1830s and rebuilt in 1912-14. The village recently raised £70 000 to build an extension for social events which commemorated the Centenary of the rebuilding.</p> <p>The field surrounding the church was only used as a burial ground from the 1950s.</p>
Does it have recreation value?	Residents of the village, walkers and cyclists use the area for rest and reflection
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	It has an air of tranquillity enhanced by its rural setting. This is frequently commented on by visitors who describe a sense of stillness.
Does the site have wildlife value?	The hedgerows attract wildlife.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	The site contributes to the wholeness of the village. Besides being a place where residents go to for reflection, it is now used during social events in the space created by the village..
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No
Other	Proposed in the emerging City of York Local Plan. Evidence Base: Open Space and Green Infrastructure. Update September 2017 Number 757, p 53

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 5 Grassed area off the Osbaldwick Link Road



The grassed area is bounded by Meam Close, Moins Court and the Osbaldwick Link Road

Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	The grassed area is an integral part of the housing area built at the turn of the century part on the southern periphery of the Parish
Is it beautiful?	It provides a setting as one enters the area which contains houses in Redbarn Drive, Meam Close and Moins Court. It resembles a lawn with backed by a variety of mature trees.
Does it have local and historic significance?	No
Does it have recreation value?	It is used, in particular, by children

Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Surprisingly so, given its position at the main entrance to a large number of dwellings
Does the site have wildlife value?	The hedgerows and trees behind it encourage wildlife.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	It enhances the setting of a very interesting new housing development
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No
Other	

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 6 The Copse, Moor Lane



Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Approx 100 metres from the edge of the village along Moor Lane.
Is it beautiful?	The Parish Council is managing the woodland in this area and is planning to make the dense population of undergrowth, trees and shrubs more tractable. A plan is being forged to repair the fence, put in a new access gate, remove the ivy and plant bulbs and wild flowers.
Does it have local and historic significance?	The area used to be called the Bogs and was one of the village tips until the Local Council started collections.

	It was also used by the North Yorkshire County Council as a tip for road materials and has subsequently been built up. It is now a copse which is now getting closer management by the Parish Council As the name implies, it was low lying and boggy
Does it have recreation value?	It will afford observation of wild life
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	It will become so when the work embarked by the Parish Council is complete.
Does the site have wildlife value?	At present, some but will be greatly enhanced when the work has been completed. The Parish Council is mindful that this is a largely undisturbed piece of land.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	It will provide a good entrance into the village prior to the Village Pond.
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No
Other	

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 7 Moor Lane verge



Moor Lane verge: Red Campion amongst Creeping Buttercup with Cow Parsley in the background

Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	It is within the Conservation area of the Parish..
	.
Is it beautiful?	The Parish Council is managing the

	verge as a wild flower sanctuary.
Does it have local and historic significance?	A 1796 map shows Moor Lane as a rough unmade track bounded on one side by the wall to Murton Hall, built about 12 years earlier and provided access for the village farms and racehorse stables to the pond which was the main (only?) source of water for the village livestock. It also provided access to a large area of fields on Murton Moor and to the Long Causeway, which served as racehorse gallops (Both a Derby and a S leger winner were owned and trained in Murton). By the time the 1890 map was published, the verge is clearly seen. The land slopes away from the village centre and it appears that sometime between the two maps, the road was cut through the slope leaving the raised verge, as it is today, as the remaining original land .
Does it have recreation value?	It affords observation of wild flowers through the year
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	As the name suggests, it is alongside Moor Lane which affords access to the village.
Does the site have wildlife value?	Yes. It is devoted to wild flowers through a programme designed by the Parish Council with professional advice.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	It provides a good entrance into the village after the Village Pond.
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No
Other	