

Local communities can identify green spaces for special protection (where new development is ruled out other than in very special circumstances). These are known as Local Green Spaces (NPPF 2019 para.s 99-101)

In order to qualify for the designation, it is important to demonstrate that the green space:

- is in **reasonably close proximity** to the community it serves
- **is 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
- is **local in character** and is **not an extensive tract of land**
- **is likely to endure** beyond the plan period (ie the green space is likely to continue to be valued and there are no existing planning consents or allocations in the development plan that would mean it should be developed)

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#### How close is “in reasonably close proximity”?

There are no prescribed distances, however in general 800m is considered reasonable walking distance, so where a local green space is further from a settlement, special consideration should be given to the extent to which it is access and enjoyed. If public access is a key factor, then the site should normally be within easy walking distance of the community served.

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#### What is “demonstrably special” and of “local significance”?

There is no specific guidance on this, but evidence of consultation showing strong support, the formation of ‘Friends of...’ type groups or other actions that make clear the space is of particular local interest should be cited. Where a Green Space is special because of a specific function it serves, and there may be a reasonable prospect of this function being relocated to another site, it would not be prudent to designate the site as a local green space (and suitable protection may already be given under general policies protecting community assets). Sites can be in private landownership and there does not need to be public access.

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#### What is “an extensive tract of land”?

There is no prescribed upper size limit, so this is a matter of judgement in knowledge of the local context. In particular the reference to ‘local in character’ should be considered – if there is no notable difference in character between the proposed site and the surrounding fields, then the space may not readily qualify. Certainly some spaces in excess of 5ha have been considered to be too extensive by Neighbourhood Plan examiners, but it is a matter of judgement in light of local circumstances.

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#### What if there is already an existing level of protection?

Different types of designations are intended to achieve different purposes. If land is already protected by another designation, consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space.

The following table illustrates how the various spaces meet the NPPF tests:

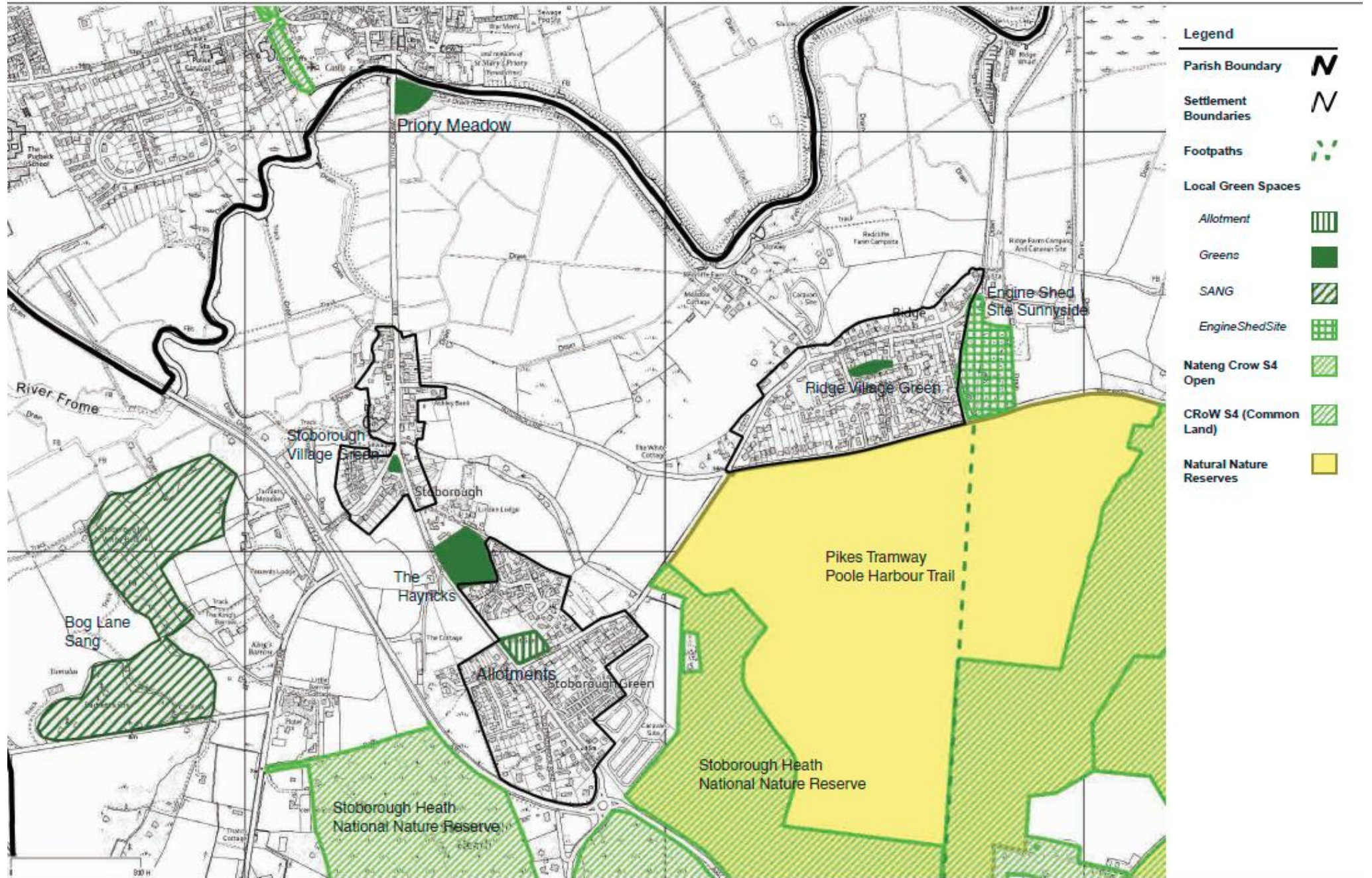
Local Green Space	Size (ha)	Distance (if > 400m from settlement)	Local Significance				Local Importance	Existing statutory designations	LGS conclusion
			Landscape Value	Historic Significance	Recreation Value	Wildlife Value			
The Hayricks, Stoborough Meadow	1.3ha	n/a (adjoining settlement)	Low	Low	<b>High</b>	Low	A recreational area for children of all ages, owned and maintained by Arne Parish Council. Highly rated in 2014 parish survey (specific question).	AONB	Meets LGS criteria, warrants additional protection
The Allotments, New Road/Corfe Road	0.5ha	n/a (within settlement)	Low	Low	<b>High</b>	Low	Allotments used extensively by Arne residents - owned by Scott Estate, leased to Arne Parish Council	AONB	Meets LGS criteria, warrants additional protection
Ridge Village Green, Barndale Road	0.2ha	n/a (within settlement)	Low	Low	<b>High</b>	Low	Small village green with mature trees used extensively for community activities and informal recreation within Ridge.	AONB	Meets LGS criteria, warrants additional protection
Stoborough Village Green, Corfe Road / West Lane	<0.1ha	n/a (within settlement)	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	Low	Small village near village hall adorned by a Christmas Tree in December and used by the local Baptist Church for occasional services. Forms setting of the Pump House and is the most notable green space in the Conservation Area	Conservation Area, AONB	Meets LGS criteria, warrants additional protection
Priory Meadow, off Wareham Quay	0.5ha	n/a (adjoining settlement)	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	Well-used recreational space overlooking Wareham Quay and the water meadows, with information about the plants and animals that inhabit the area. Managed by the Wareham and District Development Trust. Part of historic watermeadows and setting of the Quay and Conservation Area	AONB, SSSI	Meets LGS criteria, warrants additional protection
Engine shed and clay washing ponds, Sunnyside, Ridge	2.7ha	n/a (adjoining settlement)	Low	<b>High</b>	Low	<b>Medium</b>	An important area of local heritage value – the Engine Shed (to the north of the site) is Listed (Grade II). The Listing description notes that the Pike Bros built a horse drawn railway in 1833-9 from clay deposits at Blue Pool, to Ridge, east of Wareham on the River Frome, and by 1863 the line had been extended westwards to Creech. The line to Ridge remained in use until the Second World War and the whole line was closed in 1959. Largely unmanaged so likely to be of some wildlife value	AONB	Meets LGS criteria, warrants additional protection

The following table illustrates other spaces that were assessed but did not readily meet the NPPF tests:

Other Green Spaces	Size (ha)	Distance (if > 400m from settlement)	Local Significance				Locally Importance	Existing statutory designations	Conclusions
			Landscape Value	Historic Significance	Recreation Value	Wildlife Value			
Tramway	1.7km (linear)	varies	Low	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Recreational trail - part of Poole Harbour Trail through the nature reserve, also of historic interest	NNR, SSSI, AONB	Does not qualify due to length and varying distance from settlements
Slepe / Middlebere Heath	>100ha	>800m	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	National Trust and Natural England land, immortalised as Egdon Heath in Hardy's Return Of The Native, important site for wildlife	SSSI, AONB	Does not qualify due to size and distance from settlements
Stoborough Heath and the Moors	>100ha	n/a (adjoining settlement)	<b>High</b>	Low	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	Important site for wildlife largely owned and managed by the RSPB	SSSI, AONB	Does not qualify due to size
Hartland Moor	>100ha	>800m	<b>High</b>	Low	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	National Trust land, important site for wildlife	NNR, SSSI, AONB	Does not qualify due to size and distance from settlements
RSPB Arne / Hyde Heath	>100ha	>800m	<b>High</b>	Low	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	Important site for wildlife	SSSI, AONB	Does not qualify due to size and distance from settlements
Bog Lane SANG (Holme Lane)	13.3ha	<800m		Low	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Recreational land provided as part of heathland mitigation – not as yet widely used but becoming moreso	AONB	Does not qualify due to size









**Local Green Spaces**  
and other accessible areas

