



WORLINGTON  
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

# Local Green Space Assessment

MARCH 2023



Worlington Parish Council

Prepared in support of the  
Worlington Neighbourhood Plan



Worlington parish has several 'green spaces' that play a significant role in defining the character of the village and places for meeting and/or recreation. Paragraphs 101 and 102 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) identifies the possibility of identifying green spaces that meet certain characteristics as "Local Green Spaces". The paragraphs state:

101. 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.

102. 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.

This report provides an assessment of the green spaces in the parish against the criteria in paragraph 102 in order to support the designation of local green spaces in the emerging Necton Neighbourhood Plan.

### **The Identified Green Spaces**

A green spaces assessed are identified below:

- 1. Lark Close amenity open space
- 2. Wide verge between The Paddocks and Golf Links Road
- 3. Common land north of Green Lane
- 4. Recreation Ground
- 5. Children's Play Area
- 6. The paddock between The Street and Recreation Ground
- 7. War Memorial triangle
- 8. Wide verge opposite Bell House
- 9. Wide verge in front of 1 - 5 Walnut Grove, Freckenham Road
- 10. Walnut Grove amenity open space
- 11. The Meadows amenity open space
- 12. Amenity open space at entrance to Walnut Grove
- 13. All Saints Walk
- 14. The Cemetery
- 15. All Saints Churchyard
- 16. The Hythe

## Appraisal

The following pages provide a detailed assessment of the identified spaces to ascertain whether they conform with the Local Green Space definition of the NPPF.

Maps in this document are reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map.

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## 1. Lark Close amenity open space



### Site Details

**Description and purpose** Amenity open space

### Checklist

<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning consent
<b>Area</b>	Totalling 0.13 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	West Suffolk Council

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Within village centre
<b>Public access</b>	Accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Partly bounded by low hedge on eastern boundary but no ecological significance.
<b>Historically significant</b>	No historic significance
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Important amenity open space for local residents
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</b>	Yes, totally self-contained
<b>Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?</b>	Yes, publicly maintained
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation



## 2. Wide verge between The Paddocks and Golf Links Road



### Site Details

#### Description and purpose

Wide grass verge

### Checklist

#### Statutory designations

None

#### Site allocations

None

#### Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

#### Area

Total 0.03 Ha

#### Ownership

Suffolk County Council Highways

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

#### Close to the community it services

It is at the centre of the village

#### Public access

Publicly accessible at all times and used as path to access Golf Links Road as there is no footway

#### Ecologically significant

Conifer hedgerow on eastern boundary

#### Historically significant

None

#### Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance

The wide verge represents a greened entrance to the built-up area of the village

#### Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

Self-contained small space

#### Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

Yes, publicly maintained

#### Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

### 3. Common land north of Green Lane



#### Site Details

<b>Description and purpose</b>	Designated Common Land
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#### Checklist

<b>Statutory designations</b>	Common Land
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning consent
<b>Area</b>	Total 0.74 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	Parish Council

#### NPPF Criteria Assessment

<b>Close to the community it services</b>	On edge of village centre
<b>Public access</b>	Accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Largely overgrown and wooded providing a range of habitats on village edge
<b>Historically significant</b>	Common land for village identifiable on 1882 Ordnance Survey maps
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	An important community amenity
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</b>	Yes, totally self-contained
<b>Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?</b>	Yes, due to Common Land designation
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 4. Recreation Ground



### Site Details

#### Description and purpose

Village recreation ground and home to Worlington Cricket Club

### Checklist

#### Statutory designations

None

#### Site allocations

None

#### Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

#### Area

1.43 Ha

#### Ownership

Parish Council

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

#### Close to the community it services

Located on edge of village centre

#### Public access

Accessible at all times

#### Ecologically significant

A number of mature trees are located along the boundaries

#### Historically significant

Has been home to Worlington Cricket Club for many years.

#### Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance

Important open space for the village where events other than cricket are also held

#### Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

Yes, totally self-contained

#### Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

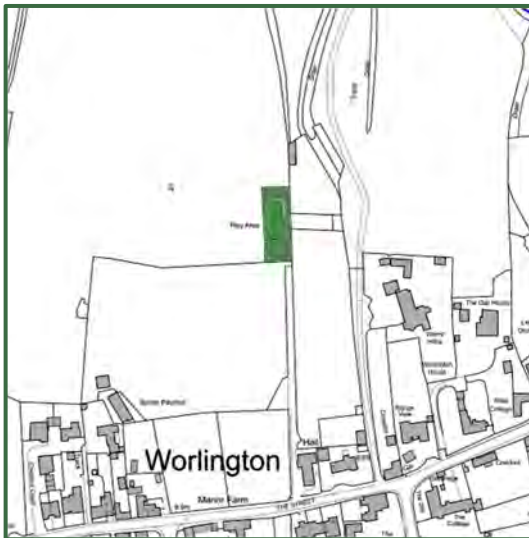
Yes, owned by Parish Council

#### Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation



## 5. Children's Play Area



### Site Details

**Description and purpose** Equipped play space

### Checklist

<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning consent
<b>Area</b>	0.10 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	Parish Council

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Next to Recreation Ground and centrally located in built-up area of parish
<b>Public access</b>	Accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Row of flowering cherry trees
<b>Historically significant</b>	None
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	The only equipped play space in the parish
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	A self-contained area
<b>Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?</b>	Yes, owned by Parish Council
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 6. The paddock between The Street and Recreation Ground



### Site Details

#### Description and purpose

Grazing paddock

### Checklist

#### Statutory designations

None

#### Site allocations

None

#### Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

#### Area

0.59 Ha

#### Ownership

Private ownership

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

#### Close to the community it services

Centrally located within village

#### Public access

No public access

#### Ecologically significant

Meadowland

#### Historically significant

None

#### Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance

Important open space that provides views to Recreation Ground and beyond across Lark Valley to historic Wamil Hall in the distance.

#### Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

A self-contained area

#### Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

Yes, outside Settlement Boundary

#### Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 7. War Memorial triangle



### Site Details

#### Description and purpose

Small open space with Grade II Listed War Memorial forming central feature

### Checklist

#### Statutory designations

None

#### Site allocations

None

#### Planning permissions

No outstanding Planning permissions

#### Area

0.006 Ha

#### Ownership

Suffolk County Council

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

#### Close to the community it services

Centrally located within village

#### Public access

Publicly accessible at all times

#### Ecologically significant

None

#### Historically significant

War Memorial is Listed Grade II.

#### Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance

The War Memorial is of high significance to residents'

#### Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

The area is self-contained

#### Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

Yes

#### Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation.



## 8. Wide verge opposite Bell House



### Site Details

#### Description and purpose

Wide grass verge that, combined with the War Memorial triangle and wide verge in front of 1-5 Walnut Grove, creates an area of green space that provides an important setting to the War Memorial and Bell House.

### Checklist

#### Statutory designations

None

#### Site allocations

None

#### Planning permissions

No outstanding planning permissions

#### Area

0.02 Ha

#### Ownership

Suffolk County Council

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

#### Close to the community it services

Centrally located within village

#### Public access

Open access

#### Ecologically significant

None known

#### Historically significant

None

#### Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance

Part of an open area that provides an important setting to the War Memorial and Bell House.

#### Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

Defined area and not an extensive tract.

#### Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

Yes

#### Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 9. Wide verge in front of 1 - 5 Walnut Grove, Freckenham Road



### Site Details

#### Description and purpose

Wide grass verge that is home to village sign and, combined with the War Memorial triangle and wide verge opposite, creates an area of green space that provides an important setting to the War Memorial and Bell House.

### Checklist

#### Statutory designations

None

#### Site allocations

None

#### Planning permissions

No outstanding planning permissions

#### Area

0.05 Ha

#### Ownership

Suffolk County Council?

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

#### Close to the community it services

Centrally located within village

#### Public access

Open access

#### Ecologically significant

None known

#### Historically significant

None

#### Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance

Part of an open area that provides an important setting to the War Memorial and Bell House. Also home to the village sign and a bench

#### Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

Defined area and not an extensive tract.

#### Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

Yes

#### Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation



## 10. Walnut Grove amenity open space



### Site Details

**Description and purpose** Amenity open space

### Checklist

**Statutory designations** None

**Site allocations** None

**Planning permissions** No outstanding planning permissions

**Area** 0.26 Ha

**Ownership** West Suffolk Council

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

**Close to the community it services** Centrally located within village

**Public access** Open access

**Ecologically significant** Contains a number of small trees

**Historically significant** None

**Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance** Important open area for residents of this estate

**Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land** Defined area and not an extensive tract.

**Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?** Yes

**Conclusion** Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 11. The Meadows amenity open space



### Site Details

**Description and purpose** Amenity open space

### Checklist

**Statutory designations** None

**Site allocations** None

**Planning permissions** No outstanding planning permissions

**Area** 0.08 Ha

**Ownership** West Suffolk Council

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

**Close to the community it services** Centrally located within village

**Public access** Open access

**Ecologically significant** Contains a few small trees

**Historically significant** None

**Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance** Important open area for residents of this estate

**Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land** Defined area and not an extensive tract.

**Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?** Yes

**Conclusion** Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 12. Amenity open space at entrance to Walnut Grove



## Site Details

<b>Description and purpose</b>	Amenity open space
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## Checklist

<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
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<b>Site allocations</b>	None
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**Planning permissions** No outstanding planning permissions

**Area** 0.03 Ha

**Ownership** West Suffolk Council

## NPPF Criteria Assessment

**Close to the community it services** Centrally located within village

Public access Open access

**Ecologically significant** Contains a few small trees

**Historically significant** None

<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Important open area for residents of this estate
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<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	Defined area and not an extensive tract.
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**Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?** Yes

<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation
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### 13. All Saints Walk



#### Site Details

**Description and purpose** Amenity open space

#### Checklist

**Statutory designations** None

**Site allocations** None

**Planning permissions** No outstanding planning permissions

**Area** 0.13 Ha

**Ownership** West Suffolk Council

#### NPPF Criteria Assessment

**Close to the community it services** Within All Saints Walk housing development

**Public access** Public footpath passes along western boundary

**Ecologically significant** Contains some small trees and a hedgerow adjoining public footpath

**Historically significant** None

**Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance** Important open area for residents

**Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land** Defined area and not an extensive tract.

**Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?** Yes

**Conclusion** Qualifies for Local Green Space designation



## 14. The Cemetery



## Site Details

<b>Description and purpose</b>	Parish Cemetery
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## Checklist

<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
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<b>Site allocations</b>	None
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**Planning permissions** No outstanding planning permissions

**Area** 0.36 Ha

<b>Ownership</b>	Parish Council
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## NPPF Criteria Assessment

**Close to the community it services**    On edge of built-up area of village

<b>Public access</b>	Public footpath passes along western boundary and open access at all times
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<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Trees and hedgerows along all boundaries of the site
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**Historically significant** None

<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Of significance to residents of village and their families
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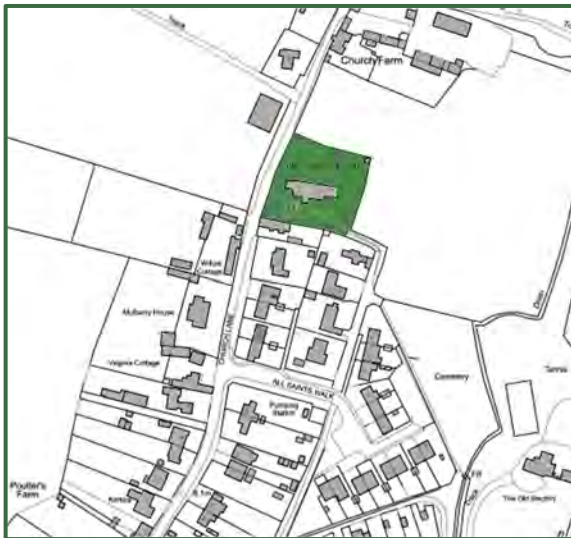
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	Defined area and not an extensive tract.
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**Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?** Yes

<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation
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## 15. All Saints Churchyard



### Site Details

**Description and purpose** Churchyard

### Checklist

**Statutory designations** Church is Listed Grade I

**Site allocations** None

**Planning permissions** No outstanding planning permissions

**Area** 0.27 Ha

**Ownership** Parochial Church Council

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

**Close to the community it services** On edge of built-up area of village

**Public access** Open access at all times

**Ecologically significant** A number of trees along boundaries and within the site. Swift boxes present on church.

**Historically significant** Both the church and graveyard have a high historic significance to the village.

**Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance** Of significance to residents of village and their families

**Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land** Defined area and not an extensive tract.

**Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?** Yes

**Conclusion** Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 16. The Hythe



### Site Details

<b>Description and purpose</b>	Open space and woodland – community wildlife project
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### Checklist

<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning permissions
<b>Area</b>	0.93 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	Parish Council

### NPPF Criteria Assessment

<b>Close to the community it services</b>	In close proximity to the village centre, accessible on foot
<b>Public access</b>	Open access at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Contains woodland, grassland and on edge of River Lark. Being managed with a view to managing and improving habitats
<b>Historically significant</b>	Gifted to the village in the enclosure award of 1799.
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Of significance to residents of village. See <a href="http://worlington.onesuffolk.net/local-information/the-hythe-community-wildlife-project/">http://worlington.onesuffolk.net/local-information/the-hythe-community-wildlife-project/</a>
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	Defined area and not an extensive tract.
<b>Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?</b>	Yes
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation