

Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Plan 2026 /2028 - Local Green Spaces Supporting Evidence

MAY 2019

1.0 Introduction

This supporting paper explains the background, the methodology used and evidence supporting the designation of Local Green Spaces in the draft Dinnington St John's Neighbourhood Plan.

2.0 Policy Context

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)¹ introduced the concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designation. LGS designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of importance to local communities.

Section 99 of the NPPF provides the following information on Local Green Space designations: *“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.”*

Additional guidance is provided in the National Planning Practice Guidance section on Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space².

The identification and protection of local green spaces through Neighbourhood Plans is also supported through local planning policies. Special mention here should be made to Policy CS 19 'Green Infrastructure' as contained in the Adopted Rotherham Core Strategy³ Policy CS 19, which confirms that Rotherham's network of Green Infrastructure assets, which include green spaces, will be conserved, extended, enhanced, managed and maintained throughout the borough

3.0 Process for Designation

Whilst the NPPF establishes the concept of LGS designation and provides some guiding principles, it gives local communities preparing a Neighbourhood Plan some discretion to determine how to implement this at the local level.

A three-stage approach was adopted by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Step 1: Identification of potential sites.

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

³ http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/1571/adopted_rotherham_core_strategy

The potential sites were derived from local knowledge including the outcomes from the community consultation events.

Step 2: Assessment against the NPPF criteria

The sites were then assessed to consider their suitability for LGS designation. To allow comparative assessment of the sites, a form was created based on the criteria set out in Section 1001 of the NPPF.

These criteria were used to create an LGS evaluation form. This enabled a consistent and transparent methodology for identifying LGSs in the Parish. Each potential site was assessed by both the Steering Group and the consultant helping the Town Council prepare the Neighbourhood Plan acting as a 'Critical Friend'.

The Group, like most groups undertaking LGS analysis, faced challenges. In particular, the sheer number of potential local green spaces in the Parish of some significance. National planning policy enables a neighbourhood plan to protect those of local significance. In addition, the absence of a statutory or commonly used definition of these terms, particularly what constitutes, 'special' or comprises an 'extensive tract of land'. A common-sense approach was taken, while at the same time having regard to good practice and the experiences of LGS designations in approved neighbourhood plans.

The Group were also mindful of the fact that several sites are already given some protection through the Green Belt and designations in the Core Strategy and supporting documents. National Planning Practice Guidance on Local Green Space designation suggests that where land is already protected by another designation consideration should be given as to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space. Where a local green was considered to have already sufficient protection, it is not repeated here.


Through this process, several sites were identified which were considered to be locally significant, valued by the community and met the tests set out in the NPPF to meet the test to be designated as a Local Green Space.

Step 3: Consultation

Satisfied that the sites met in principle, the criteria for LGS designation and should be formally proposed for designation in the Neighbourhood Plan, their local significance was tested through extensive consultation through the Plan preparation process. This included specific consultation with the owners of the proposed Local Green Spaces.

4.0 Local Green Space Site - Assessment Forms


The following section details how each of the sites proposed for designation as Local Green Space is "demonstrably special" to a local community and holds a particular local significance. This is structured around the relevant criteria set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. An indicative photograph is also provided for each site. A map showing the sites can also be found in the main Plan.

Local Green Space Identification	
Reference No 1.	
Name and address of the site	Dinnington High School Playing Fields, Doe Quarry Lane, S25 2NZ
Photo of the site	

Description and purpose	A large grassed area, which forms of Dinnington High School, which includes sports pitches as well as multi-use play/sporting area.
Compliance with the NPPF/why is it special?	
Public Access	Yes, some outside of school hours.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? I.e. within 400m	Yes, located in an established residential area on the edge of the town of Dinnington.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes, put forward by the community.
Is it beautiful?	Of some beauty.
Does it have historic significance?	Not in particular
Does it have recreation value? including playing fields, in/formal	Yes, both formal (includes football pitches and floodlit multiuse game area) and informal (walking, sitting etc.).
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle	Yes. A relatively tranquil area that offers views of the surrounding countryside.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Not especially.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community	Yes.

and not extensive)	
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	None.
Justification	This is an amenity and recreation space that includes football pitches and flood-lit multi-use game area and which there is limited public access to outside of school hours. It is located next to (and forms part of) the local High School and close to the local community. It is well used and provides an important recreational resource and facility. The views it offers to the surrounding countryside adds to its value.

Local Green Space Identification	
Reference No 2.	
Name and address of the site	Leys Lane Pocket Park at the junction of Leys Lane and Lamb Lane, Dinnington
Photo of the site	
Description and purpose	This is a small area of amenity space with some mature trees on its edge. It includes seating as well as a car park.
Compliance with the NPPF/why is it special?	
Public Access	Yes.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? I.e. within 400m	Yes, though located in a mainly rural and remote area.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes, put forward by the community.
Is it beautiful?	Of some beauty.
Does it have historic significance?	Not in particular
Does it have recreation value? including playing fields, in/formal	Yes, mainly informal (walking, sitting, picnics etc.).
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle	Yes. A relatively tranquil area which offers views of the surrounding countryside.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Not especially.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	None.
Justification	This is a green, tranquil space in a remote spot on the fringes of the town council boundary. It is a pleasant and quiet place to relax and enjoy the attractive views it offers over the rolling countryside. It is often used in the summer for picnics and quiet area to reflect. Its accessible but remote distance from the built-up areas and location in open countryside adds to its value.

Reference No 2.	
Name and address of the site	Lodge Lane Recreation Ground (currently the home of Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club). Lodge Lane, Dinnington, Sheffield S25 2PB.
Photo of the site	
Description and purpose	Grassed amenity space with some mature trees on the edge of the built-up part of Dinnington. It includes a floodlit rugby pitch which is presently home of Dinnington Rugby Union Football Club. It is used by other local groups.
Compliance with the NPPF/why is it special?	
Public Access	Limited.
Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? I.e. within 400m	Yes. It is located on the edge of the built-up part of Dinnington.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes, put forward by the community.
Is it beautiful?	Of some beauty.
Does it have historic significance?	Not in particular

Does it have recreation value? including playing fields, in/formal	Yes, both formal (includes floodlit rugby) and informal (walking, sitting etc.).
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle	Yes. A relatively tranquil area on the edge but outside the main built-up area.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Not especially.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	None.
Justification	The area is an important amenity and recreation resource located on the edge of the built-up part of Dinnington containing a floodlit rugby pitch.

Local Green Space Identification	
Reference No 4.	
Name and address of the site	Land at corner of High Nook Road and Keats Drive.
Photo of the site	
Description and purpose	Grassed green space on the corner of High Nook Road and Keats Drive. It has some trees.
Compliance with the NPPF/why is it special?	
Public Access	Yes.

Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve? I.e. within 400m	Yes. It is located on the edge of the built-up part of Dinnington in an established residential area.
Does the site have local significance?	Yes, put forward by the community.
Is it beautiful?	Of some beauty.
Does it have historic significance?	Not especially.
Does it have recreation value? including playing fields, in/formal	It is used for formal (e.g. football) and informal recreation (e.g. walking) as reflected in the number of informal footpaths that cross it.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle	Yes. A relatively tranquil area that offers views of the surrounding countryside.
Does the site have wildlife value? Biodiversity?	Not especially.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	Yes. On the edge of an established residential area.
Does site contribute to LP strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No.
Other	None.
Justification	This is an area of maintained grass with several mature trees at its border. On the edge of a residential area, it provides for a very pleasant and relatively quiet area that is an essential feature of the setting for these houses and the character of the wider area. It is used for formal (e.g. football) and informal recreation (e.g. walking) as reflected in the number of informal footpaths that cross it.