

Trowse with Newton Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2038



Local Green Space Assessment 2023

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Introduction

1. Trowse is preparing a neighbourhood plan which will include a policy designating areas of Local Green Space which are particularly valued by the community.
2. In consultation with the community in early 2021, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group identified nine areas of green space. Each of these was visited and further evidence gathered on them to determine whether they meet the national criteria for Local Green Space designation.
3. This document provides the assessment and evidence in support of those green spaces which have been designated in the plan. Several green spaces were determined not to meet the criteria, this includes Trowse Woods, Whitlingham Country Park and Boudicca Way.

Policy Context

4. Local Green Space designation is a way to provide special protection for green areas of particular importance to local communities. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2012 (revised July 2021) introduced the concept of Local Green Space designation.
5. Paragraph 101. of the NPPF sets out that communities should be able to identify green spaces of particular importance through neighbourhood plans, with para 101. Determining:

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 not an extensive tract of land.*

6. In addition, the National Planning Practice Guidance states:

Local Green Space designation will rarely be appropriate where the 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.

7. Other designations, such as Special Areas of Conservation, do not necessarily preclude or support designation as a Local Green Space. However, it is necessary to consider whether the additional designation is necessary and would serve a useful purpose.
8. In applying the NPPF criteria, close proximity would normally mean easy walking distance, which based on Natural England standards would mean 1.25 miles or less.
9. Consideration of whether the green space is local in character, and not an extensive tract of land, suggests spaces within a locality, rather than for example, extensive green areas in the countryside.
10. The Joint Core Strategy for Greater Norwich was adopted in 2011 and includes strategic policies and a number of allocations. Planning Practice Guidance on Neighbourhood Planning sets out that plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan if it is to meet the basic conditions.

Assessment

11. The Local Green Space Assessment Tool from *My Community: Neighbourhood Planning Local Green Spaces*¹ has been used as the basis to assess each site. This includes:

- Trowse Common
- Trowse Church Meadow
- Trowse Meadow
- Trowse Church and Church Yard
- Graveyard on Whitlingham Lane
- The Allotments – Dell and Blockhill

¹ <https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/making-local-green-space-designations- neighbourhood-plan/>

1. Trowse Common



Site Details

Site	Trowse Common
Description and purposes	The central green space in the village with children's play area and football goals. It sits on the edge of Trowse Church Meadow and has four access gates.

Checklist

Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	Registered Common Land
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None

NPPF Criteria

Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	Located in the centre of the village
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	The common is demonstrably special to the community for its recreational value. It attracts families from the village and also wider afield. The part of the common away from the play area is used extensively for dog walking and provides a good open space for dogs to run around. The common is also used for exercise and sporting activities for children. The common also hosts summer fetes and family picnics. The area is also special for its natural beauty, located adjacent Church Meadow and the River Yare. There is wildlife value, the common and trees/hedgerow which line the boundaries of it attract birds, foxes, hedgehogs, rabbits and many water fowl and creatures. The common is a peaceful place to go and sit and read, and when you want to just take some time out in your day to reflect. It has historical significance, playing an important focal part as Trowse developed as a Model Village.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	1.2ha

2. Trowse Church Meadow



Site Details

Site	Church Meadow
Description and purposes	Meadow located behind the Common

Checklist

Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	Not statutory, but the meadow is a County Wildlife Site.
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None

NPPF Criteria

Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	Adjacent the centre of the village and easily accessible via the common from a little bridge and gateway
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	The meadow has great significance for wildlife. It hosts birds, butterflies, various dragonflies, and insects. The meadow is used most of the year by grazing cattle which naturally keep it maintained. It has recreational value. It is used by families walking through to another meadow at the back which sits opposite the old May Gurney site, who like to go to the river and look for water voles, tadpoles, and fish. It is a Tranquil place to visit and hums with the noise of birds and crickets in the summer, visiting it boasts natural views of the meadow, trees, and river with the church in view too.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	1.3ha

3. Trowse Meadow



Trowse Meadow from Whitlingham Lane including cows



Site Details

Site	Trowse Meadow
Description and purposes	The water meadow which runs alongside the River adjacent Whitlingham Lane and the old May Gurney Site.

Checklist

Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	The meadow is a Local Nature Reserve (Whitlingham) and also County Wildlife Site. It also falls within the Broads Authority Executive Area.
Site allocations	Adjacent the Deal Ground, part of the East Norwich Regeneration zone
Planning permissions	None

NPPF Criteria

Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	In close proximity to the village and well known for walking through, it has two access points one on the road coming into Trowse and further down Whitlingham lane.
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	Trowse Meadow is special due to the wildlife it supports, including birds, butterflies, dragonflies and other insects. It is used throughout the year by grazing cattle which naturally keep it maintained. It has recreational value and is used by families walking through from the road. It is popular with children and families who like to go to the river and look for water voles, tadpoles and fish. It is also known for canoeists and people will swim in the river, pitch up a picnic and will spend summery days with the family. It also attracts fishermen and bird watchers. It is a tranquil and peaceful place to walk through and to sit and watch the world go by. It is also famous for its paintings by artists and there are a few paintings of the meadow by local artists at the art school and in local galleries. The meadow acts as a natural flood plain through winter.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	2.8ha

4. Trowse Church and Churchyard



Site Details

Site	Site of the Church and Churchyard
Description and purposes	Trowse Church is on a small open piece of land, with very old graves, the church and churchyard back onto the Church

	Meadow and the Meadow opposite the old May Gurney site. This is a closed churchyard.
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Checklist

Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	The church is grade I listed.
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	Permission given for a church car park in 2018

NPPF Criteria

Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	Within the village centre
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	Heritage value, site of the church of St Andrew, one of the only remaining Medieval buildings in the parish. The site has wildlife value. There are a number of trees which are home to birds and small mammals.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	0.5ha

5. Trowse Cemetery, Whitlingham Lane



Site Details

Site	Trowse cemetery
Description and purposes	Cemetery for Trowse, located a little way from the parish church along

	Whitlingham Lane adjacent the ski slope. This is an open cemetery.
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Checklist

Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	None

NPPF Criteria

Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	Close to the village centre
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	Tranquility, the graveyard is so quiet The graveyard has wildlife value and efforts by the community have sought to improve this. Bird and bat boxes have recently been attached to several of the trees.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	0.6ha

6. The Allotments (Dell and Blockhill)



Site Details

Site	Two allotment sites, the Dell and Blockhill
Description and purposes	Allotment sites used by residents to grow local produce

Checklist

Statutory designations - ie CWS, listed status, SSSI, SPA, NNR, SAC	None
Site allocations	Blockhill allotments is adjacent to Phase 2 of the Millgate Meadow site allocation off White Horse Lane
Planning permissions	None

NPPF Criteria

Close to the community it serves. Add distance to centre of village	Within close proximity of the village centre and most homes
Demonstrably special to the local community (beauty, historic significance, recreational, tranquillity, wildlife or other) Add as much here as possible to determine whether the green space is demonstrably special.	Recreational value. The allotments are hugely popular and there is a waiting list for both sites, they are rented out by residents of Trowse. The allotments have recently had communal spaces created where produce is shared, they are quiet places to walk through and a lovely social space.

	Wildlife value. Allotment holders are encouraged to plant fruit trees and wildflowers, and are also encouraged to look after the green space encouraging more birds, hedgehogs and bumblebees to visit. There are beehives on Blockhill allotments.
Local in character and not extensive tract of land. Add site of green space	Dell allotments 0.4ha Blockhill 1.5ha

Map of Designated Local Green Space

12. From the assessment work, 7 Local Green Spaces have been determined to meet the national criteria for designation. These are highlighted below.

