

# Local Green Space Designation Report

March 2026

Darlington Borough Local Plan Review

## Introduction

The Natural Environment White Paper (The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature 2011) highlighted “the importance of green spaces to the health and happiness of local communities”. Green spaces, particularly natural green spaces, located close to local people provide a range of social, environmental and economic benefits, including:

- improved mental and physical health
- increased social activity
- increased physical activity
- reduced crime
- improvements to children’s learning
- increased voluntary action
- improved community cohesion and sense of belonging
- potential for local food growing
- more attractive places to live, work, play, visit and invest
- enhanced opportunities for wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors
- climate change adaptation, for example by flood alleviation

## Policy Context

### National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF (December 2024) provides the following information on Local Green Space designations –

*106. 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.*

*107. 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.*

*108. Policies and decisions for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts set out in chapter 13 of this Framework.*

### Local and Neighbourhood Plans

Local Green Spaces can be designated through the emerging Darlington Local Plan or through neighbourhood plans. A policy, related to Local Green Spaces, will be included in the emerging Darlington Local Plan.

Where relevant an appropriate policy should also be included in neighbourhood plans.

### Sites in the Adopted Darlington Local Plan 2016- 2036

The following ten sites were identified through submissions made during the development of the Adopted Darlington Local Plan 2016 - 2036 and will continue to be identified in the reviewed Darlington Local Plan 2025 – 2042.

LGS01 - Beech Wood

LGS02 - Springfield Park

LGS05 - Fryers Field Recreation Ground

LGS12 - North Park

LGS14 - Merrybent Community Woodland

LGS15 - Almora Hall Field, Middleton St George

LGS16 - Middleton St George Playing Field

LGS17 - Water Park, Middleton St George

LGS22 - Tower Hill to The Front Middleton One Row

LGS23 - Field to the East of Middleton Lane, Middleton St George

## Submission of Sites

As part of the plan review process the Council opened a consultation in October 2025 to allow further sites to be submitted for consideration. Notification emails were sent to all parish councils and information on the consultation was posted on both the Darlington corporate website. This consultation will remain open alongside the consultation on the Draft of the Plan Review currently scheduled to close on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm.

In total eight sites were submitted for consideration prior to consultation on the Draft Plan Review. These are:

LGS27 - Tees Grange Farm

LGS28 - Tommy Crooks Park

LGS29 - Middleton St George / Middleton One Row Gap

LGS30 - Hummersknott, Baydale Meadows/Beck

LGS31 - Bellburn Field

LGS32 - Carmel Convent, Nunnery Lane

LGS33 - Skertingham, Ketton Bridge, Barmpton

LGS34 - Barmpton

Plans of the submitted sites are included at **Appendix A**.

## Criteria for Designation

There are no restrictions on the type of green space which can be designated as Local Green Space.

Allotments or urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis could be designated. Land which is partly developed with structures such as sports pavilions, boating lakes or war memorials could also be appropriate. The key characteristic for the designation should be the particular importance to the local community.

The NPPG advises that land already subject to a designation could be proposed as Local Green Space, but that consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space. Following this advice, Darlington Borough Council does not envisage there would be a beneficial gain in designating the following:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest: protected under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- Local Nature Reserves: protected by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. These sites are owned, leased or managed by Darlington Borough Council.
- Registered village greens and common land: protected by the Commons Act 2006
- Registered Parks and Gardens. For Darlington these are South Park and West Cemetery, which are protected by Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953

A site proposed as Local Green Space must meet the criteria set out within the NPPF:

1. Land must meet all the following criteria:

- Demonstrably special to local community
- Reasonable close proximity to the community serves
- Local in character
- Not an extensive tract of land

- Not an area with extant planning permission within which the Local Green Space could not be accommodated
2. Land must hold particular local significance for at least one of the following reasons:
- Beauty
  - Historic Significance
  - Recreational value
  - Tranquillity
  - Wildlife
  - Other reason
3. Designating land as Local Green Space should:
- be consistent with local planning of sustainable development
  - complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services

## Assessment Methodology

In order to assess sites submitted against the criteria the following assessment methodology was used:

**Assessment 1: Does the site have an extant planning permission for an alternative use that would be incompatible with a Local Green Space designation? Is the site allocated within an existing Local Plan for an incompatible alternative use? Is the site likely to be allocated for an incompatible alternative use within an emerging plan?**

Method	Assessment
Check site planning history	Scope out sites with extant planning permission/allocations/proposed allocations unless the proposed development is no longer capable of being implemented or the approved development would be compatible with the Local Green Space designation.
Check HELAA	

**Assessment 2: Is the site already subject to a designation?**

Method	Assessment
Check GIS mapping.	Scope out any sites which are wholly designated as: Sites of Special Scientific Interest: protected under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Local Nature Reserves: protected by the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Registered village greens and common land: protected by the Commons Act 2006.

**Assessment 3: Is the site within reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?**

<b>Method</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Check GIS mapping.	<p>The following standards can be used to assess whether the site is considered to be within reasonably close proximity to the community it serves:</p> <p>Parks and Gardens: 1 km                      Natural and Semi Natural Greenspaces: 3 kms                      Outdoor Sports Facilities: 3 kms                      Amenity Greenspace (includes green corridors): 1 km                      Provision for children and young people: 1 km                      Allotments and community gardens: 1 km                      Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds: 3 km in the main urban area, 1 km in all other areas.</p>

Sites not meeting these standards can be scoped out, unless evidence has been provided to show that the special characteristics and/or features of a site serve communities from a wider area.

**Assessment 4: Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?**

<b>Method</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<p>Officer review of submission</p> <p>Site visit where required</p>	<p>The NPPF is clear that the Local Green Space designation should only be used where the site is not an extensive tract of land. Extensive tracts of land on the edge of settlements and blanket designations of open countryside will not be appropriate.</p> <p>Whilst there is no size limit on how small or large a Local Green Space can be, a judgement will need to be made to ensure that the proposed space is of a size that reasonably relates to the community that it serves. As such, we would expect the areas submitted to be fairly self-contained and to have clearly defined boundaries.</p> <p>Larger areas of the open countryside and long-distance green ways/river corridors will not generally be considered appropriate for Local Green Space designation.</p> <p><b>How does the site relate to the local area?</b> Does the site feel part of the local area? Why? How does it connect physically, visually and socially to the area? Is the site distinct from surrounding countryside by virtue of its size, land type or landscape features?</p> <p><b>Is the site an extensive tract of land?</b> How large is the site in comparison to the community it serves and areas of land in the vicinity? Does the site surround all or part of the village/town/local area?</p>

	<p><b>How has the size of the site been decided?</b> Does the site follow natural features or existing constraints? Does the whole site justify designations or is some of the site unnecessarily included? Is the site unusually large for its use?</p>
--	--

**Assessment 5: Does the site hold a particular local significance?**

<b>Method</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Officer assessment	The proposed designation must be based on evidence to demonstrate why the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and is of particular local significance. To meet this requirement an area must fulfil one or more of the criteria below.
Officer assessment of whether the site holds particular local significance because of its beauty	<p>This criterion relates to the visual attractiveness of a site. To meet this criterion the site must be beautiful in its own right. Sites which allow views to other areas but are not beautiful in their own right will not meet this criterion. Sites which contribute to the character of the wider area but cannot be said to be beautiful in their own right are not appropriate for designation.</p> <p>Officer assessment of whether the site holds particular local significance because of its beauty. Is the site discernibly beautiful or more beautiful than the surrounding areas?</p> <p>Site visibility - Is the site visible from a public place? Are there views of the site from any key locations?</p> <p>Is the site (or type of landscape) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments, conservation area appraisals or similar documents?</p> <p>Is the site covered by any landscape or similar designations?</p> <p>Does the site bring interest from further afield to the local area?</p>
Officer assessment of whether the site holds particular local significance because of its historic significance	<p>In order to meet this criterion, there must be evidence to demonstrate that the site is of historic importance to the community.</p> <p>Are there any historic buildings, features or remains on the site? For example, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, war memorials.</p> <p>Are there any historic landscape features on the site? For example, old hedgerows, ancient trees, historic ponds, historic garden features.</p> <p>Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? For example, part of the grounds for the manor house, site of an old railway station, village green.</p> <p>Did any important historic events take place on the site?</p> <p>Is there a longstanding event which takes place on the site? For example, fete's, well-dressing, maypole dancing, pace egg rolling, plays, market.</p>

<p>Officer assessment whether the site holds particular local significance because of its recreational value</p>	<p>There must be evidence to show that the space has local significance for recreation and is of value to the community. Whilst a large number of green spaces will offer some form of recreational value, it will be necessary to identify why a particular space offers something unique that could not realistically be accommodated on other spaces that would serve the same community.</p> <p>Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for playing sport? Which sport? Is this sports provision free or is club membership required? Is it good quality? Are there better facilities nearby? Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for informal recreation? Can the site be accessed easily?</p>
<p>Officer assessment of whether the site holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity</p>	<p>There must be evidence to show that the site submitted is viewed to be of importance to the local community because of the tranquillity it provides offering a place for reflection and peaceful enjoyment. This is a subjective assessment and the council will require clear justification as to why an area is of particular value.</p> <p>Officer assessment of whether the site holds particular local significance because of its tranquillity Is the site considered to be tranquil? What features make it feel tranquil? Does it enhance the feeling of tranquillity within the local area through a feeling of remoteness? Does it provide an area of tranquillity within a busy setting by hiding man-made structures such as roads, power-lines or lighting?</p>
<p>Officer assessment of whether the site holds particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife</p>	<p>There must be evidence to show that the site is viewed to be of local significance because of the wildlife it is home to.</p> <p>Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? If the site is not formally designated, is there any evidence that there are important habitats or species found on the site? Have ecological surveys been undertaken on or close to the site? Could it form part of an ecological network? Is the site adjacent to a designated site? Is there any evidence, or is it likely that other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? Are there ancient hedgerows, woodland, veteran trees on the site?</p>
<p>Officer assessment of whether the site holds particular local significance for any other reason</p>	<p>There must be evidence that the proposed site holds particular local significance for the community for reasons other than those identified above.</p> <p>What are the other reasons which make the site significant for the local community? Is the site a focal point or stopping place? Does it provide key views across or looking out of the local area? What features make this site important?</p>

**Assessment 6: Is the site demonstrably special to the local community?**

Method	Assessment
--------	------------

Evidence of local support	<p>Submitted evidence will be reviewed to determine:</p> <p>How the site was identified? Was it instigated by the community or parish council? Or an individual? Was it raised at a meeting or through a survey? Has the site been subject to discussion or planning processes before?</p> <p>Is there a petition? Are the signatures from local people? Does the petition relate to just this one site?</p> <p>Do the letters of support show that they clearly understand the justification for designating the site as a local green space?</p> <p>Was the site received favourably during Issues and Scoping Consultation?</p> <p>Does the evidence show that a large proportion of the community use or value the site?</p> <p>Have there been any objections to the designation? Who are these from and on what grounds is the objection made? Do their comments undermine or cast doubt on how special the site may be to the wider community?</p> <p>Is there a need for Local Green Space in this location? Is there a shortage of accessible green space in the area? Is there evidence of a need for this type of space in particular? Could the use of the green space be replicated elsewhere in the vicinity?</p>
---------------------------	---

## Assessment Conclusions

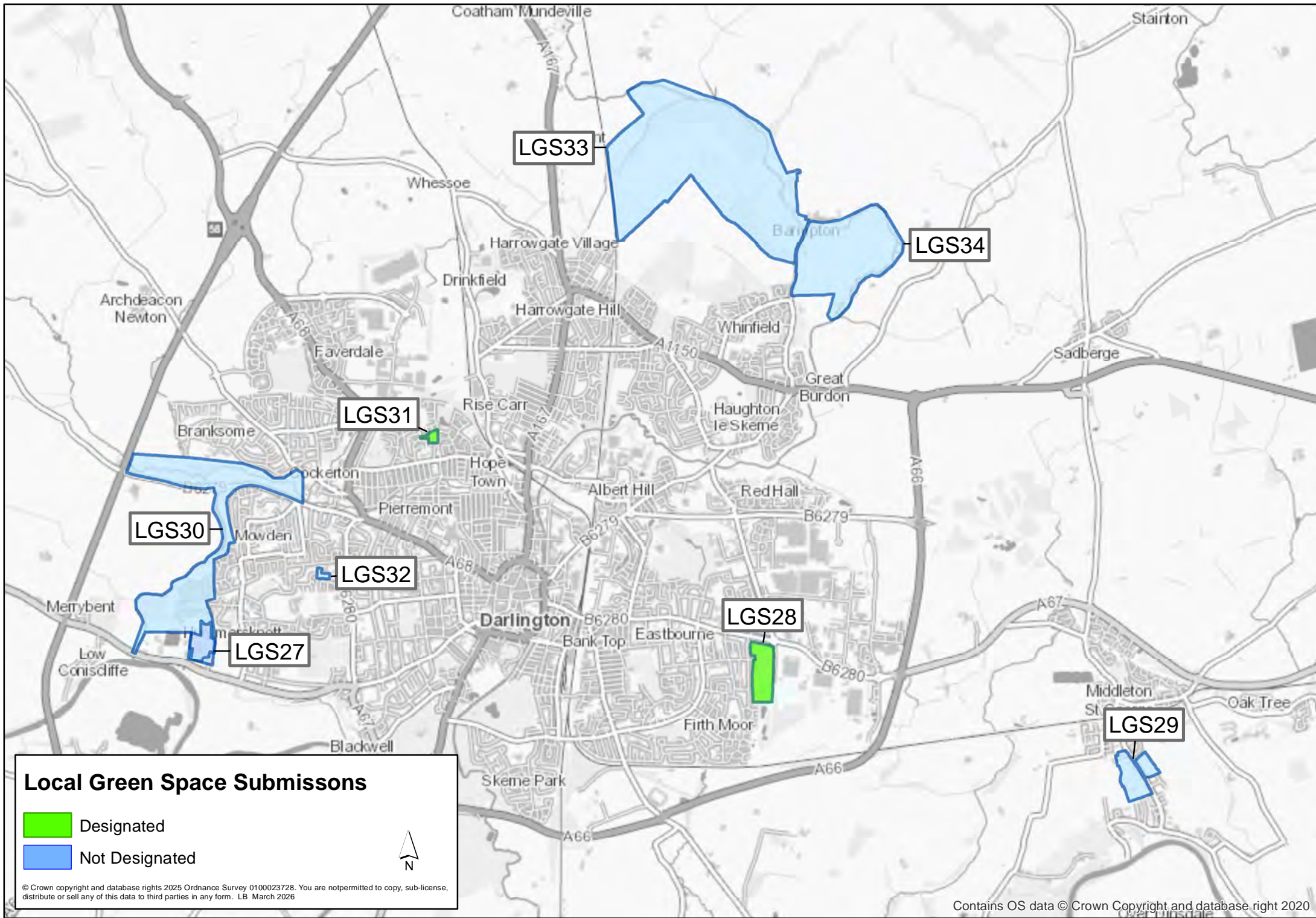
Detailed assessment forms are available for each site included at **Appendix B** and **Appendix C** of this report. The assessment forms clearly explain why a site has been assessed as being suitable for designation or, conversely, why a site is not considered suitable for designation.

Of the eight unique sites submitted for consideration two have been suggested for designation in the Local Plan Review. These are:

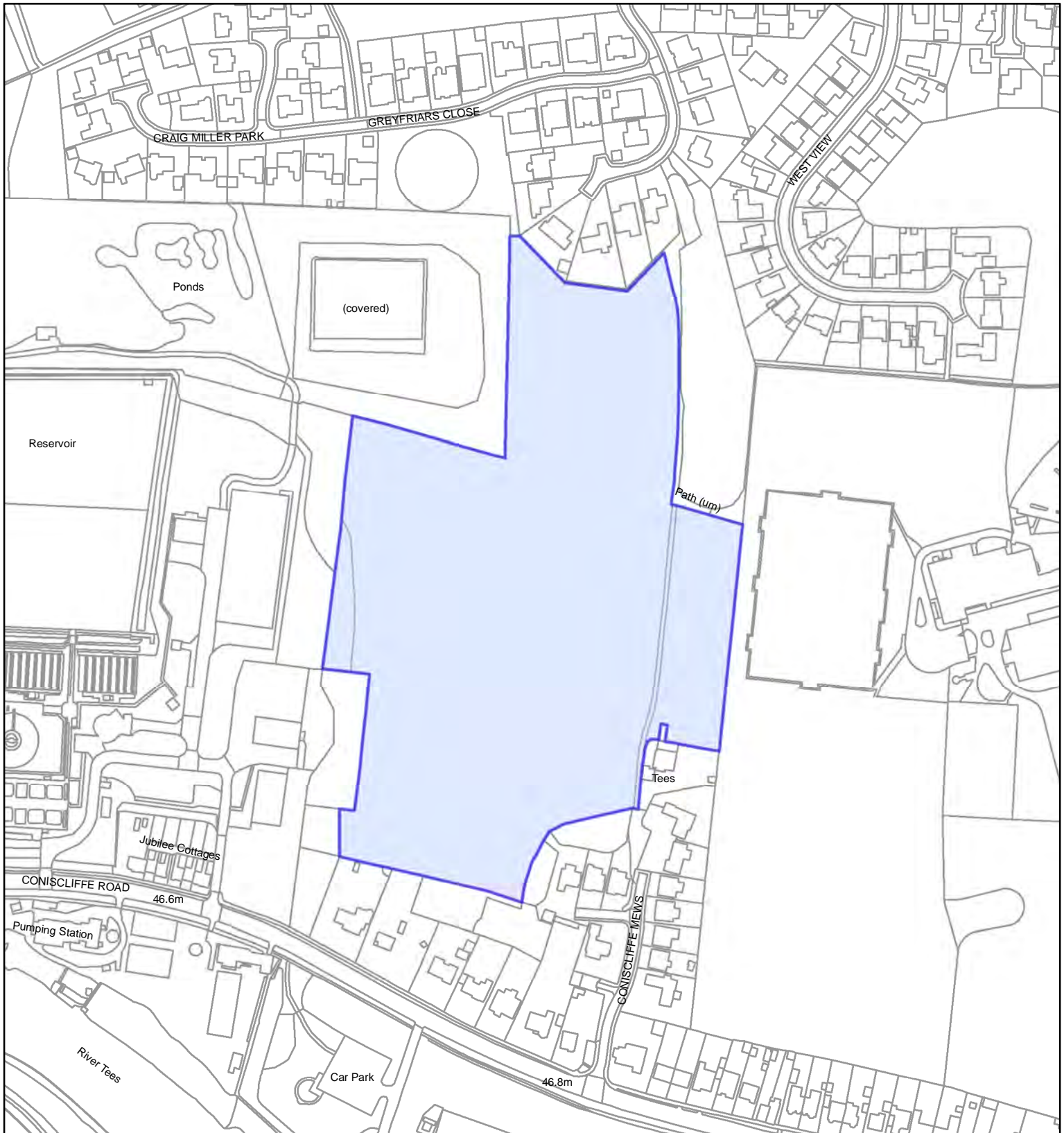
- LGS28 – Tommy Crooks Park
- LGS31 – Bellburn Field

# **Appendix A**

## **Site Submission Plans**



# LGS27 - Tees Grange Farm



## Local Green Space Submissions - Not Designated

- Designated
- Not Designated

Plan produced by the Planning Policy Section,  
Economic Growth

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100023728.

# LGS28 - Tommy Crocks Park



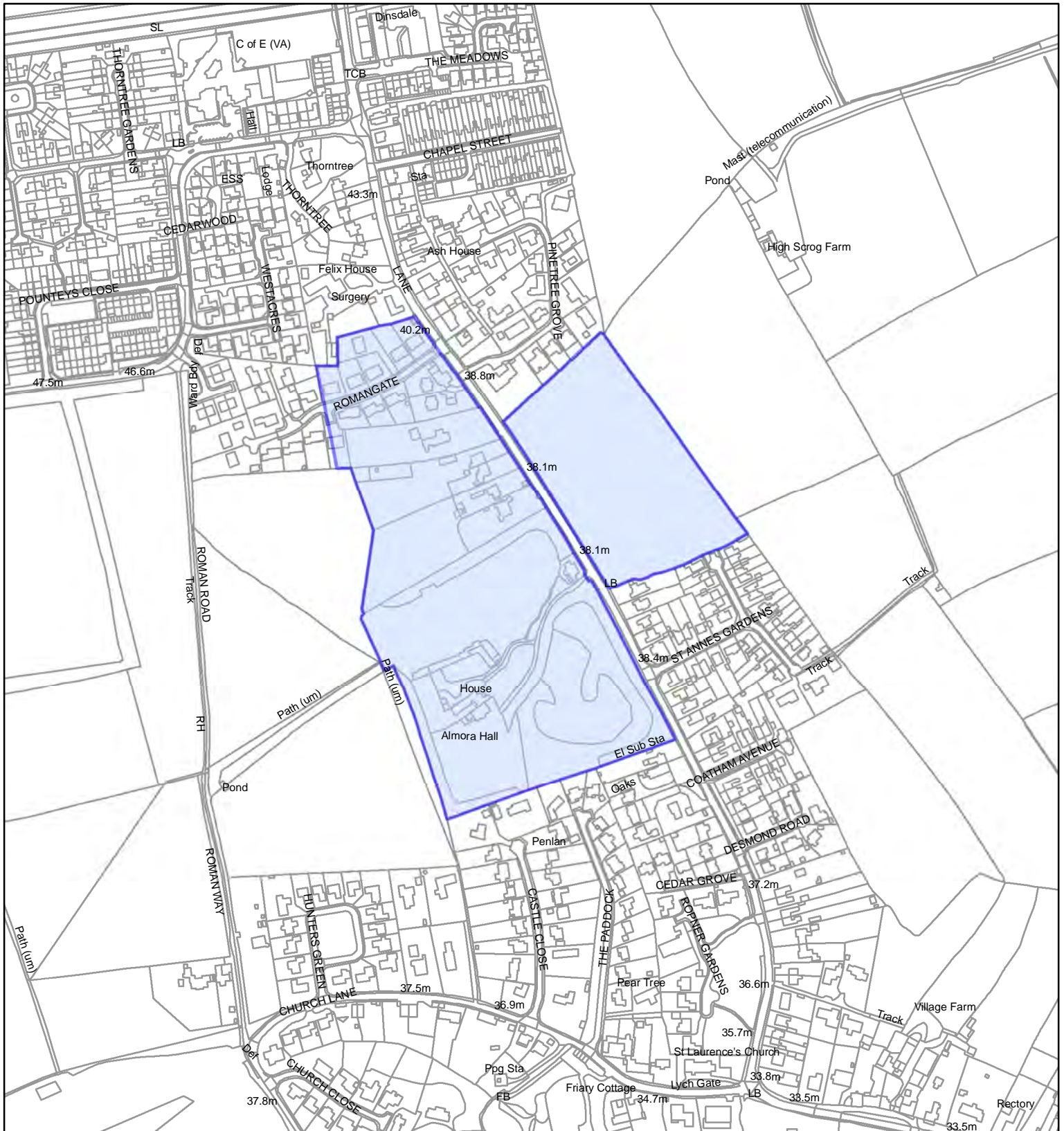
## Local Green Space Submissions - Designated

- Designated
- Not Designated

Plan produced by the Planning Policy Section,  
Economic Growth

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100023728.

# LGS29 - Middleton St George / Middleton One Row Gap



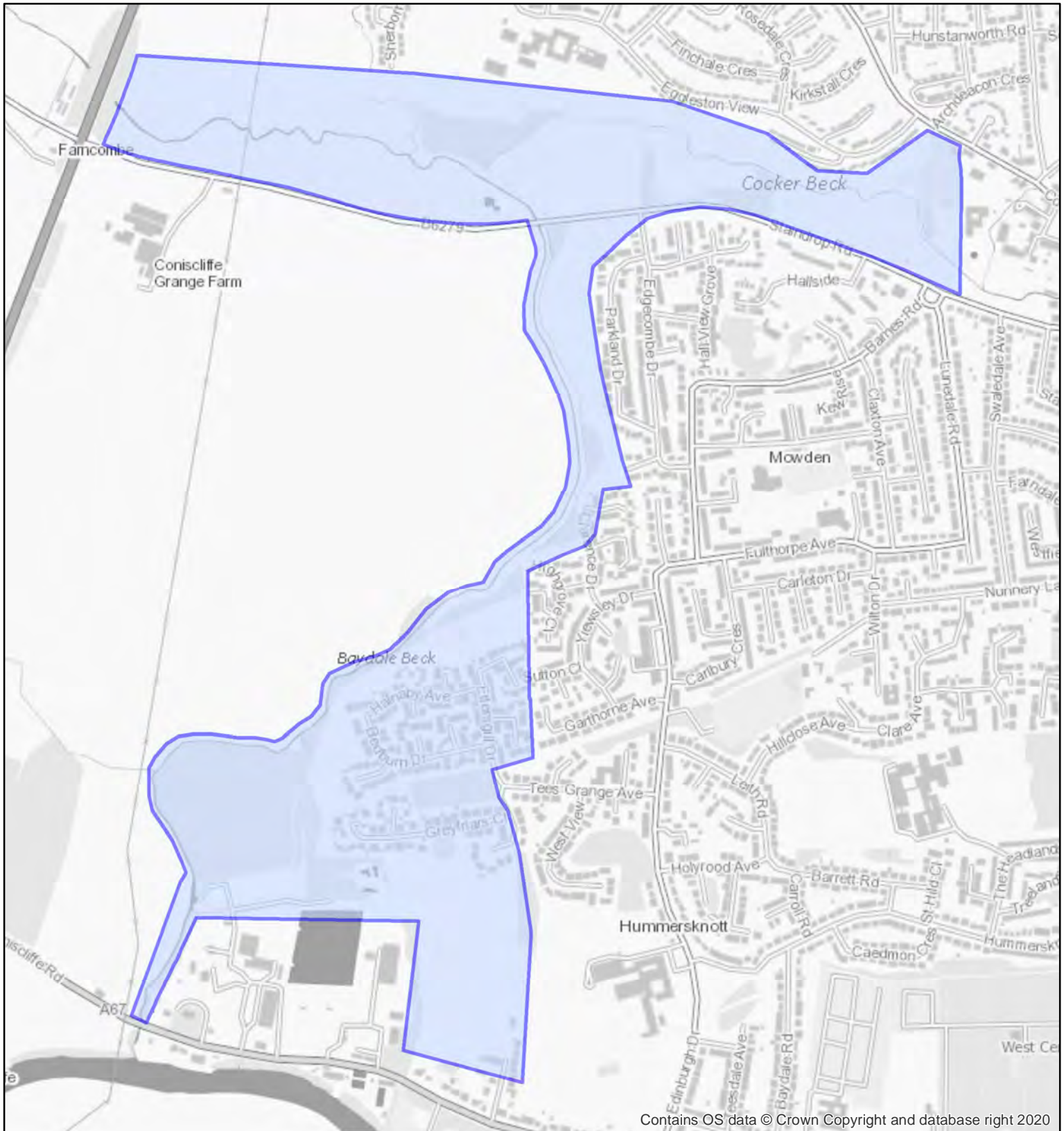
## Local Green Space Submissions - Non Designated

- Designated
- Not Designated

Plan produced by the Planning Policy Section,  
Economic Growth

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100023728.

# LGS30 - Hummersknott, Baydale Meadows/Beck



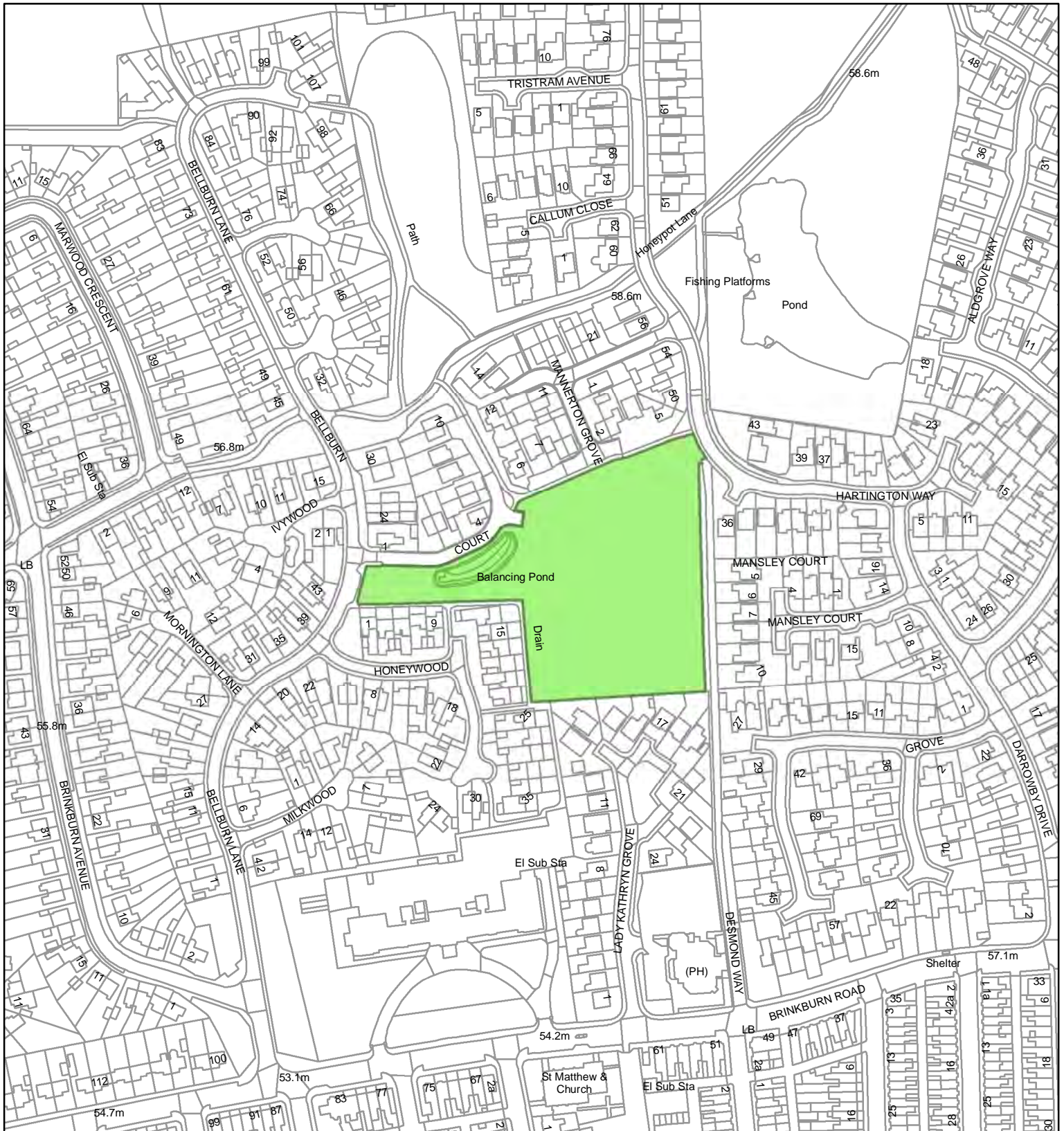
## Local Green Space Submissions - Non Designated

- Designated
- Not Designated

Plan produced by the Planning Policy Section,  
Economic Growth

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100023728.

# LGS31 - Bellburn Field



## Local Green Space Submissions - Designated

- Designated
- Not Designated

Plan produced by the Planning Policy Section,  
Economic Growth

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100023728.

# LGS32 - Carmel Convent, Nunnery Lane



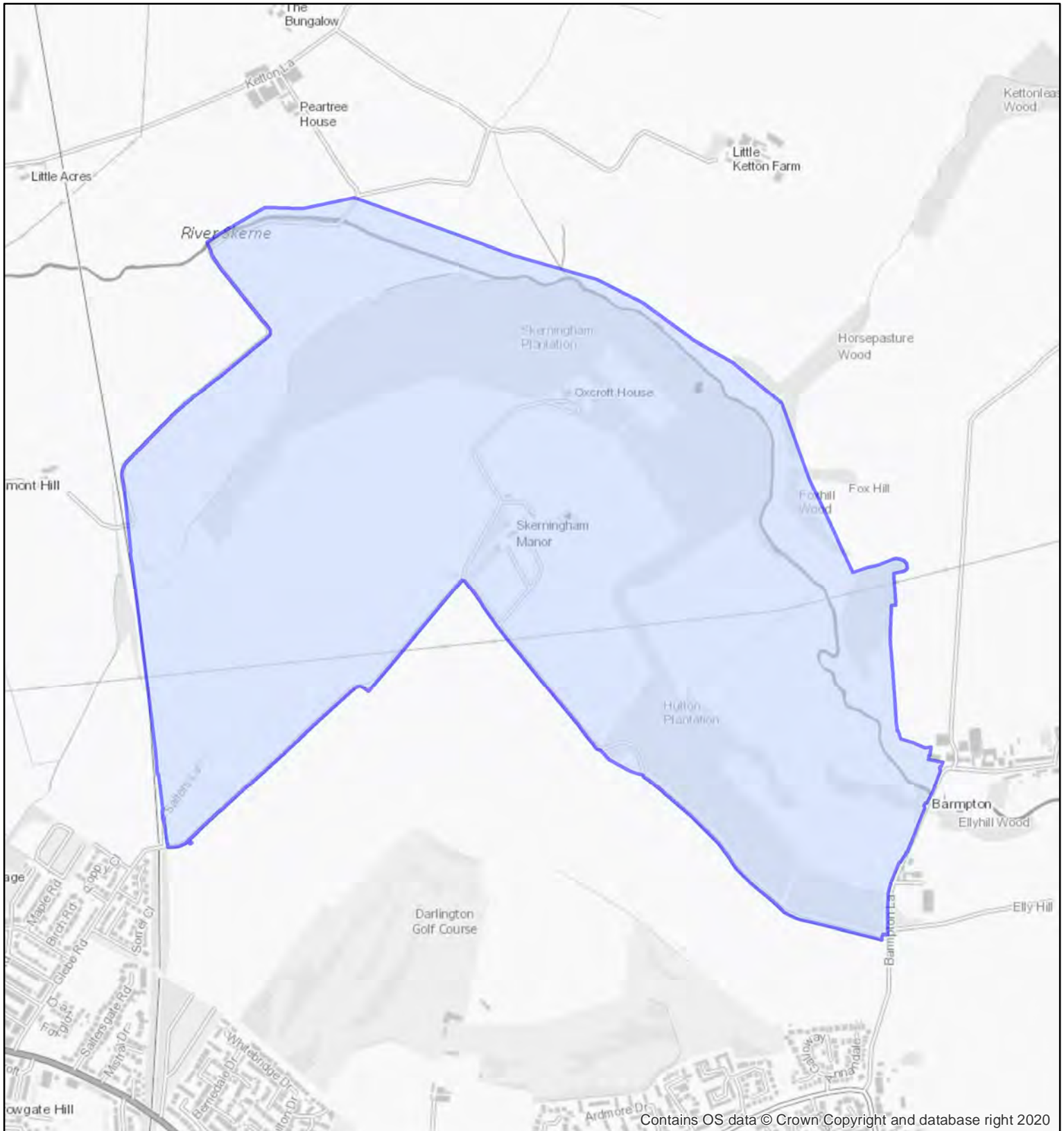
## Local Green Space Submissions - Non Designated

- Designated
- Not Designated

Plan produced by the Planning Policy Section,  
Economic Growth

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100023728.

# LGS33 - Skerningham, Ketton Bridge, Barmpton



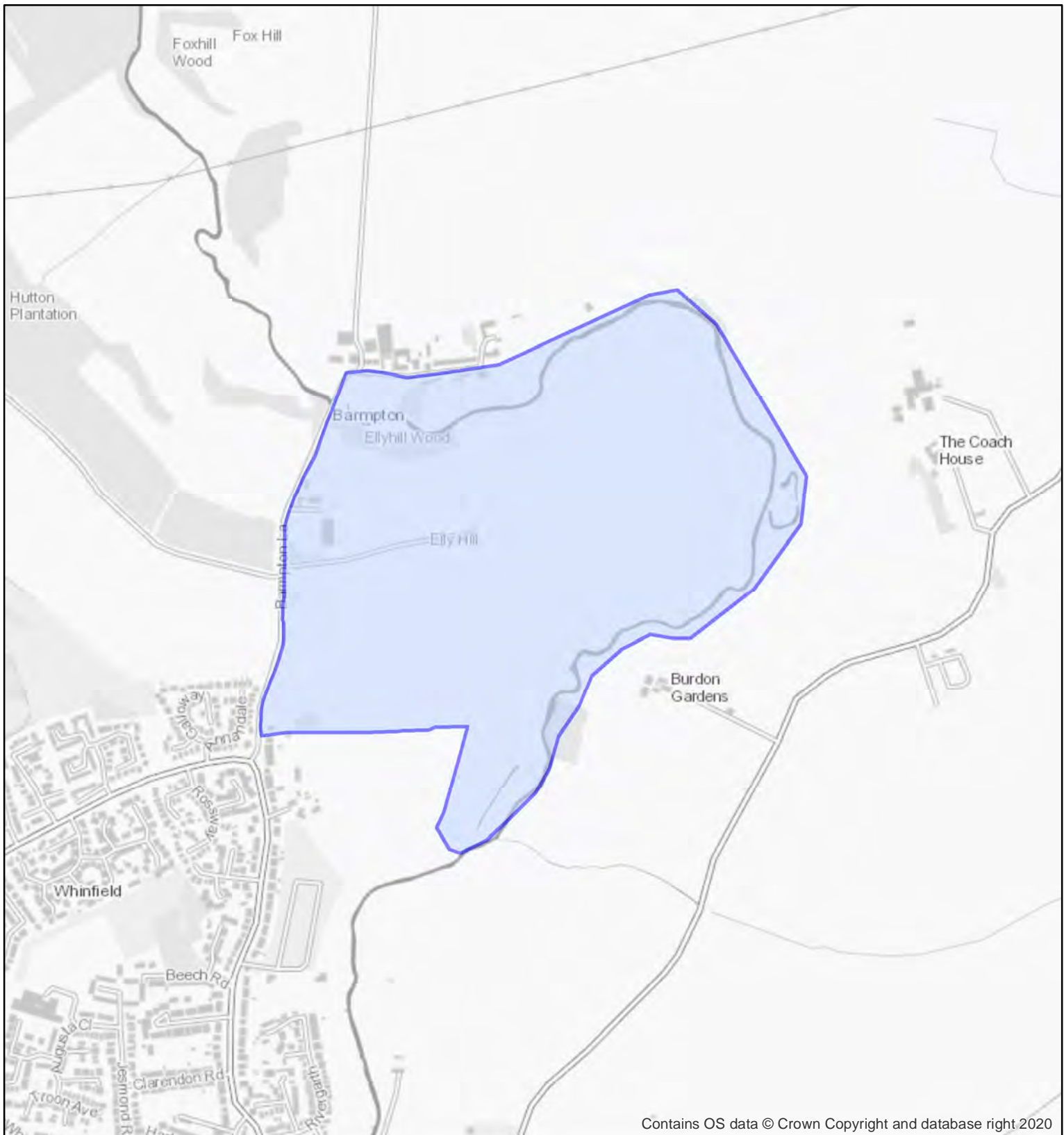
## Local Green Space Submissions - Non Designated

- Designated
- Not Designated

Plan produced by the Planning Policy Section,  
Economic Growth

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100023728.

# LGS34 - Barmpton



Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2020

## Local Green Space Submissions - Non Designated

- Designated
- Not Designated

Plan produced by the Planning Policy Section,  
Economic Growth

© Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey 0100023728.

# **Appendix B**

## **Site Assessment Table**

LGS Ref	Site name	Ward	Assessment One		Assessment Two	Assessment Three	Assessment Four	Assessment Five (see Appendix C for detail)						Assessment Six	Summary and Recommendation
			Included in HELAA	Recent Relevant Planning History	Existing protective designations	Is the site within reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Is the site local in character and not an extensive tract of land?	Beauty	Historic Significance	Recreational Value	Tranquility	Wildlife	Other	Is the site demonstrably special to the local community?	
LGS27	Tees Grange Farm	Hummersknott	Yes	None	Public Footpath (No.3) runs in a loop to the north of the site. Broken Scar Local Wildlife Site located to the North West. Group and individual TPO's primarily to the west and east boundaries.	Yes	Site is in active agricultural use and is subject to an ongoing tenancy agreement. This does not represent an extensive tract of land.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Although of some visual benefit to residents within the immediate vicinity the wider benefits of this space are limited and it is not considered demonstrably special. The land is actively used for farming and therefore not publically accessible other than the PROW to the North. <b>Not recommended for designation.</b>
LGS28	Tommy Crooks Park	Eastbourne			Maidendale Local Nature Reserve to the South	Yes	Compact local park with play equipment and space for formal and informal play. Valuable Green Buffer between residential and employment land.	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Overall this site represents a valuable local green asset within its community. It has historic interest in relation to its historic gifting to the people of Darlington by Alderman Crooks adds to it's importance. It also offers space for formal and informal recreation and play. <b>Recommend for designation.</b>
LGS29	Middleton St George / Middleton One Row Gap	Sadberge and Middleton St George	Partially (Site 441)		Yes. Already within MSG Rural Gap in Adopted Local Plan and Middleton St George/One Row Conservation Area	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The site is already subject to protection owing to its location within the Middleton One Row Conservation area and existing rural gap. This is considered sufficient protection along with the existing LGS15 and LGS23 designations. It would not be appropriate to include the existing residential developments to the north of the site on Middleton Lane. <b>Scoped out of assessment and not recommended for designation.</b>
LGS30	Hummersknott, Baydale Meadows/Beck		Yes (Sites 041 and 249)	Site allocated in Adopted Darlington Local Plan and subject to planning permissions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The site forms part of an allocated site with planning permission. Most of the area suggested will be maintained as green space. <b>Scoped out of assessment and not recommended for designation.</b>
LGS31	Bellburn Field	Brinkburn and Faverdale	No	None	Brinkburn Pond Nature Reserve to the North East.	Yes	The site offers an area of maintained grassland with benches and trees around the periphery . The site is not an extensive tract of land.	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Overall this site represents a valuable local green asset within its community. It offers a space for informal recreation and play. <b>Recommend for designation.</b>
LGS32	Carmel Convent, Nunnery Lane	Hummersknott	No	No	Listed Buildings and TPO's	Yes	The site is valuable historically and through other protections such as Listing and TPO's will be protected. It's former and current uses do not lend themselves to being particularly local in character or accessible.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Although the site is undoubtedly of historic interest it's wider benefit's to the wider community are not considered demonstrably special. Other more appropriate protections are in place. <b>Scoped out of assessment and not recommended for designation.</b>



## Appendix C

### Assessments Five and Six Site Specific Criteria Assessment

#### Site LGS27 Tees Grange Farm

Beauty	Comments	Criterion Met?
Is the site discernibly beautiful or more beautiful than the surrounding areas?	The site is in active agricultural use. Typically used by cattle and other livestock. It's green but not accessible or particularly 'beautiful'.	N
Site visibility: is the site visible from a public place; are there views of the site from any key locations?	Wider views are very limited. Only really visible from the rear of other properties.	N
Is the site (or type of landscape) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents?	No	N
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its beauty?</b>		<b>N</b>

History	Comments	Criterion Met?
Are there any historic buildings, features or remains on the site? For example, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, war memorials. (GIS Check)	Some evidence of possible ridge and furrow.	N
Are there any historic landscape features on the site? For example, old hedgerows, ancient trees, historic ponds, historic garden features (Evidence)	Some TPO trees to the eastern and western boundaries. These trees are worthy of protection but not considered 'ancient'.	N
Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? For example, part	No evidence provided.	N

of the grounds for the manor house, site of an old railway station, village green. (Evidence)		
Did any important historic events take place on the site? (Evidence)	No evidence provided	N
Is there a long-standing event which takes place on the site? For example, well-dressing, maypole dancing, pace egg plays, market. (Evidence)	No	N
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its historic significance?</b>		<b>N</b>

<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for playing sport? Which sport? Is this sports provision free or is club membership required? Is it good quality? Are there better facilities nearby?	No.	N
Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for informal recreation? Can the site be accessed easily?	A number of respondents refer to the site being used for dog walking, exercising, nature watching, fruit picking and playing in the snow. However the only public access to the site is along the Public Right of Way not the wider site.	N
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its recreation value?</b>		<b>N</b>

<b>Tranquillity</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Is the site considered to be tranquil? What features make it feel tranquil? Does it enhance the feeling of tranquillity within the local area through a feeling of remoteness? Does it provide an area of tranquillity within a busy setting by hiding man-made structures such as roads, power-lines or lighting?	No busy roads are visible and most of the surrounding housing development is screened by boundary planting and trees. It is bounded by infrastructure uses in terms of the water treatment plant to the West and Hummersknott Academy to the East.  Although the land is undeveloped and probably more tranquil than some surroundings the lack of public access limits it's significance.	N
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its tranquillity?</b>		<b>N</b>

<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? (GIS)	No	N
If the site is not formally designated, is there any evidence that there are important habitats or species found on the site? Have ecological surveys been undertaken on or close to the site? Could it form part of an ecological network? Is the site adjacent to a designated site?	The Broken Scar Local Wildlife Site to the North West of the site is the more valuable in ecological terms.	N
Is there any evidence, or is it likely that other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? Are there ancient hedgerows, woodland, veteran trees on the site?	It is likely the trees will provide habitats for birds and submissions refer to sightings of Barn Owls, deer and foxes. These trees are already protected and the agricultural land will be of some value but not sufficient to be considered demonstrably special. There are other larger and more significant areas within the vicinity.	Y
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its wildlife interest?</b>		<b>N</b>

<b>Other</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
What are the other reasons which make the site significant for the local community? What features make this site important? Is the site a focal point or stopping place? Does it provide key views across or looking out of the local area?	None provided.	N
<b>Does the site hold any other significance?</b>		<b>N</b>

<b>Demonstrably Special</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
How was this site identified as being special? Was it raised at a meeting or through a survey? Has it been subject to discussion or planning processes before?	Proposed by numerous local residents as an area that consider it a well used and important local amenity.	Y
Is there evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals? What letters of support, petitions, surveys etc. have been submitted? Does the evidence	Yes. 43 submissions have been received.	Y

show that a large proportion of the community use or value the site?		
Is there a need for Local Green Space in this location? Is there a shortage of accessible green space in the area? Is there evidence of a need for this kind of space in particular? Could the use of the green space be replicated elsewhere in the vicinity?	No. This part of town is well served by publicly accessible green space. And there is an abundance of agricultural land to the south of Coniscliffe Road.  Whilst the importance of the public right of way on the site is acknowledged. The wider site is in active agricultural use and is not intended for wider public use.	N
Does the site hold any other significance?	No evidence provided	N
<b>Is the site Demonstrably Special?</b>		<b>N</b>

## Site LGS28 Tommy Crooks Park

<b>Beauty</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Is the site discernibly beautiful or more beautiful than the surrounding areas?	There are a number of open spaces of different types in the vicinity.	N
Site visibility: is the site visible from a public place; are there views of the site from any key locations?	It is visible from the busy Yarm Road.	Y
Is the site (or type of landscape) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents?	No.	N
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its beauty?</b>		<b>N</b>

<b>History</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Are there any historic buildings, features or remains on the site? For example, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, war memorials.	No.	N
Are there any historic landscape features on the site? For example, old hedgerows, ancient	No.	N

trees, historic ponds, historic garden features		
Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? For example, part of the grounds for the manor house, site of an old railway station, village green.	Local records indicate an interesting back story to the creation of the park by Alderman Tommy Crooks (former Mayor of Darlington) who bought six acres of land to stop development, he then presented it to the people of Darlington. Tommy Crooks Park opened on the 4th of July 1935.	Y
Did any important historic events take place on the site?	No evidence provided.	N
Is there a long-standing event which takes place on the site? For example, well-dressing, maypole dancing, pace egg plays, market.	No evidence provided.	N
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its historic significance?</b>		<b>Y</b>

<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for playing sport? Which sport? Is this sports provision free or is club membership required? Is it good quality? Are there better facilities nearby?	Yes. The site does have a football pitch capable of being used for formal games.	Y
Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for informal recreation? Can the site be accessed easily?	Yes. The site has open access and is used for informal recreation. The site also has a children's play area.	Y
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its recreation value?</b>		<b>Y</b>

<b>Tranquillity</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Is the site considered to be tranquil? What features make it feel tranquil? Does it enhance the feeling of tranquillity within the local area through a feeling of remoteness? Does it provide an area of tranquillity within a busy setting by hiding man-made structures such as roads, power-lines or lighting?	No. The site is in close proximity to busy roads. Existing housing development and commercial development.	N

<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its tranquillity?</b>		<b>N</b>
--	--	----------

<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value?	No but Maidendale Local Nature Reserve is located immediately to the South.	N
If the site is not formally designated, is there any evidence that there are important habitats or species found on the site? Have ecological surveys been undertaken on or close to the site? Could it form part of an ecological network? Is the site adjacent to a designated site?	As part of a 'green corridor' identified in the Local Green Space Strategy in conjunction with Maidendale Nature Reserve this is a valuable part of the GI network in this part of town.	Y
Is there any evidence, or is it likely that other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? Are there ancient hedgerows, woodland, veteran trees on the site?	Some mature trees and hedgerows exist around the boundaries.	Y
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its wildlife interest?</b>		<b>Y</b>

<b>Other</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
What are the other reasons which make the site significant for the local community? What features make this site important? Is the site a focal point or stopping place? Does it provide key views across or looking out of the local area?	No evidence provided	N
<b>Does the site hold any other significance?</b>		<b>N</b>

<b>Demonstrably Special</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
How was this site identified as being special? Was it raised at a meeting or through a survey? Has it been subject to discussion or planning processes before?	Submitted by local Ward Councillor on behalf of constituents.	Y
Is there evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals?	No evidence submitted.	N

What letters of support, petitions, surveys etc. have been submitted? Does the evidence show that a large proportion of the community use or value the site?		
Is there a need for Local Green Space in this location? Is there a shortage of accessible green space in the area? Is there evidence of a need for this kind of space in particular? Could the use of the green space be replicated elsewhere in the vicinity?	There is not necessarily a shortage of green space in this area with the Nature Reserve and similar provision nearby but the provision of informal recreation space is of clear benefit and it would not necessarily be appropriate to provide this in more ecologically or historically sensitive areas.	Y
<b>Is the site demonstrably special?</b>		<b>Y</b>

### **Site LGS29 Middleton St George/Middleton One Row Gap – Scoped out see Assessment Table**

### **Site LGS30 Hummersknott, Baydale Meadows/Beck - Scoped out see Assessment Table**

### **Site LGS31 Bellburn Field**

<b>Beauty</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Is the site discernibly beautiful or more beautiful than the surrounding areas?	Bellburn Field is a valuable local green space. Predominantly made up of maintained grassland with some semi-mature and recently planted trees.	Y
Site visibility: is the site visible from a public place; are there views of the site from any key locations?	No.	N
Is the site (or type of landscape) specifically mentioned in any relevant landscape character assessments or similar documents?	No	N
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its beauty?</b>		<b>Y</b>

History	Comments	Criterion Met?
Are there any historic buildings, features or remains on the site? For example, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, war memorials. (GIS Check)	No evidence provided	N
Are there any historic landscape features on the site? For example, old hedgerows, ancient trees, historic ponds, historic garden features (Evidence)	No.	N
Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the village or town? For example, part of the grounds for the manor house, site of an old railway station, village green. (Evidence)	No.	N
Did any important historic events take place on the site? (Evidence)	No.	N
Is there a long-standing event which takes place on the site? For example, well-dressing, maypole dancing, pace egg plays, market. (Evidence)	No evidence provided.	N
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its historic significance?</b>		<b>N</b>

Recreation	Comments	Criterion Met?
Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for playing sport? Which sport? Is this sports provision free or is club membership required? Is it good quality? Are there better facilities nearby?	No.	N
Is there evidence or is it feasible that the site is used for informal recreation? Can the site be accessed easily?	Yes. Site is freely accessible and large enough for informal recreation. Evidence provided that it is also popular with walkers and informal children's play.	Y
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its recreation value?</b>		<b>Y</b>

Tranquillity	Comments	Criterion Met?
Is the site considered to be tranquil?	No evidence provided.	N

What features make it feel tranquil? Does it enhance the feeling of tranquillity within the local area through a feeling of remoteness? Does it provide an area of tranquillity within a busy setting by hiding man-made structures such as roads, power-lines or lighting?		
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its tranquillity?</b>		<b>N</b>

<b>Wildlife</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
Is the site formally designated for its wildlife value? (GIS)	Although the itself is not identified Brinkburn Pond Nature Reserve is immediately to the North East.	N
If the site is not formally designated, is there any evidence that there are important habitats or species found on the site? Have ecological surveys been undertaken on or close to the site? Could it form part of an ecological network? Is the site adjacent to a designated site?	The site forms part of an Existing Strategic Green Corridor as part of the Darlington Green Infrastructure Strategy. It's proximity to Brinkburn Pond Nature Reserve will have a complimentary effect.	Y
Is there any evidence, or is it likely that other wildlife of interest has been found on the site? Are there ancient hedgerows, woodland, veteran trees on the site?	Reference is made to a biological field survey (2015) that found the site was home to or had in close proximity, great crested newts, water voles, pipistrelle and bats.	Y
<b>Does the site hold particular local significance because of its wildlife interest?</b>		<b>Y</b>

<b>Other</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>
What are the other reasons which make the site significant for the local community? What features make this site important? Is the site a focal point or stopping place? Does it provide key views across or looking out of the local area?	No further information provided.	N
<b>Does the site hold any other significance?</b>		<b>N</b>

<b>Demonstrably Special</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Criterion Met?</b>

<p>How was this site identified as being special? Was it raised at a meeting or through a survey? Has it been subject to discussion or planning processes before?</p>	<p>By the Ward Councillor on behalf of constituents. This area was previously reserved for a new school in a previous local plan. Development has taken place to the north and south on the less valuable parts of the site reducing it's size. Protection of the remainder is considered appropriate.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>Is there evidence of support from other local community groups or individuals? What letters of support, petitions, surveys etc. have been submitted? Does the evidence show that a large proportion of the community use or value the site?</p>	<p>An online petition has been created. At the time of assessment this contained 161 signatures.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>Is there a need for Local Green Space in this location? Is there a shortage of accessible green space in the area? Is there evidence of a need for this kind of space in particular? Could the use of the green space be replicated elsewhere in the vicinity?</p>	<p>There is not necessarily a shortage of green space in this area with the Nature Reserve and similar provision nearby but the provision of informal recreation space is of clear benefit and it would not necessarily be appropriate to provide this in more ecologically sensitive areas.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>Does the site hold any other significance?</p>	<p>No evidence provided</p>	<p>N</p>
<p><b>Is the site Demonstrably Special?</b></p>		<p>Y</p>

## **Site LGS32 Carmel Convent, Nunnery Lane – Scoped out of further assessment**

## **Site LGS33 Skerningham, Ketton Bridge, Barmpton – Scoped out of further assessment**

## **Site LG34 Barmpton – Scoped out of further assessment**