

LOCAL GREEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2040

OCTOBER 2023



FRECKENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Prepared in support of the
Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan



Freckenham 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. Orchard off Church Lane
2. Castle Mound, Church Lane
3. The Old Cricket Ground
4. Meadow rear of The Golden Boar
5. Village Playing Field
6. The Old Marl Pit
7. Parkland area between Mildenhall Road and North Street
8. Paddock north of The Street
9. Parish Allotments

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.

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1. Orchard off Church Lane



Site Details

Description and purpose Amenity open space

Checklist

Statutory designations	Scheduled Monument In Conservation Area
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Totalling 0.44 Ha
Ownership	Private ownership

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services	Within village centre
Public access	Public footpath runs along western boundary
Ecologically significant	Grassland containing a number of old fruit trees being the final remnants of the former orchard.. Scheduled Monument – remains of Freckenham Castle
Historically significant	Important open area and historically important
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Yes, totally self-contained
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	Yes, due to Scheduled Monument designation
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, due to Scheduled Monument designation
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

2. Castle Mound



Site Details

Description and purpose Former Castle Mound

Checklist

Statutory designations Scheduled Monument

In Conservation Area

Site allocations None

Planning permissions No outstanding planning consent

Area Total 0.42 Ha

Ownership Private Ownership

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services It is at the centre of the village

Public access No public access

Ecologically significant Contains a number of mature trees

Historically significant Scheduled Monument – remains of Freckenham Castle

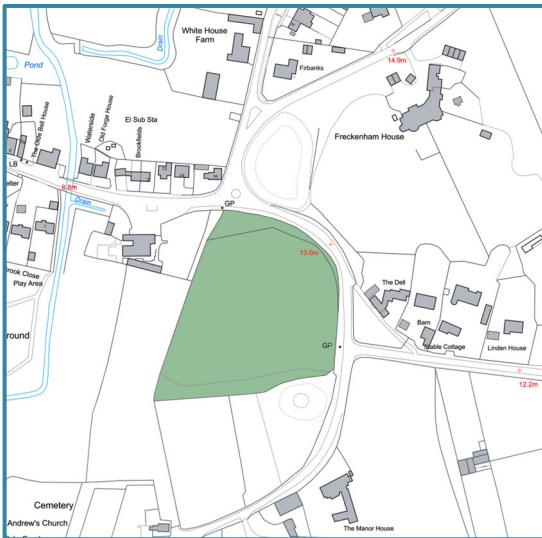
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance The Castel Mound is highly significant in Freckenham's history

Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land Self-contained

Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period? Yes, due to Scheduled Monument designation

Conclusion Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

3. The Old Cricket Ground



Site Details

Description and purpose

Open space that was once the village cricket ground

Checklist

Statutory designations

In Conservation Area

Trees on northern edge covered by TPO

Site allocations

None

Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

Area

Total 1.25 Ha

Ownership

Private ownership

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services

It is at the centre of the village

Public access

No public access

Ecologically significant

Large expanse of meadowland with trees along all boundaries except part of western boundary

Historically significant

Was once the village cricket ground. Adjoins Freckenham Castle Mound to south

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

A visually community open area providing the setting for the Castle Mound

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

Yes, totally self-contained

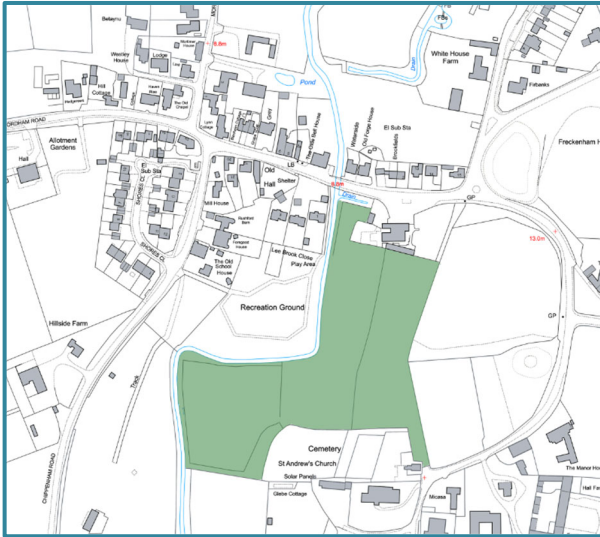
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

Yes. Outside Housing Settlement Boundary so not under development pressure.

Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

4. Meadow rear of the Golden Boar



Site Details

Description and purpose

Area of open meadows

Checklist

Statutory designations

Majority is within Conservation Area

Site allocations

None

Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

Area

2.33 Ha

Ownership

Suffolk County Council

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services

Located in village centre adjoining parish church, recreation ground and public house

Public access

No public access

Ecologically significant

A number of mature trees are located banks of the River Kennett

Historically significant

None known

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

Important open space for the village making a significant contribution to its character within the setting of listed buildings

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

Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

5. Village Playing Field



Site Details

Description and purpose

Equipped play space and sports pitch

Checklist

Statutory designations

None

Site allocations

None

Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

Area

0.83 Ha

Ownership

Parish Council

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services

Within the centre of the village and accessed from The Street and Chippenham Road

Public access

Accessible at all times

Ecologically significant

The River Kennett forms the southern and eastern boundary and a number of trees are located along the boundaries

Historically significant

None

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

The only equipped play space in the parish

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, owned by Parish Council

Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

6. The Marl Pit



Site Details

Description and purpose

Former marl or clunch pit which would have been excavated for building material

Checklist

Statutory designations

Within Conservation Area

Whole area covered by a TPO

Site allocations

None

Planning permissions

No outstanding planning consent

Area

0.26 Ha

Ownership

Private ownership

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services

Centrally located within village

Public access

No public access

Ecologically significant

Pit covered by trees potentially providing habitats to birds, mammals and invertebrates

Historically significant

Source of material for many of the older dwellings in the village

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

Distinctive site in a central location

Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land

A self-contained area

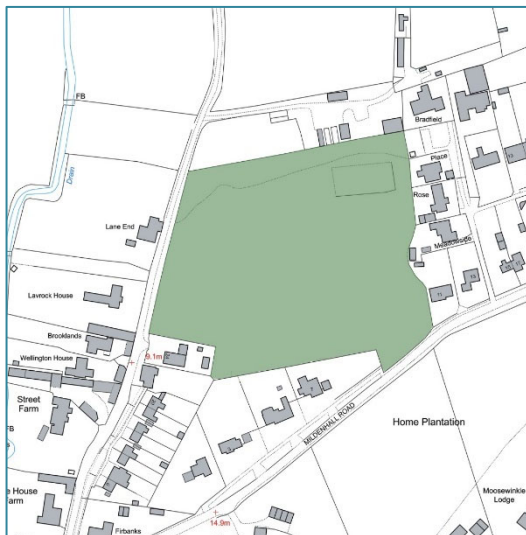
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?

Yes, outside Settlement Boundary

Conclusion

Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

7. Parkland area between Mildenhall Road and North Street



Site Details

Description and purpose

Grassland interspersed with mature trees that forms an important gaps between parts of the settlement and a setting for buildings of historic significance on North Street.

Checklist

Statutory designations

None

Site allocations

None

Planning permissions

No outstanding Planning permissions

Area

2.2 Ha

Ownership

Private ownership

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services

Centrally located within village

Public access

No public access

Ecologically significant

Grassland and trees provide habitats for birds, mammals and invertebrates

Historically significant

None known

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

A distinctive area of land that gives the impression that it has been laid out as parkland

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. Paddock north of The Street



Site Details

Description and purpose

Grassland within Conservation Area between settlement areas

Checklist

Statutory designations

None

Site allocations

None

Planning permissions

No outstanding planning permissions

Area

0.71 Ha

Ownership

Private ownership

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services

Centrally located within village

Public access

No access

Ecologically significant

Grassland with trees on northern boundary provide habitats for birds, mammals and invertebrates. River Kennett forms western boundary.

Historically significant

Provides setting to listed White House Farm to north

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

Part of a series of important open areas that characterises Freckenham village centre

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. Parish Allotments



Site Details

Description and purpose Parish allotments

Checklist

Statutory designations None

Site allocations None

Planning permissions No outstanding planning permissions

Area 0.47 Ha

Ownership Shores Charity

NPPF Criteria Assessment

Close to the community it services Centrally located within village and adjoining Village Hall

Public access Access for allotment holders

Ecologically significant None known

Historically significant None

Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance Provides an important amenity for the residents of Freckenham

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