

Local Green Spaces Background Paper

August 2024

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1 Introduction

1.1.1 The purpose of this background paper is to explain the designation of Local Green Spaces (LGS) in Portsmouth in line with national and local policies. It acts as the main evidence base for the designation of LGS in the Pre-Submission version of the Portsmouth Local Plan (PLP).

1.1.2 LGSs will form an important part of Portsmouth's green infrastructure network, which is an important aspect of Portsmouth's character:

- 30% of the City is covered by statutory nature conservation designations (SSSIs, RAMSAR sites, SPAs, SACs and SINC). Species of particular importance include Solent Waders and Brent Geese.
- A number of green spaces provide the setting for heritage assets, including listed buildings and scheduled monuments, and there are three registered parks and gardens in the City.
- It is diverse in terms of functionality; types of spaces include playing fields, cemeteries, allotments, green corridors (such as Hilsea lines), playground provision, woodlands and parks.

1.1.3 Green infrastructure (GI) provides a number of services for people, including recreational activity, social interaction and cohesion, a 'sense of place' and belonging, as well as supporting physical and mental health and wellbeing. These benefits highlight the key role GI plays within the City and for its residents. It is for this reason that the protection of such assets is important, especially given the constrained island geography of Portsmouth and its undersupply of open space. LGS designation is one way in which additional measures can be taken to protect green areas against development that are of particular importance (social, environmental, economic and/or historic) and 'demonstrably special' to local communities, whilst also protecting the wider GI network.

2 Policy Context

2.1 National Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) first introduced the concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designation in March 2012. Paragraphs 105-107 of the latest NPPF (December 2023)¹ outline the national planning framework relating to LGS designation:
- 2.1.2 **Paragraph 105** - 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.
- 2.1.3 **Paragraph 106** - 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.
- 2.1.4 **Paragraph 107** - Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.
- 2.1.5 Paragraph 106 will be discussed in further detail in the Methodology section.

Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.1.6 The National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) also addresses a number of matters to aid local planning authorities (LPAs) when considering LGS designation². These include:
- What if land has planning permission for development?
 - Can all communities benefit from LGS?

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

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

- What if land is already protected by Green Belt or as Metropolitan Open Land (in London)?
- What if land is already protected by designations such as National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Monument or conservation area?
- What types of green area can be identified as LGS?
- How close does a Local Green Space need to be to the community it serves?
- How big can a Local Green Space be?
- Is there a minimum area?
- Does land need to be in public ownership?

2.1.7 Items regarding '*planning permission*,' '*existing designations*' and '*public accessibility*' are of particular relevance to our assessment process, and have been explored in greater depth in the 'Detailed Assessment of Individual Sites' section under the methodology.

2.2 Local Policy Context and Other Supporting Documentation

The Portsmouth Plan

- 2.2.1 Portsmouth's current Local Plan (adopted 24/01/2012)³ was adopted just prior to the introduction of LGS designation.
- 2.2.2 However, the importance of protecting and enhancing the existing Green Infrastructure network within the City, including existing areas of open space, has been addressed through policy PCS13: A Greener Portsmouth.
- 2.2.3 PCS14: A Health City also acknowledges the important role open space plays in improving the mental and physical wellbeing of Portsmouth's residents.

Portsmouth City Local Plan 2001-2011

- 2.2.4 Many of the original policies from the 2006 Local Plan⁴ (adopted 21/07/2006) were superseded by those in the Portsmouth Plan. However, the ones listed below are still extant and are of relevance to this paper; they relate to the provision of and/or existing open space in the City and associated amenities:
- CM8: Portsdown Hill
 - HS5: Hilsea Lido
 - MT2: Land South of St James' Hospital
 - SJ3: Southsea Skate Park
 - PH1: Portsmouth Harbour Coastal Zone
 - LH2: Langstone Harbour Coastal Zone

³ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/The-Portsmouth-Plan.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Portsmouth-City-Local-Plan-Accessible-except-colours.pdf>

Somerstown and North Southsea Area Action Plan (AAP) 2012⁵ and Southsea Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) 2007⁶

- 2.2.5 The Somerstown and North Southsea AAP acknowledges the importance of public open space and green infrastructure through Policy SNS9, whereby six sites have been allocated for open space provision.
- 2.2.6 There are no policies under the Southsea Town Centre AAP that are of relevance to LGS designation.
- 2.2.7 It is important to note that the emerging Portsmouth Local Plan will replace all of the documents above on adoption.

New Portsmouth Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation (2021)

- 2.2.8 Draft Policy C2 of the Regulation 18 Plan⁷ sought to protect, enhance and/or create areas of open space and recreation within the City. As part of the Reg 18 consultation, the Council asked the public if there were any areas of open space that should be added or removed from the policy (questions 18c). The answers to this question are summarised in the 'Site Selection' section under the methodology.

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022-2038

- 2.2.9 During the Covid 19 pandemic, the importance of the natural environment was rediscovered. The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was updated in 2022 in response to this, and provides an 'action plan' in order to protect, maintain and ensure the longevity and success of parks and open spaces in Portsmouth. Ten areas were identified as being key open spaces, as well as cemeteries and allotments, along with a number of strategic objectives to enhance their role:

- Victoria Park
- Canoe Lake
- The Seafront
- Milton Park
- Baffins Pond and Milton Common
- Hilsea Linear Park
- Portsdown Hill
- King George V Playing Fields

⁵ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/development-and-planning-somerstown-and-north-southsea-area-action-plan.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/development-and-planning-southsea-town-centre-area-action-plan.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/207.9-Local-plan-2021-document-FULL-ACCESSIBLE.pdf>

- Bransbury Park
- Cemeteries and Allotments

2.2.10 The current strategy covers the period 2022-2038 in line with the Reg 18 Local Plan.

Milton Neighbourhood Plan (2022)

2.2.11 The Milton Neighbourhood Plan⁸ was adopted on the 11th October 2022 and includes a policy on LGS Designation. These sites were deemed demonstrably special by the local residents of Milton and are protected.

2.2.12 This study does not assess any local green spaces designated in the Milton Neighbourhood Plan. All the LGSs designated in the Milton Neighbourhood Plan under policy ENV1 have the same level of protection as those designated in the Portsmouth Local Plan once it is adopted. The policy is as follows:

Policy ENV1: Local Green Space

1. The following spaces are designated as Local Green Space:

- *LGS1 St James' Green*
- *LGS2 Portsmouth and Southsea Cricket Club Ground*
- *LGS3 Milton Locks*
- *LGS4 Milton Park*
- *LGS5 Bransbury Park*
- *LGS6 Milton Common*
- *LGS7 Edenbridge Park*
- *LGS8 Furze Lane Sports-Fields*
- *LGS9 Langstone Campus Fields*
- *LGS10 Eastney & Milton Allotments*

Development on Local Green Space will only be allowed in very special circumstances.

Land between Broom Square and Longshore Way, the western section of St James' Hospital Grounds East, Land North of St James' Green, known as Matron's Garden and Land at Kingsley Road are designated as Open Space. "

⁸ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Milton-Plan-Final-adopted.pdf>

3 Methodology

3.1 Selection of Sites

3.1.1 A number of secondary sources were reviewed to help compile an initial list of sites for LGS assessment. The protected open spaces designated through Policy PCS13 of Portsmouth's current Core Strategy (2012) provide a good overview of the existing green space network within the City, and provided the Council with a foundation on which to start the site selection process. Other sources included the following:

- PCC's Green Infrastructure Background Paper (2021)
- PCC's Biodiversity and Portsmouth Background Paper (2019)
- City of Portsmouth - Parks, Garden and Open Spaces Map
- Portsmouth City Council Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2022-2038 (DRAFT)
- Breakdown of Quantity and Typologies of existing open space supply (provided by PCC Culture Leisure and Regulatory Services)
- Online resources, such as Google Maps

3.1.2 Furthermore, as per Paragraph 105 of the NPPF, the designation of land as LGS allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. The Reg 18 consultation provided the local community with an opportunity to highlight such areas through the following question:

'Question 18c - Are there any areas of open space that should be added or removed from the policy?'

3.1.3 A total of 36 people responded to the question Fort Cumberland, Fraser Range and Tipner West were noted as areas of open space that should be protected under Policy C2 of the Reg 18 Local Plan. These suggestions were included in the site assessment.

3.2 Assessment Methodology

3.2.1 Based on the above secondary research, a total of 43 sites were identified for assessment. An assessment matrix was then developed predominantly based on the criteria set out in paragraph 106 of the NPPF:

3.2.2 **Is it an extensive tract of land?** There is no clear definition in the NPPF as to what constitutes an 'extensive tract of land.' Internal discussions were had about setting a threshold, but given the constrained geography of the City and lack of extensive land, the implementation of a threshold was considered not relevant to Portsmouth.

3.2.3 **Is it in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?** This is up to the discretion of the local planning authority to determine; some local planning authorities

have previously introduced a maximum distance between the space and the community in question, but this was deemed not required for the context of Portsmouth. The proximity of a LGS to the community it serves will be dependent upon local circumstances; Portsmouth has an extensive public transport network and arguably all green spaces are within easy walking distance to the community they serve across the City.

3.2.4 Is it demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance? In order to be considered demonstrably special, a site must meet one of the following five criteria:

1. **Beauty** - Beauty is a highly subjective concept and there are an array of factors which may influence how one defines the 'beauty' of a place. For the purpose of this assessment, it is understood as *'the quality of being pleasing and attractive, especially to look at'* (Cambridge Dictionary⁹). This may also include views of the surrounding area from within the site.
2. **Historic significance** - traditions, events and/or heritage assets (designated or non-designated) associated with the green space and local community are understood as being of historic significance. This may include, but is not limited to, historic and long-standing community events, buildings, structures, monuments, conversation areas, registered parks and gardens and archaeological interest. Portsmouth's heritage is a key contributor to the City's character and is admired by many residents.
3. **Recreational value** - The term recreational is *'connected with ways of enjoying yourself when you are not working'* (Cambridge Dictionary¹⁰). This covers an array of activities and uses in relation to green spaces, such as sports, children's play, runs/walks (including dog walks), fishing, gardening, socialising and many more. As stated by the NPPF, this can also include playing fields; for the purpose of this methodology, some school playing fields have been included for assessment as they are used by the public outside of operational hours.
4. **Tranquillity** - Tranquillity is a state of calm or quietude and feeling at ease, which in turn can have a positive impact on your mental wellbeing. Sound played a significant role in the site assessment, including traffic noise, volume and presence of pedestrian activity, sounds of nature (wildlife, wind, water) as well as the absence of sound. The naturalness and views within and/or from the site were also considered.
5. **Richness of wildlife** - sites were also assessed based on the presence, management and protection of wildlife. Despite its urban context, Portsmouth plays host to an array of wildlife through its marine and terrestrial environments; 30% of which is covered by statutory nature conservation designations. Thus, it is likely that a number of sites will be noted for their wildlife significance.

3.2.5 Two more criteria were also added to the matrix, based on PPG regarding LGS designation:

⁹ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/beauty>

¹⁰ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/recreational>

3.2.6 Is the land already protected by any existing designations? PPG advises that if land is already protected by designation, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by LGS designation. As part of the detailed assessment, the following designations (statutory and/or non-statutory) have been acknowledged (where applicable):

- RAMSAR site
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Scheduled Monuments
- Registered Parks & Gardens
- Conservation Areas

3.2.7 It is important to recognise any designations as part of the analysis, but they will not be the deciding factor for determining a site's suitability for LGS designation.

3.2.8 Policies from the Core Strategy (2012) or those extant from the 2006 Local Plan or Somerstown and North Southsea AAP have also been referenced under this criterion (where relevant).

3.2.9 What if land has planning permission for development? PPG advises that LGS designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has been identified for development. LGS should have longevity throughout the local plan period and beyond.

3.2.10 Accessibility to and on-site was considered as a possible additional criterion, which has been incorporated by many other LPAs. However, although the degree of public access is important and has been referred to in the site comments, it has not been selected as a deciding factor for designation. Paragraph 016 in the PPG states that land can be considered for designation, even if there is no public access.

3.2.11 It is important to highlight that paragraph 013 in the PPG states that the designation of land as LGS is 'a matter for local discretion,' and can include features other than green space, such as pavilions, boating lakes and structures. Features that contribute to the value and functionality of a LGS have been included within the designation where appropriate.

3.2.12 Site visits were also carried out during summer-autumn 2023 to support the assessment of sites for LGS designation.

3.2.13 The matrix and findings from the assessment are set out in Appendix 1, including the reasons for including or excluding a site from LGS designation.

4 Conclusion

4.1.1 Of the 45 sites selected for assessment, 22 are proposed to be designated as LGS in Policy PLP46 of the emerging Local Plan. They are as follows:

- Southsea Common West, St Thoms & St Jude
- Southsea Common East, Eastney & Craneswater
- Kingston Park, Fratton
- Tamworth Park, Baffins
- Baffins Pond and Tangier Field, Baffins
- Great Salterns Recreation Ground, Baffins
- Hilsea Lines, Hilsea
- Alexandra Park, Hilsea
- College Park, Copnor
- Gatcombe Gardens, Hilsea
- Gurnard Road Park, Cosham
- Cosham Park, Cosham
- King George V Playing Fields, Cosham
- Drayton Park, Drayton & Farlington
- Farlington Playing Field, St John's College Playing fields and Farlington Triangle, Drayton & Farlington
- Farlington Marshes Nature Reserve, Drayton & Farlington
- Portsdown Hill
- Stamshaw Fields, Nelson
- Victoria Park, Charles Dickens
- Land at Leominster Road, Hempsted Green and Pauslgrove Park, Paulsgrove
- Kingston Cemetery, Fratton
- Highland Road Cemetery, Eastney & Craneswater

4.1.2 A map of the designated Local Green Spaces can be found in Appendix 2.

4.1.3 The remaining 23 sites were not deemed suitable for LGS designation as there was insufficient evidence to prove they are 'demonstrably special' in terms of beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity and/or wildlife. They are however all protected under draft Policy PLP45: Open Space, which protects all open space from development unless one of four criteria can be met. They are shown in figure 9.1 of the Local Plan in order to give an indicative picture of where the City's open spaces are located, and the map is not considered to be exhaustive. Those open spaces not designated as LGS are therefore, still acknowledged as important and are protected within the Local Plan.

Appendix 1: Local Green Space (LGS) Assessment Matrix

Site Name (code)	Ward	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Has the land been identified for development ?	Is the land already protected by any existing designations and/or extant local policies?	Particular local significance					Comments	Suitable for designation	
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
Southsea Common West	St. Thomas and St. Jude	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space PCS23 - design and conservation (wholly within a conservation area) Grade II listed park and garden Adjacent to an SPA SJ3: Southsea Skate Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Variable ¹¹	Yes	The site comprises of the green spaces from Governor's Green up to the corner of Clarence Esplanade and S Parade, including Southsea Common, Castle Field, Southsea Rock Garden and Burgoyne Gardens. It plays host to a number of annual events, including, but not limited to, Victorious Festival, Armed Forces Day and the Kite Festival. It is a multi-functional green space with an array of recreational uses, ample car parking, scenic views of the Solent, pockets of peacefulness, a variety of flora and fauna, an abundance of trees and has historical significance, such as the Portsmouth Naval Memorial (Grade I listed building) and a number of other designated monuments. It also falls within the Seafront Masterplan SPD and is a popular destination for both residents and visitors of all ages.	Yes	It forms part of Portsmouth's largest and most popular green spaces amongst residents of Portsmouth. It meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special.
Wimbledon Park	St Jude	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	The site has several recreational uses, including playground provision, a basketball court and amenity green space. A primary school and Wimbledon Park Sports Centre are adjacent to the park.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational uses but is not considered demonstrably special.
Southsea Common East	Eastney and Craneswater	No	Yes	No	PCS12 - flood risk PCS13 - protected open space PCS23 - design and conservation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Variable	Yes	The site comprises the green spaces from the D-Day Memorial to Cockleshell Gardens, including Canoe Lake, The Rose Gardens and The Japanese Gardens. There is also a number of sports facilities (outdoor gym, tennis, cricket, mini-golf and football) and other key attractions, including the boating lake	Yes	It forms part of Portsmouth's largest and most popular green spaces amongst residents of Portsmouth. Canoe Lake is particularly

¹¹ Given the diversity of 'Southsea Common West' and 'Southsea Common East,' the degree of tranquillity varies across both these sites, depending on a variety of factors as detailed in the criteria section of the methodology.

Site Name (code)	Ward	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Has the land been identified for development ?	Is the land already protected by any existing designations and/or extant local policies?	Particular local significance					Comments	Suitable for designation	
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
					(majority falls within a conservation area) Adjacent to an SPA and is close proximity to a SAC, SSSI and RAMSAR sites						at Canoe Lake, Southsea Model Village and Cumberland House Natural History Museum. Similar to Southsea Common West, it includes an array of recreational opportunities, ample parking provision, scenic views of the Solent, pockets of peacefulness, variety of flora and fauna and an abundance of trees. A large majority of the green spaces have been identified as Solent Wader and Brent Geese sites. There are also a several historic landmarks, such as The Yomper statue on Eastney Esplanade.		popular amongst local residents. It meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special.
Highland Road Cemetery	Eastney and Craneswater	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	The space is well-maintained and characterised by a variety of mature trees, planting and also architectural features. It is home to several chapels, including Anglican Chapel, a Grade II listed building. Despite its proximity to the local road network, the space is somewhat tranquil and popular amongst residents for walks. The site is also a representation of the history of the local community.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of beauty, historic significance and tranquillity.
Fort Cumberland Open Space	Eastney and Craneswater	No	Yes	Land south of the park has been identified for residential development (19/00420/FUL)	PCS13 - protected open space (partly) Designated SINC	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	It is Portsmouth's largest natural coastal heathland open space, a designated SINC, and was previously used by the military as a rifle range before being bought by PCC in 1979. There is a variety of flora and fauna, but limited offerings in terms of recreational uses; it is mainly used for dog walks. The site is adjacent to a RAMSAR site, SPA, SAC and SSSI.	No	The site is acknowledged for its historic significance and wildlife; however, it is not considered demonstrably special.
Fraser Range	Eastney and Craneswater	No	Yes	Yes, a planning application for residential development is extant (19/00420/FUL)	Part of the site overlaps with the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA and Solent Maritime SAC	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Fraser Range is predominantly brownfield and was previously used as both a Royal Navy gunnery range and research centre. It has been vacant since 2006 and mainly consists of abandoned buildings and dispersed parcels of green space. A section of the site to the south abuts/includes part of Eastney Beach,	No	The site is acknowledged for its historic significance and tranquil atmosphere; however it is not considered demonstrably special.

Site Name (code)	Ward	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Has the land been identified for development ?	Is the land already protected by any existing designations and/or extant local policies?	Particular local significance					Comments	Suitable for designation	
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquility	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
											and its water's edge location makes for a tranquil atmosphere. Fort Cumberland Open Space, a designated SINC, is to the north and the sites is also adjacent to a RAMSAR site and SSSI. The site is within private ownership and given the lack of access, as well as its derelict nature, there is an absence of recreational offering to the public.		The site has also been identified for development (19/00420/FUL) and thus, it is not considered appropriate to designate the space as LGS.
Kingston Park	Fratton	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	There is a range of recreational uses, including a basketball court, large adventure playground, outdoor gym, table tennis, informal football pitches and a dirt jump/BMX track. There is also ample seating and toilet provision for visitors. Both mature and newly planted trees are a dominant landscape feature of the site.	Yes	The site is popular amongst residents, meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms its recreational value.
Kingston Cemetery	Fratton	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space Southern part of the site is a Grade II listed park and garden.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	The site has a number of assets of historical and architectural interest, including chapels, memorials and the Lych Gate at the southern entrance; some of which are Grade II listed buildings. The dense foliage and landscape features which dominate the main pathway through the cemetery create a picturesque view and enhances the pedestrian experience. Mature trees which border and are dispersed throughout alleviate the sound of traffic noise from the road network and railway. It is popular amongst locals for walks. The site is also a representation of the history of the local community.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of its beauty, historic significance and tranquil atmosphere.
Tamworth Park	Baffins	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	It is a popular park amongst the local community, particularly for dog walks, and has a playground and informal football pitch. The trees, shrubs and pond at the eastern end of the park create a peaceful area. The Stacey Community Centre is located in the south western corner. It is surrounded by low	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of recreational value to the local

Site Name (code)	Ward	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Has the land been identified for development ?	Is the land already protected by any existing designations and/or extant local policies?	Particular local significance					Comments	Suitable for designation	
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquility	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
											density residential land use and minimal traffic flow.		community and tranquillity.
Baffins Pond and Tangier Field	Baffins	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Baffins Pond has a variety of flora and fauna (ducks, wild fowl, songbirds, wetlands, wildflowers) and provides recreational fishing opportunities (restricted access). The pond and surrounding open areas are the only remaining trace of Baffin's rural past. Tangier Field has a peaceful feel and a small area to the north has over 800 trees planted, known as the 'Baffins Pond Association Woodland.' There are several informative boards about the wildlife and is host to a Brent Geese Refuge site. Recreational uses include a playground, dog walks and sword sands bowling green.	Yes	The site is popular amongst local residents. It also meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special.
Great Salterns Recreation Ground	Baffins	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space In close proximity to SPA, SAC, SSSI and RAMSAR sites.	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	The site is located within flood zone 2/3 and consists of predominantly grass/overgrown scrubland. It is rather peaceful and serves a number of recreational purposes, including trails/walking routes, Hilsea Cricket Club, Portsdown Archery Club and several football pitches. It is also home to a Parkrun which happens every Saturday morning. It is next to several Brent Geese and Solent Wader sites to the east.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of its tranquil nature and recreational value to the local community.
Longmeadow and Moneyfields Allotments	Baffins	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	These allotments appear to be well maintained allotments which are managed by a committee and group of volunteers. Socials are regularly held for members and there are also toilet facilities and a shop on-site, which sells gardening equipment and refreshments. A summer festival is held every year. On-site access was not possible.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational value and tranquil atmosphere, but it is not considered demonstrably special.

Site Name (code)	Ward	Is it an extensive tract of land?	Is it in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves?	Has the land been identified for development ?	Is the land already protected by any existing designations and/or extant local policies?	Particular local significance					Comments	Suitable for designation	
						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
Lime Tree Park	Milton	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	It is a small park located in a new residential development and is characterised by play provision and SuDs features. It is quite peaceful, but the space feels more like a landscaped feature, rather than being a useable green space for residents.	No	The site has a tranquil atmosphere and is an attractive small park, but it is not considered demonstrably special.
Milton Cemetery	Milton	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	Yes	No	No	No	The chapel and gate entrance are grade II listed buildings and are key features of the site. Mature trees line the main pathway and enhance the pedestrian experience. It is popular amongst locals for walks and there is seating provided for visitors. Apart from the north, the site is bordered by busy A-roads, creating a high volume of traffic noise which impacts the tranquillity of the site. The site is also a representation of the history of the local community.	No	The site is acknowledged for its historic importance within the local community, but it is not considered demonstrably special.
Hilsea Lines	Hilsea	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space PCS23 - design and conservation HS5: Hilsea Lido	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Hilsea Lines is a well-known green and blue space/corridor that is centred around 18-19th century fortifications; majority of which are still intact, and the lines are a designated scheduled ancient monument. It is rich in biodiversity (flora and fauna), popular for walks, there are opportunities for fishing and also a number of informative boards throughout the site. The site contains the only woodland area on Portsea Island (Foxes Forest). It is also managed by a countryside and has a dedicated volunteer program. There is sufficient screening from the M27, so it is quite peaceful.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation. The richness of wildlife associated with the site, historical legacy, role in the GI network, as well as its popularity amongst the local community for recreational use, makes it demonstrably special.

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						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
Rugby Camp	Hilsea	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	The site acts as the home ground for Portsmouth Rugby Football Club and mainly consists of rugby pitches. There is sufficient parking provision and a clubhouse. There is also a cricket pitch to the eastern part of the site. The railway line and an industrial estate are located to east of the site and a builder's yard to the north-east, making the site exposed to high levels of noise. There was minimal pedestrian activity at the time of the visit.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational value but is not considered demonstrably special.
Horsea Allotments	Hilsea	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	These appear to be well maintained allotments which are managed by the Horsea Lane Allotment Association (HLAA), established in 1956. On-site access was not possible, and a large proportion of the site was shielded from public view. There is a shop on-site which sells gardening products.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational value but is not considered demonstrably special.
Alexandra Park	Hilsea	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (open space to the north of the Mountbatten Centre)	No	The park opened in 1907 and was named after Princess Alexandra, the Princess of Wales. Amy Johnson, the famous pioneering female pilot, also once landed her plane at the park. The Mountbatten Centre and other sports facilities are adjacent to the space. It consists of two distinct areas: a vast open green space to the north characterised by football pitches, and a more formal landscaped park south of the Mountbatten Centre, which includes playground provision, seating provision and an abundance of trees. The site is popular amongst residents, particularly for dog walks. Local youth football team matches occur at the weekend, and it is the home venue for the Portsmouth Dreadnoughts American Football Team. Its edge of City location and view of the	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation. The site is of particular significance to the local community, and demonstrably special in terms of its historic significance, tranquillity (the open space to the north of the Mountbatten Centre) and recreational value.

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						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquility	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
											surrounding area makes for a tranquil atmosphere.		
John Wesley Gardens	Hilsea	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	The space benefits from a good level of natural surveillance from surrounding housing and contains an informal football pitch, basketball court and a small play area. However, there was minimal pedestrian activity at the time of the site visit, and the park is exposed to traffic noise. People come to visit the John Wesley Memorial/Plaque; honouring the location of where John Wesley once preached during his ministry.	No	The site is acknowledged for its historic significance and recreational value, but is not considered demonstrably special.
College Park	Copnor	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	Yes	No`	Yes	No	Yes	The site is a multi-functional and characterised by an array of uses, including a playground, children's zoo, picnic area, grassed areas, basketball court, kiosk and previously, a bowling green. The park is well-landscaped with a variety of planting/trees. It is popular park amongst the local community and is used by a range of age groups.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of recreational value, beauty and wildlife. The site is a well-used and popular green space amongst the residents of Copnor and North End. The animal enclosure is a popular aspect of the park, which also plays a

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						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
													role in making it demonstrably special.
Gatcombe Gardens	Hilsea	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	An attractive, relatively small green space which forms the grounds for the Grade II listed Gatcombe House. It is well screened from Copnor Road, and the high volume of mature trees, some of which are protected, that dominate and line the gardens' boundary, contribute to its 'peaceful' atmosphere. Although it is a public park, it feels somewhat private/exclusive for those that work in Gatcombe House.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation. The park has a special character which is unlike any other green space in Portsmouth, which makes it demonstrably special, along with its historic significance, beauty and tranquillity.
Anchorage Park	Copnor	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	One of the closest green spaces for neighbouring residents and connects to Hilsea Lines. Recreational uses include a playground, several football pitches, basketball court and ample green space. Anchorage Lodge Community Centre faces onto the park. The park is also adjacent to the A2030 and thus, prone to traffic noise. However, the park is sufficiently screened by a dense line of vegetation.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational value but is not considered demonstrably special.
Gurnard Road Park	Cosham	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	The park is characterised by wildlife planting/bedding, mature trees, a playground, basketball court and picnic tables. It is popular amongst local residents and is used by the nearby primary school. The railway borders the site to the south, but it is sufficiently screened by vegetation.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation. The site is a tranquil, hidden green space and is also demonstrably special in terms of its beauty and

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						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquility	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
													recreational value to the local community.
Hawthorn Crescent Park	Cosham	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	It is a small park which is dominated by the playground provision; there is limited amenity green space. A railway line is to the north of the park and fencing along its boundary. Highbury Community Centre and a Scout Group's centre face onto the park.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational value but is not considered demonstrably special.
Cosham Park	Cosham	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	A multi-functional green space in the centre of Cosham. Recreational uses include a playground, tennis courts, Cosham Bowling Club, outdoor gym, picnic tables, basketball hoop and amenity green space. It is also home to the Cosham Larder - a 'community shop' which aims to reduce food waste and sells food at a reduced price for local residents (membership required of £1 pa). A number of young and mature trees dominate the space, accompanied by signage detailing the species. It is next to Cosham Interchange. Park is surrounded by roads on all sides and noise levels are high. However, fencing and dense vegetation act as a buffer in terms of safety.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and, due to the multi-functionality of the green space, it is considered demonstrably special in terms of its recreational value to the local community.
Knowsley Road Park	Cosham	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	It is small park hidden away in a quiet, residential area. Recreational provision includes an informal football pitch and playground. A small allotment adjoins the park to the north. Popular amongst dog walkers.	No	The site is an attractive small park, and is acknowledged for its creation value and tranquillity, but it is not considered demonstrably special.

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						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
King George V Playing Fields	Cosham	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	It is a substantial open green space dominated by football pitches and bordered by trees and the railway to the north. A new 'football centre' on the site has recently been completed, which includes a new sports pavilion, parking provision and new artificial grass pitches, which shall enhance the site's recreational value. The site is also protected under 'Fields of Trust;' a charity focused on protecting parks and green spaces.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of its recreational value.
Drayton Park	Drayton & Farlington	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	It is a relatively large, multi-functional green space within a predominantly residential area. Recreational uses include tennis courts, a multi-use games area, informal football pitch, an ample amount of useable green space, cricket pitch, outdoor gym and a playground. It is also the home ground of the Fleur De Lys Football Club, including a club house. It is adjacent to a railway and in close proximity to the A27, which creates significant traffic noise. There are several points of access and a car park for visitors.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of its recreational value.
Braemar Park	Drayton & Farlington	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	A fenced-off green space with some trees and planting. It is mainly used as a dog park amongst locals; limited in terms of other recreational offerings. Houses back onto the park on all sides apart from the north, only one point of access.	No	The site is well-maintained and acknowledged for its recreational value, however, given its limited recreational offerings, it is not considered demonstrably special.

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Farlington Playing Field, St John's College Playing Fields and Farlington Triangle	Drayton & Farlington	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	The site mainly consists of recreational grounds; it is home to Farlington Playing Field (football and cricket pitches, as well as a clubhouse), Southsea Nomads Rugby Club and St John's College Playing Fields. There is also a parcel of scrubland and a small woodland, both of which provide informal paths/trails. It is also popular amongst dog walkers. The site is bordered by both the railway and M27, making it subject to high levels of traffic noise. Solent Wader and Brent Goose site (defined as a 'core area'). There are Solent Wader and Brent Goose sites of varying importance and SPA/RAMSAR/SSSI and SACs adjoin the site.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of its recreational value and wildlife, especially given its role as a core area for Solent Waders and Brent Geese.
Waterworks Field	Drayton & Farlington	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	The site slopes quite steeply from north to south. It has several recreational uses, including a playground and basketball court. Views to the north of Portsdown Hill. Good level of natural surveillance from neighbouring properties and there is a primary school adjacent to the site.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational value but is not considered demonstrably special.
Zetland Field	Drayton & Farlington	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	The site is adjacent to a busy road (A2030) and thus, prone to traffic noise. However, planting and trees act as a buffer. It has several recreational uses, including a basketball court, playground, informal football pitch and picnic tables.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational value but is not considered demonstrably special.
Farlington Marshes Nature Reserve	Drayton & Farlington	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space RAMSAR, SPA, SAC, SSSI and LNR	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	It is one of HIWWT's oldest nature reserves and is home to an array of fauna, including a high volume of wading birds and brent geese during winter. The tranquil nature of the site and its circular trail make it a popular destination amongst locals for walks, and provides scenic views of the harbour.	Yes	The site meets all the NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of its beauty, recreational value, tranquillity and wildlife.

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East Lodge Recreation Ground and Playground	Drayton & Farlington			21/22 'call for sites' submission	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	The site is tucked away in a low-density residential area and is not visible from the point of access off St Andrew's Road. It has several recreational uses, including a basketball court and playground. The recreation ground is home to the East Lodge Football Club, which includes 6 football pitches and a clubhouse; however it is restricted access. A paddock adjoins the site to the east.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational value but is not considered demonstrably special.
Portsmouth Hill	site crosses over several wards	Yes?	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space SSSI designation CM8: Portsmouth Hill	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Portsmouth Hill rich in biodiversity, the majority of which is a SSSI. It has stunning views of Portsmouth and surrounding areas, as well as a network of paths/trails. It is very popular amongst local residents and visitors, as well as being continuously managed and monitored, including work by the Portsmouth Hill Conservation Volunteers Group. There is ample parking provision and several food vans. Portsmouth Hill is also home to six forts (Fareham, Purbrook, Wildey, Southwick Nelson and Wallington); Fort Wildey, as well as partly Fort Southwick and Purbrook, fall within the administrative boundary of Portsmouth. They were instrumental in defending Portsmouth and its dockyard during WWI and WWII. Today they have an array of functions, such as recreational, industrial and military uses, and are either Grade I, II* or II listed buildings.	Yes	Portsmouth Hill is an iconic green space associated with Portsmouth's naval history. It meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special.
Land at Leominster Road, Hempsted Green and Paulsgrove Park	Paulsgrove	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	Yes	No	Yes	Yes (Hempsted Green and land at Leominster Road only)	No	The site is formed of three parcels of land, creating a green corridor at the centre of Paulsgrove. Both Hempsted Green and Land at Leominster Road have a peaceful atmosphere and provide scenic views of Portsmouth Hill (which borders the site to the north) and Portsea Island. Hempsted Green is well-maintained and also has an abundance of trees and wildflower planting, as well	Yes	The site is in the heart of Paulsgrove and is demonstrably special in terms of its recreational value to the local community, beauty and tranquillity. It meets all the NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation.

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						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
											as a basketball court. Paulsgrove Park is home to community events throughout the year, including the Paulsgrove and Wymering Carnival which has been running since 1985. It is a well-landscaped and maintained space, with a variety of planting and sufficient seating provision. St Michaels & All Angels Church faces onto the space and is the base for the Paulsgrove Community Garden, which includes an orchard, wildflowers and a bug hotel. Parts of the site also provide uninterrupted views of Portsdown Hill and Portsea Island.		
Paulsgrove Park and Playing Fields	Paulsgrove	No	Yes	No (check)	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	The site consists of several football pitches, a playground, skatepark and basketball court. It faces onto Allaway Avenue, backs onto the railway to the south and the M27 is to the west, making the site exposed to high noise levels. There was minimal pedestrian activity at the time of the site visit.	No	The site is acknowledged for its recreational value but is not considered demonstrably special.
Stamshaw Fields	Nelson	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	It is a well-maintained park which serves the local residential community. It has a range of amenities, such as playgrounds, basketball courts and skate park. Despite being next to the M275, it is sufficiently screened which reduces the level of traffic noise and creates a tranquil atmosphere. There are numerous points of access for the public.	Yes	The site meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably special in terms of its recreational value and tranquillity. It is a popular park amongst local residents and is one of only a few public parks in the ward.

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						Beauty	Historic significance	Recreational value	Tranquillity	Wildlife		Y/N	Justification
Buckland Adventure Green Space	Nelson	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	The site consists of a basketball court, informal football pitch and playground. There is also sufficient amenity green space provision. Other features include street furniture (picnic tables, benches) and an abundance of tree planting. Good level of natural surveillance from neighbouring properties. Buckland Adventure Playground, including a splash pool, is adjacent to the site.	No	The site is a well-maintained park and is acknowledged for its recreational value, however it is not considered demonstrably special.
Tipner West	Nelson	No	No	Yes, part of the site is an adopted strategic site in the Portsmouth Plan. It has also been identified as a strategic site in the emerging Portsmouth Local Plan.	The site is within and abuts the Solent and Dorset SPA, Solent Maritime SAC, Portsmouth Harbour SSSI and RAMSAR, as well as Horsea Island SINC	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	The site is partly derelict and contains a number of uses, including a former Ministry of Defence (MoD) Firing Range, boatyards, sailing club, waste & recycling centre and a special educational needs school. There are also 4 Grade II listed Buildings. In terms of ecological value, the Firing Range is a primary feeding site for Brent Geese. The site provides uninterrupted views of the immediate area, including key landmarks such as Spinnaker Tower and Portchester Castle. As it is located directly adjacent to the M275, the site is exposed to high levels of traffic noise. Furthermore, given its isolated location and parts of the site are within private ownership, public access to the site is restricted.	No	The site is acknowledged for its historic significance and ecological value. However, it is allocated for development and thus, it is not considered appropriate to designate the space as a LGS.
Creden Hill Play Area	Cosham	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	It seems more playground-centric, rather than a green space. Limited offerings in terms of recreational use. The topography on the site impacts the useability and accessibility of the amenity open space.	No	The site is a well-maintained park and is acknowledged for its recreational value, however it is not considered demonstrably special.
Tunstall Play Space	Cosham	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	The site is more playground-centric, rather than being utilised as a green space; the playground is the only recreational offering. The pylons have a negative impact on the immediate landscape and pedestrian experience.	No	The site is a well-maintained park and is acknowledged for its recreational value, however it is not

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													considered demonstrably special
Victoria Park	Charles Dickens	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space PCS23 - design and conservation Registered Park & Garden	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	This site was the first public park to be opened in Portsmouth (1878) and has continued to be one of the most well-used and popular green spaces amongst the local community. People of all ages spend time here, inc. a moderate volume of workers on their lunchbreak. Key features include a playground, ample amenity green space, a cafe and nine naval memorials. The site also hosts a number of local events, such as yoga in the park. There is an ongoing restoration and revitalisation project for the park (National Lottery Heritage Fund).	Yes	It is one of the most historic, popular and important urban green spaces within the city centre. It meets all NPPF criteria relating to LGS designation and is considered demonstrably in terms of its beauty, historic significance and recreational value.
Ravelin Park	St. Thomas	No	Yes	the site formed part of 18/00647/FUL for the University of Portsmouth's new sports centre, which included enhanced landscaping. The sports centre opened in 2023.	PCS13 - protected open space	No	Yes	No	No	No	Ravelin Park occupies the site of fortifications built by Sir Bernard de Gomme between 1665 and 1685. It is part of the University of Portsmouth, and the newly constructed Ravelin Sports Centre spills onto the park. It is well-maintained and a number of mature trees dominate the space. During the site visit, it was noted that there was a greater volume of pedestrians passing through the site (in particular school children), compared to those spending time there. There is ample amenity space but lacks in terms of recreational provision.	No	The site is a well-maintained park and is acknowledged for its historic significance, but it is not considered to be demonstrably special.
United Services Recreation Ground	St Thomas	No	Yes	No	PCS13 - protected open space	No	No	Yes	No	No	It is the home ground for the Royal Navy which offers a variety of sports/facilities, such as cricket, hockey, football and an athletics track. Grounds are also used by other local sports clubs. Roads surround the site, and the railway is to the north, making it exposed to traffic noise. Public access is limited and there is boundary fencing around the whole site.	No	The site is a well-used recreational ground but is not considered demonstrably special.

Appendix 2: Map of the proposed Local Green Spaces for designation

