



Appraisal of Local Green Spaces

Rushmere St Andrew Parish
Council
February 2022

Rushmere St Andrew 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 100 and 101 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 100 in order to support the designation of local green spaces in the emerging Rushmere St Andrew Neighbourhood Plan.

The Identified Green Spaces

A list of the green spaces is detailed below. Some of the spaces are grouped together.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The local greens either side of the Street and Playford Road Roundabout 2. The greens in Playford Lane and Holly Lane 3 The green opposite Elm Road 4 The greens between Holly Road and Elm Road 5 Chestnut Pond, The Street 6 The Limes Pond, The Street 7 Little Heath | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Sandlings Local Nature Reserve 9 The Mill Stream 10 Broadlands Way Open Space 11 Brookhill Way Open Space 12 Salehurst Road Play Area 13 Chestnut Close Play Area 14 Bladen Way / Gwendoline Close Open Space |
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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. The local greens either side of the Street and Playford Road Roundabout



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space either side of roundabout at junction of Bent Lane, Playford Road and Rushmere Street. Contains two benches.
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Totalling 0.1 Ha.
Ownership	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	On edge of village
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	No records of significance
Historically significant	No records of significance but provides setting for Non-Designated Heritage Asset.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Provides an important amenity open space and a focal point as an entrance to the village.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	Small but distinct area of local importance.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

2. The greens in Playford Lane and Holly Lane



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open spaces in and adjoining housing areas
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Total 0.4 Ha
Ownership	Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	At the centre of this part of the village. Serves as amenity space for residents
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	No records of significance
Historically significant	No historical significance but space on corner of Rushmere Street and Holly Lane provides an important setting for group of Non-Designated Heritage Assets in this area
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Provides an important amenity open space and a focal point in this older part of the village.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Small distinct places of significant importance to the locality.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

3. The green opposite Elm Road

4. The greens between Holly Road and Elm Road



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open spaces either side of A1214 Woodbridge Road
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	No 3 = 0.17 Ha. No 4 = 0.08 Ha
Ownership	3. Suffolk County Council under licence to Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council 4. Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Surrounded by residential development
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	No records of significance
Historically significant	No historical significance.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Provides a green lung at the border of the Rushmere St Andrew / Kesgrave parish which would otherwise be indistinguishable.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Both areas are small in size. Area 3 accommodates a bus shelter and Area 4 has a bench located on it.

Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation
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5. Chestnut Pond



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Village pond and surrounding public open space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.25 Ha
Ownership	Fenton under licence to Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	In the heart of the older part of the village.
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times via maintained footpaths
Ecologically significant	Home to a number of species of birds and reptiles including Heron.
Historically significant	Originally known as Smuggler Pond it is reported on the Parish Council website that smugglers would hide barrels of Rum, Brandy and other contraband in village ponds until they could move it on.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Tranquil space with picnic benches where residents meet and where carols are sung at Christmas.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	A self-contained area enclosed by hedgerows on the south, east and north sides.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

6. The Limes Pond, The Street



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Pond
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.04 Ha
Ownership	Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	In the heart of the older part of the village.
Public access	Fenced off due to the depth of water and proximity to the highway
Ecologically significant	Home to a number of species of birds and reptiles including Heron.
Historically significant	One of a number of ponds in the older part of the village. It may have been used by smugglers in the same way as Chestnut Pond.
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	A focal point of the older part of Rushmere St Andrew and home of a village sign.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	A self-contained area enclosed by hedgerows along the western boundary and roads on the other boundaries.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

7. Little Heath



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Part of Rushmere Common but divorced from main area to the south of the A1214
Checklist	
Statutory designations	Registered Common Land. County Wildlife Site
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	2.5 Ha
Ownership	Rushmere St Andrew Commoners
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Adjoins residential properties on Playford Road and Woodbridge Road
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times albeit that much of the area is overgrown.
Ecologically significant	Heath and gorse habitat that is home to a number of heathland species.
Historically significant	Probable that what is now Rushmere Heath existed as some form of common land as far back as the Middle Ages
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	The Common has major local significance and this part is an area of lesser access but highly valued for its natural habitats.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Little Heath is a separate and distinct part of the larger common.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation.

8. Sandlings Local Nature Reserve



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Established in 1995 to protect the wildlife value of the site, and provide access for local people to enjoy the area
Checklist	
Statutory designations	County Wildlife Site
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	5.9 Ha
Ownership	East Suffolk Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Easily accessible to local residents, especially those living in more modern part of the south of the parish.
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	The reserve is managed as a mosaic of different habitats including woodland, scrub, heathland, grassland and mature hedgerows. The area is particularly valuable for butterflies.
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	A popular recreation destination for residents providing a range of habitats and uses.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self-contained area and not an extensive tract.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

9. The Mill Stream

Site Details	
Description and purpose	Area of primarily woodland with a range of habitats including ponds, the stream, wet fen, wildflower grassland, willow scrub and ancient oak trees.
Checklist	
Statutory designations	County Wildlife Site
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	5.0 Ha
Ownership	East Suffolk Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Adjoins Bixley Farm housing area with a number of footpath links into the Local Green Space.
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Significant with habitats including ponds, the stream, wet fen, wildflower grassland, willow scrub and ancient oak trees.
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	A well-used walking route that provides links to the wider countryside to the south and east
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The nature of the area is such that it does not give the impression of being an extensive tract of land.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation



10. Broadlands Way Open Space



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Broadlands Way Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.033 Ha
Ownership	Chater Developments
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Amenity open space within residential area and opposite local shops, nursery and public hall.
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	A green space with mature trees that provides a buffer between the shops and services and residential area.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

11. Brookhill Way Open Space



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Brookhill Way Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.035 Ha
Ownership	East Suffolk Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Amenity open space within residential area and opposite local shops, nursery and public hall.
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	A green space with mature trees
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

12. Salehurst Road Play Area



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Equipped play area and open space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.6 Ha
Ownership	East Suffolk Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Play area with play equipment and grass recreation open space.
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Provides an important amenity for the large area of housing to the west of the site, much of which is within Ipswich borough.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

13. Chestnut Close Play Area



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Equipped play area and open space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.05 Ha
Ownership	Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Play area with play equipment and grass recreation open space.
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Provides an important amenity for housing in this part of the parish.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

14. Bladen Way / Gwendoline Close Open Space



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space with village sign located on it.
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.23 Ha
Ownership	Chater Developments
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within residential area
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Provides an important amenity for housing in this part of the parish.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Distinct and contained area
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation