West Bedlington Neighbourhood Plan

Local Green Space and Protected Open Space

August 2025

Contents

1. Introduction 3

2. Planning policy background 4

3. Local Green Space and protected open space designation methodology 7

4. Conclusion and next steps 11

Appendix 1 All sites assessed – summary 12

Appendix 2 Local Green Space detailed assessment 37

Appendix 3 Local Green Space Maps 57

Appendix 4 Protected Open Space Assessment 63

Appendix 5 Protected Open Space Maps 64

1. Introduction

1.1 The local green space (LGS) designation is a way to protect green areas or open spaces against development where they are of particular importance to local communities. LGS designations are made for use in local plans or neighbourhood plans. These plans can identify on a map ('designate') green area for special protection.

1.2 Protected open space (POS) designation is a way to protect other areas of open space which are valued for their local amenity and for informal or formal recreational purposes, but which do not meet the full LGS criteria. Once designated, they should be safeguarded and only lost where a number of detailed criteria are met.

1.3 The purpose of this background paper is to explain the process which has led to the proposed designation of areas of LGS and POS in the West Bedlington Neighbourhood Plan. It sets out the national and local backgrounds to LGS and POS and explains the methodology used in the assessments.

1.4 As part of the consultation on the updated pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan, West Bedlington Town Council are inviting comments on the proposed LGS and POS designations. Comments will inform an updated background paper and the submission draft neighbourhood plan. Comments can be made in the following ways:

- By email to: nplanwbtc@gmail.com; or
- By letter to: West Bedlington Town Council
Community Centre
Front Street West
Bedlington
NE22 5TT

1.5 Comments must be submitted by **noon on Monday 3 November 2025**.

2. Planning policy background

National Planning Policy Framework

2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF – 2024) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Section 8 of the NPPF highlights the important role the planning system can play in facilitating social interaction and creating healthy, inclusive communities.

2.2 Paragraph 103 highlights that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Paragraph 104 states that:

'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- *an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- *the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- *the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.'*

2.3 With regard to Local Green Space (LGS) designation, paragraph 106 states:

'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.'

2.4 Paragraph 107 explains when the designation should be used:

'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.'

2.5 Paragraph 108 identifies that local policy for managing development within a LGS should be consistent with national policy for Green Belts.

National Planning Practice Guidance

2.6 The NPPF is supported by guidance set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). With regard to LGS, NPPG identifies:

- Designating LGS needs to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. Plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the LGS designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making (Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306);
- LGS designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the development would be compatible with the

reasons for designation or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented (Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306);

- LGS may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or in a neighbourhood in a town or city (Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306);
- If land is already protected by another designation, then consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as LGS (Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 37-010-20140306);
- The LGS will need to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 77 of the NPPF (see paragraph 2.3 above). Whether to designate land is a matter for local discretion. For example, green areas could include land where sports pavilions, boating lakes or structures such as war memorials are located, allotments, or urban spaces that provide a tranquil oasis (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 37-013-20140306);
- The proximity of a LGS to the community it serves will depend on local circumstances, including why the green area is seen as special, but it must be reasonably close. For example, if public access is a key factor, then the site would normally be within easy walking distance of the community served (Paragraph: 014 Reference ID: 37-014-20140306);
- There are no hard and fast rules about how big a LGS can be because places are different and a degree of judgment will inevitably be needed. However, paragraph 100 of the NPPF is clear that LGS designation should only be used where the green area concerned is not an extensive tract of land. Consequently, blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. In particular, designation should not be proposed as a 'back door' way to try to achieve what would amount to a new area of Green Belt by another name (Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306);
- Provided land can meet the criteria at paragraph 77 of the NPPF there is no lower size limit for a LGS. (Paragraph: 016 Reference ID: 37-016-20140306);
- Land can be designated as LGS even if there is no public access e.g. green areas which are valued because of their wildlife, historic significance and/or beauty. Designation does not in itself confer any rights of public access over what exists at present. Any additional access would be a matter for separate negotiation with landowners, whose legal rights must be respected (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 37-017-20140306);
- Areas that may be considered for designation as LGS may be crossed by public rights of way. There is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation (Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306);
- A LGS does not need to be in public ownership. However, the qualifying body should contact landowners at an early stage about proposals to designate any part of their land as LGS. Landowners will have opportunities to make representations in respect of proposals in a draft plan (Paragraph: 019 Reference ID: 37-019-20140306);
- Designating a green area as LGS would give it protection consistent with that in respect of Green Belt, but otherwise there are no new restrictions or obligations on landowners (Paragraph: 020 Reference ID: 37-020-20140306);
- Management of land designated as LGS will remain the responsibility of its owner. If the features that make a green area special and locally significant are to be conserved, how it will be managed in the future is likely to be an important consideration. Local communities can consider how, with the landowner's agreement, they might be able to get involved, perhaps in partnership with interested organisations that can provide advice or resources (Paragraph: 021 Reference ID: 37-021-20140306); and
- Land designated as LGS may potentially also be nominated for listing by the local authority as an Asset of Community Value. Listing gives community interest groups an opportunity

to bid if the owner wants to dispose of the land. (Paragraph: 022 Reference ID: 37-022-20140306).

2.7 POS designation can be applied to those areas of open space which are valued for their local amenity value and for informal or formal recreational purposes, but which do not meet the full LGS criteria. NPPG identifies that open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure, as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development.

3. Local green space and protected open space methodology

Background

3.1 In order to seek to identify areas of LGS and POS which meet the requirements of the NPPF and NPPG, the town council prepared a methodology to be followed alongside the preparation of the plan. The application of the methodology is described below.

Figure 1: *LGS identification process*

Step 1: Identification of green spaces, including early engagement

3.2 The first step was to identify a list of green areas and open spaces to assess as potential LGS and POS. A variety of sources of information were used to inform this process:

- Sites allocated in the Northumberland Local Plan;
- Northumberland Open Space, Port and Recreation Provision Assessment (2011)[1];
  [NOTE: Following the initial assessment work, a draft update to the Northumberland Open Space Assessment was published for consultation. The outcomes of the draft document have been considered and the background paper updated where considered relevant];
- Northumberland Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)[2];
- Review of current information, such as local studies, character appraisal and the historic environment record; and
- Feedback from early engagement on the neighbourhood plan – this included:
  - engagement on the scope and themes for the plan. This took place in April and May 2019, where residents were also asked to identify open spaces which were of importance to the local community; and
  - specific engagement on local green space and protected open space, which sought nominations for allocation in October and November 2019.

Step 2: Assessment of green spaces

3.3 Once the list of green spaces had been collected from the sources listed in step 1, the town council assessed their suitability for designation as LGS against the criteria in the NPPF and NPPG as outlined in section 2 of this report.

[1] https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Reports.aspx
[2] https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Reports.aspx

3.4 In order to be identified as LGS all of the following criteria, identified in table 1 below were required to be met:

Table 1 - LGS criteria to be met by all potential sites

Criteria	Explanation
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	LGS designation will rarely be appropriate where the land has planning permission for development. Exceptions could be where the designation would be compatible with the planning permission or where planning permission is no longer capable of being implemented. (NPPG Paragraph: 008 Reference ID: 37-008-20140306) **Q: Does the space have planning permission?**
Land is not allocated or proposed for development in the local or neighbourhood plan. Unless it can be shown that the LGS could be incorporated within the site as part of the allocated development.	LGS should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services (NPPF Paragraph 99) Designating any LGS will need to be consistent with local planning for sustainable development in the area. In particular, plans must identify sufficient land in suitable locations to meet identified development needs and the LGS designation should not be used in a way that undermines this aim of plan making (NPPG Paragraph: 007 Reference ID: 37-007-20140306) The space should be capable of enduring beyond the plan Period (NPPF Paragraph 99) **Q: Is the space allocated or proposed to be allocated in a Development Plan?**
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	LGS designation should only be used where the green area is not an extensive tract of land. Blanket designation of open countryside adjacent to settlements will not be appropriate. (NPPG Paragraph: 015 Reference ID: 37-015-20140306) **Q: How close is the space to the community it serves?** **Q: Where are the nearest centres of population?**
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	LGS may be designated where those spaces are demonstrably special to the local community, whether in a village or a neighbourhood in a town. (NPPG Paragraph: 009 Reference ID: 37-009-20140306) The space must be demonstrably special by meeting at least one of criterion in the following table. **Q: Is the proposal to designate supported by any of the following: A friends group, local community groups, a parish plan, the town council, ward member(s)?**

3.5 The criteria in table 2 below then seek to draw out what it is about the space that makes it 'demonstrably special to the local community'. A LGS should meet at least one of the criteria in the table below, although some spaces met more than one of the criteria:

Table 2 - Criteria to demonstrate why a site is demonstrably special to the community

Criteria	Assessment questions
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its beauty? Does the space contribute to the visual attractiveness of the townscape or character / setting of the settlement? Is the space covered by other landscape or townscape designations? (e.g. conservation area)
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its historic significance? Does the proposed space or elements of the space have local historical significance? (e.g. conservation area) Are there any historic buildings or structures in the space? (e.g. listed building or scheduled monument) Are there any important historic landscape features on the space? (e.g. veteran trees or old hedgerows) Does the space have a historic literature or art connection?
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its recreational value? There is no need to designate linear corridors as LGS simply to protect rights of way, which are already protected under other legislation. (NPPG Paragraph: 018 Reference ID: 37-018-20140306) What variety of recreational activities does the space support? (e.g. the space is used for playing sport and for informal recreation) Is the space already identified in the Northumberland Open Space study?
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its tranquillity? Why is the space considered to be tranquil? Is the space used for quiet reflection?
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	How is the proposed space of particular local significance, in respect of its richness of wildlife? Is the proposed space formally designated for its wildlife value? (e.g. is it a SSSI, SNCI or local nature reserve). Are any important habitats or species found in the space? Does the proposed space support species of fauna or flora? (e.g. protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 or Habitat Regulations 2010, Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006) Does the proposed space support species of birds listed on the red, amber or green lists of species of conservation concern or notable assemblage of invertebrates? Does the proposed space support irreplaceable habitats such as ancient semi-natural woodland and veteran trees?

Criteria	Assessment questions
	Does the proposed space function as part of a wildlife corridor or green infrastructure enabling the dispersal of species of flora and fauna?
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of another reason not covered by criteria above	Are there any other reasons why the proposed space has a particular local significance for the local community?

3.6 The assessment then concluded whether all the nationally required criteria had been met and listed the relevant local criteria and whether the space was considered to be suitable as LGS.

3.7 For sites that did not meet the required LGS criteria, consideration was then given to whether they should be allocated as protected open space, noting that it was not necessary to repeat an open space designation included within the Northumberland Local Plan. This considered whether the space was valued for any of the following reasons:

- As a natural or semi-natural green space;
- As amenity green space; or
- For formal or informal recreation.

3.8 Protected open space designation would not be considered appropriate for large areas of arable land which form part of the wider countryside, as this would be protected as a result of its open countryside location.

3.9 Prior to formal consultation on proposed areas for LGS and POS designation, contact was made with the owners of the sites where possible. Following the completion of steps 1 and 2 the next stage was to obtain feedback on the proposed sites through the engagement on the Pre-Submission Plan, described below.

Step 3: Feedback - Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan – CURRENT STAGE

3.10 The pre-submission neighbourhood plan that was consulted upon in spring 2021 identified 12 potential LGS sites and 34 potential POS sites. This revised draft plan proposes to designate a reduced number of POS sites (15). The reduction in the number of POS sites is as a result of the adoption of the Northumberland Local Plan, which allocates protected open space in the town. There is no need for the neighbourhood plan to repeat designations that are contained within the Northumberland Local Plan. Through consultation on the plan the town council are again seeking feedback on the proposed allocations.

Step 4: Submission Neighbourhood Plan

3.11 Responses received to the consultation on the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan will be considered and will inform the preparation of the submission plan, which will be subject to a further six-week public consultation organised by Northumberland County Council.

Step 5: Examination/ referendum/ adoption

3.12 Following the submission of the neighbourhood plan, it will then be examined by an independent examiner. The examiner will review the evidence base for the plan – including whether there is evidence to justify the allocation of LGS and POS. Once the plan passes Examination it will then go to referendum and will be formally 'made' by Northumberland County Council.

4. Conclusion and next steps

4.1 This background paper has explained the process which has informed the proposed designation of areas of LGS and POS in the West Bedlington Neighbourhood Plan. It has summarised the national and local background to LGS and POS and explained the methodology used in the assessments.

4.2 All of the sites that were assessed for designation are included in Appendix 1 – this provides a brief explanation of the reasons why a site has or has not been included in the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan. Further details on those that have proposed to be allocated as LGS are included within Appendix 2 and site maps of the proposed LGS sites included within Appendix 3.

4.3 Appendix 4 contains the assessment for the areas of POS proposed to be allocated within the neighbourhood plan, with maps of the proposed sites included within Appendix 5.

4.4 Responses received to the consultation on the pre-submission draft neighbourhood plan will inform the preparation of the submission plan that will be submitted to Northumberland County Council for a further six-week public consultation and then subject to examination.

Appendix 1: Local Green Space Assessment

Figures 2-4 are sites identified in the Northumberland Open Space Assessment (with relevant ref nos)

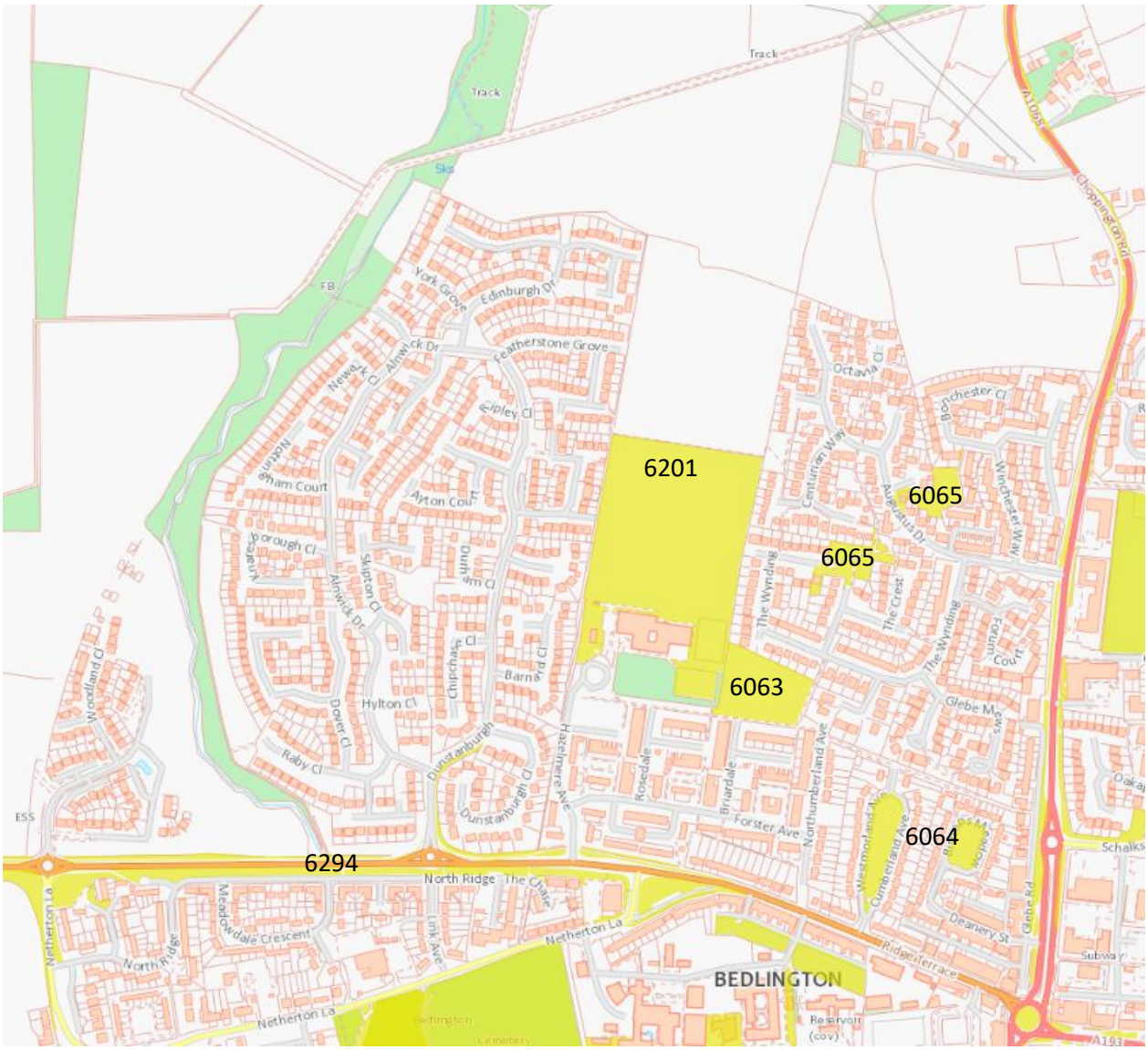


Figure 2 – extract from NLP policies map

Figure 3 - extract from NLP policies map

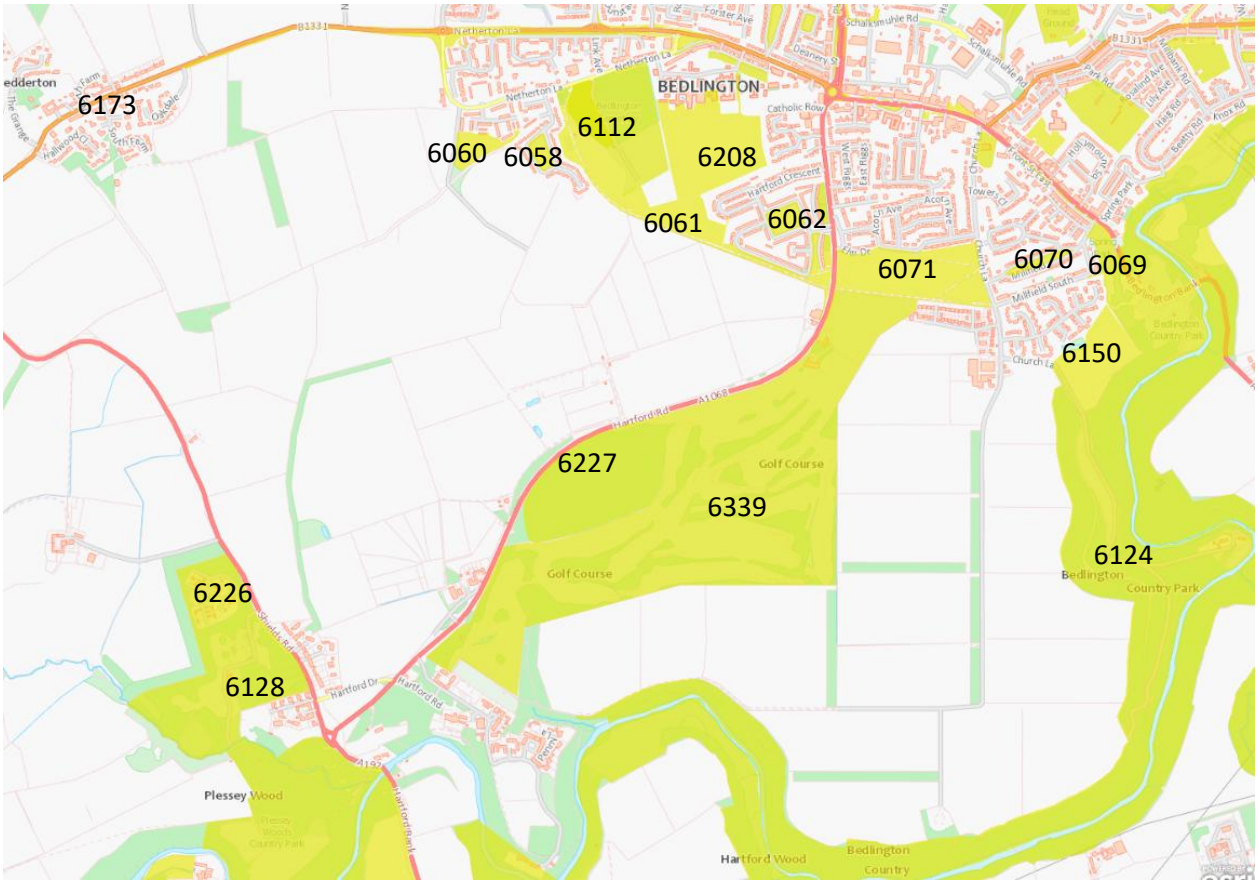


Figure 4 - extract from NLP policies map

New sites – not previously identified by Northumberland County Council

N1
N2
N7
N3
N4
N5
N10
N5
N6

N8
N16
N9
N13
N12
N14

N11

N15

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
6012	Ridge Terrace (west) Allotments	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Well used allotments. Would be more appropriate to protect via an allotment allocation within the plan. Included in the update to the OSA as allotments combined with Ridge Terrace (east) (S1795)
6013	Ridge Terrace (east) Allotments	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Well used allotments. Would be more appropriate to protect via an allotment allocation within the plan. Included in the update to the OSA as allotments combined with Ridge Terrace (west) (S1795)
6017	Dr Pit Allotments	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Well used allotments. Would be more appropriate to protect via an allotment allocation within the plan. Included in the update to the OSA as allotments (S1779)
6019	Hirst Terrace garden plots	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	Private garden plots, allocated as POS in the local plan, although not identified in the update to the OSA. No need to repeat designation in the neighbourhood plan.
6058	Westlea Estate	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Area of amenity greenspace used by the

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to the OSA as amenity greenspace (S1800).
6060	Redhouse Farm	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Area of amenity greenspace used by the local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to the OSA as amenity greenspace (S1798).
6061	Westlea Park	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Area of amenity greenspace which includes play area and senior football pitch. Well used by the local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to the OSA as amenity greenspace (S1875 and S1874).

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
6062	Hartlands	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Area of amenity greenspace used by the local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to the OSA as amenity greenspace (S1802).
6063	Meadowdale/ Chesters	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Area of amenity greenspace which includes a play area. Used by the local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to the OSA as amenity greenspace (S1774) and play space (S1775).
6064	Bishops Meadow/ Cumberland	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Two areas of amenity greenspace used by the local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to the OSA as amenity

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											greenspace (S1777 and S1778).
6065	The Chesters	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Two areas of amenity greenspace used by the local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to the OSA as amenity greenspace (S1771 and S1772).
6066	Front Street West	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	Areas of amenity greenspace which are an important part of the character of the conservation area. The Bedlington Conservation Area Character Appraisal explains that the open spaces create a generous low-density area with hints of a rural past. The open spaces are described as a prized asset that add considerably to the appearance of the area and they are a big part of its local distinctiveness. The space includes a grade II listed war memorial, which is a focal point for the town. Not included in update to OSA.

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
6067	Front Street East	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	The Bedlington Conservation Character Appraisal highlights that the elevated grassy banks and trees on Front Street East are an important part of the character of the conservation area. They create a welcoming and distinctive gateway to the conservation area from the south east. Not included in update to OSA.
6069	Millfield Flats	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Area of amenity greenspace used by the local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Updated OSA includes the site as part of wider Attlee Park site (S1788)
6070	Millfield Estate	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Area of amenity greenspace used by the local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to the OSA as amenity

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											greenspace (S1789).
6071	South Park/ 20 Acre Playing Field	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	Area of amenity greenspace that is used for informal recreation. The site has been the traditional and established location for fairgrounds and other large events for many years. Included in update to the OSA as amenity greenspace (S1793).
6095	Beaufront Park	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Three areas of amenity greenspace used by the local community for informal recreation. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Not included in the update to the OSA.
6011	St Cuthbert's Churchyard and grounds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	St Cuthbert's church is grade II* listed. Tradition claims that there was a Saxon chapel on the site of the current church, and that the name was the result of St Cuthbert's remains being lodged there overnight on 2 December 1069 by monks fleeing from King William's men. The elevated, secluded and tranquil churchyard and vicarage grounds are

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											rich with trees. The conservation area character appraisal explains that the churchyard is an attractive and historically informative site in its own right. The site is identified in the update to the OSA (churchyard and cemetery – S1791)
6012	Bedlington Cemetery	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓	The cemetery dates back to the 1800s and has a friends group. It includes 18 commonwealth graves and is of historical importance to the local community. The site is identified in the update to the OSA (churchyard and cemetery – S1801)
6120	Market Place	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	The marketplace and its cross are strong anchors at the heart of the town, lying within the conservation area. It is most likely that markets were held near the market cross since its construction in the eighteenth century. In the past, the market space was informally enclosed to the north by a short terrace set back from the remaining building line heading north westwards but has

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											always remained open to the main street to the south. The conservation character appraisal explains that the presence of the market cross, which is grade II listed, adds considerable period integrity to the space. Identified as protected open space in the local plan not included in the updated OSA.
6124 6138 6172	Bedlington Country Park / Humford Wood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The park itself is 57ha of woodland and grassland. It is a very popular area for recreation. The country park was created in 1984 and in 2006 it obtained local nature reserve status. The site has an important historical legacy which includes quarrying of sandstone and iron and engine works. Identified as protected open space in the local plan and is included in the update to the OSA (accessible green corridor – S1747).
6128	Plessey Woods Country Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	The park comprises 100 acres of woodland, meadow and riverside. The woodland is home to many birds, such as the great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch and tree creeper, as well as

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											animals including the red squirrel, roe deer and fox. The banks of the River Blyth are also an important habitat for wildlife, such as kingfishers, dippers and otters. There is a visitor centre and cafe, toilets, children's play area and parking. It is well used by the local community and visitors from a wider area. As the site all lies within the Green Belt it is not considered necessary to designate it as local green space. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. The site is also included in the update to the OSA (accessible natural green space – S1461).
6150	Attlee Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	A large area of amenity green space which is well used by the local community for informal recreation. Between the 1960s and 1980s Attlee Park hosted an annual celebration of Northumberland's coal industry. Speeches by leading political and trade

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											union figures such as Arthur Scargill, Michael Foot and John Prescott were made to the crowds from the park's iconic bandstand during the heyday of mining. In 2013 funding was awarded to restore the bandstand and a grand reopening took place in June 2014, which was 150 years after the inaugural celebration took place. Allocated as protected open space in the local plan and includes within the OSA update (amenity green space – S1788).
6151/ 6159	Doctor Pit Park	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	The park provides bowls, sports and play facilities, as well as a quiet green space away from the hustle and bustle of the busy town. The park is Green Flag Award rated. The site is named after the Doctor Pit, which was sunk in the 1860s, on land which is now known as Gallagher Park and adjoining housing estates to the west of Doctor Pit Park. The park was established in the early 1930s, on farmland purchased by the Bedlington Coal Company, to provide recreational facilities for local miners

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											and their families. Included in the updated OSA (park and recreation ground – S1885, play space – S1785, MUGA – S1782, basketball court – S1783, skate park – S1784 and bowling green – S1786).
6173	The Grange, Nedderton	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	Previously small play area, now in use as private garden. Not in update to OSA.
6201	Meadowdale Middle School	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Playing fields and outdoor sports facilities associated with Meadowdale Academy. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to OSA as education (S1185).
6208	St Benet Biscop RC High School	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Playing fields and outdoor sports facilities associated with St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to OSA as education (S1181).

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
6212	Bedlington Cricket Club	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Outdoor sports facilities associated with Bedlington Cricket Club. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Included in update to OSA as outdoor sport – restricted access (S1781).
6221	Gallagher Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	The site comprises woodland, wildflower meadows, green spaces and is a popular location for sporting activities. It has been designated a Queen Elizabeth II field as part of a national initiative to provide long-term safeguards for outdoor recreation areas. There is an active Friends of Gallagher Park Group. Part of the park is located outside the plan area. Protected open space within the local plan. The update to the OSA identifies the site (with a slightly amended boundary) as accessible natural green space (S1741).
6227	Acorn Bank	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	Natural and semi-natural greenspace with substantial wooded area. Part of

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											the former Acorn Bank open cast site which operated during the 1950s and 1960s. Well used by the local community and provides an important habitat, including for red squirrels. Allocated as protected open space in the local plan, but not included in update to OSA.
6295	A1068 corridor	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	Amenity green space running along the A1068, Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the neighbourhood plan. Not included in the update to the OSA.
6339	Bedlingtonshire Golf Club	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	Founded in 1972 by Bedlingtonshire Urban District Council. There was a need for additional sporting facilities in the town and purchased 127 acres of land (100 acres of which had been opencast mined) from the National Coal Board who restored, landscaped and fenced the site. Identified as protected open space within the local plan, therefore no need to repeat this in the

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											neighbourhood plan. Included in update to OSA as outdoor sport – restricted access (S1804).
N1	Green Letch – adjacent to Hazelmere Estate	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	Natural and semi-natural greenspace with substantial wooded area. Well used by the local community and provides an important habitat, including for red squirrels. Not included in the update to the OSA.
N2	Edinburgh Drive	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Two areas of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area. More appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.
N3	West of Warwick Grove	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space that is used for recreation. Important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Included in update to OSA as amenity green space (S1797).
N4	Skipton Court	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space that is used for recreation. Important to the character of the local area, appropriate

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
											to identify as protected open space. Included in update to OSA as amenity green space (S1770).
N5	Alnwick Drive	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Five areas of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.
N6	Alnwick Drive/ B1331	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.
N7	Dunstanburgh	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.
N8	Hessop Way (north)	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Part of Gallagher Park area which has been included in update to OSA (S1741) – include as part of proposed LGS allocation (rather than separate site) Area of amenity green space, important

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
N9	Hessop Way (south)	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.
N10	Coverdale	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Part of the site is included in the update to the OSA as amenity green space (S1776).
N11	Milfield	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Three areas of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Two of the areas are included in the update to the OSA as amenity green space (S1790)
N12	Schalksmuhle Road	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.

Site Ref	Site name	The space is not designated for development/ has planning permission	The space is not an extensive tract of land	The space in close proximity to the community it serves	The space is demonstrably special for any of the following reasons?					The space should be designated as Local Green Space or Protected Open Space	Comments
					Beauty	Historic significance	Recreation	Tranquillity	Richness of wildlife		
N13	Adjacent to cricket club	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.
N14	Hirst Head	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.
N15	West Lea/ Netherton Lane	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	Area of amenity green space, important to the character of the local area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.
N16	Gallagher Park extension	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	Amenity green space important to the character of the plan area, appropriate to identify as protected open space. Not included in the update to the OSA.

Appendix 2 Detailed Assessment of proposed LGS

Site Ref	LGS01
Site Name	**Front Street West**

All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as protected open space in the local plan (6066)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	0.32ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	In the centre of the town
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	An important part of the character of the conservation area. The conservation area character appraisal explains that the open spaces create a generous low-density scheme with hints of a rural past. Also, the green spaces are described as a prized asset adding considerably to the appearance of the area. They are a big part of the area's local distinctiveness. The space includes the grade II listed war memorial, which is an important focal point for the town.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	

The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	
Conclusion		
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.		

Site Ref	LGS02
Site Name	**Front Street East**

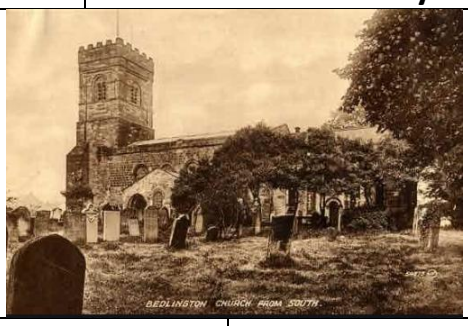
All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as protected open space in the local plan (6067)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	0.11ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Located within the town centre
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	The Bedlington Conservation Character Appraisal highlights that the elevated grassy banks and trees are an important part of the character of the conservation area. They help create a welcoming and distinctive gateway to the conservation area from the south east.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	
Conclusion		
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.		

Site Ref	LGS03
Site Name	**South Park/ 20 Acre Playing Field**

All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as POS in the local plan (6071)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	6.18ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Located in a residential area.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its	x	

beauty.		
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	The site has always been an event and mass gathering venue.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	✓	Area of amenity greenspace that is used for informal recreation. Over many years it has been the traditional and established site for fairgrounds and other large events.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	
Conclusion		
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.		

Site Ref	LGS04
Site Name	**St Cuthbert's churchyard and grounds**



All the following criteria must be met		**Comments**
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as protected open space in the local plan (6011)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	0.51ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	Located in the town centre.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty.	✓	St Cuthbert's church is a grade II* listed building. Tradition claims that there was a Saxon chapel on the site of the current church, and that the name was the result of St Cuthbert's remains being lodged here over night on 2 December 1069 by monks fleeing from King William's men. The conservation area character appraisal explains that the churchyard is an attractive and historically informative site in its own right.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance.	✓	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value.	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity.	✓	The elevated, secluded and tranquil churchyard and vicarage grounds are rich with trees.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife.	x	

Conclusion

It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.

Site Ref	LGS05
Site Name	**Bedlington Cemetery**

All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character.	✓	6.67ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves.	✓	In the built-up area
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	x	
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance	✓	The cemetery dates back to the 1800s and has a friend's group. It includes 18 commonwealth graves.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	✓	A tranquil location within the urban area where people visit for quiet reflection.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife	x	
Conclusion		
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.		

Site Ref	LGS06
Site Name	**Market Place**

All the following criteria must be met		**Comments**
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	0.15ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	The site is within the town centre.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	x	
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance	✓	The marketplace and its cross are strong anchors at the heart of the town, within the conservation area. It is most likely that markets were held near the market cross since its construction in the eighteenth century. In the past, the market space was informally enclosed to the north by a short terrace set back from the remaining building line heading north westwards but has always remained open to the main street to the south. The presence of the market cross (listed grade II) adds considerable period integrity to the space.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife	x	

Conclusion
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.

Site Ref	LGS07
Site Name	**Bedlington Country Park / Humford Wood**

All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as protected open space in the local plan (6124/6138/6171)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	57ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	Part of the site is adjacent to the built-up area and easily accessible to the local community. It can also be accessed via bus and there are three car parks. Pedestrian access is also available from Spring Park Road, Church Lane (leads to Humford Mill) and Hartford Hall.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	✓	The park is a steep sloping, natural wooded valley.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance	✓	The earliest industrial use of the valley was for the quarrying of sandstone. These quarries are now filled and hidden by trees. The largest and most important industrial site was the Bedlington Iron and Engine Works (1736-1867). Locomotives were manufactured at the works, and the first passenger train to leave Kings Cross was hauled by a Bedlington loco, as were the first trains in Holland and Italy. The area to the west of Furnace Bridge and north of the river is known as Free Wood as you didn't have to pay to walk through the wood, unlike the south side of the river which is still known as Ha'penny Wood.

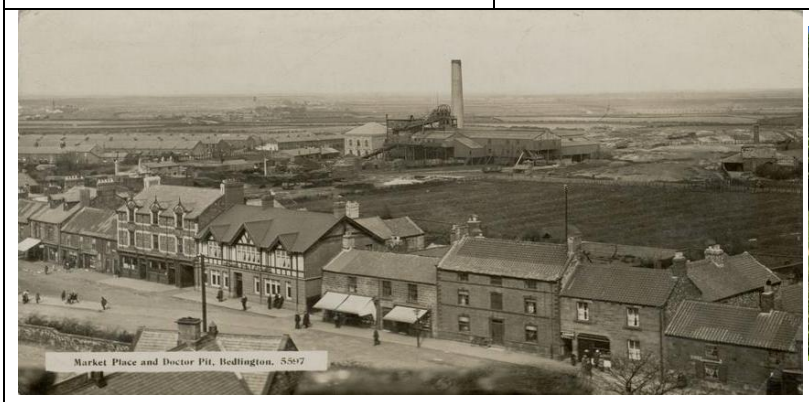
		The large grass area beside Bedlington bridge is known as Attlee Park, and was named after Clement Richard Attlee, Labour Party leader from 1935 to 1955 and Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951. For many years the Northumberland Miners' Picnic was held here. Further upstream is Humford Mill, where you can cross the river by steppingstones when the water level is low. After the pumping station went out of use, the site was used as an open-air swimming pool. At the west end of the country park stands Hartford Hall. The hall was first built in 1807 and later rebuilt into a Victorian mansion in the 1870s. In 1944 the hall was converted into a miners' rehabilitation centre.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	✓	The area has long been a popular area for informal recreation over many decades until 1984, when the country park was created to protect the unique nature of the area. The Humford Mill area has a small children's play area and picnic benches.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	✓	The park is a steep sloping, natural wooded valley which is very tranquil.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife	✓	In 2006 Local Nature Reserve status was gained. Wildlife within the park include: red squirrels, bank vole, foxes, roe deer, bats, mallards, moorhen, heron, kingfisher, blue tit, chiffchaff, great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch and robins. There are many plants including: red campion, primrose, forget-me-not, foxglove, orchids, meadow crane's-bill and yarrow. Most of the woodland within the western half of the site is listed as ancient semi-natural woodland and is of significant national importance. There are many species of insect including: the common hawker dragonfly, seven-spot ladybirds, wall brown and meadow brown butterflies.
Conclusion		
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.		

Site Ref	LGS08
Site Name	**Attlee Park**

All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as protected open space in the local plan (6150)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	3.81ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	Located on the edge of the built-up area within easy reach of the local community.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	✓	Important to the setting of the conservation area.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance	✓	Between the 1960s and 1980s Attlee Park hosted an annual celebration of Northumberland's coal industry. Speeches by leading political and trade union figures such as Arthur Scargill, Michael Foot and John Prescott were made to the crowds from the park's iconic bandstand during the heyday of mining.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its	✓	Used for informal recreation including dog walking and public events, including the 'Big Event' and the

recreational value		Bedlington Picnic.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife	x	
Conclusion		
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.		

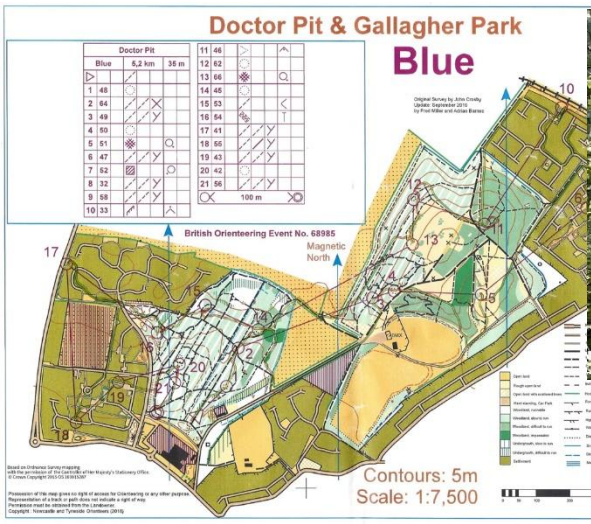
Site Ref	LGS09
Site Name	**Doctor Pit Park**



All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as protected open space in the local plan (6151/6159)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	2.71ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	Lies within the built-up area. There are three entrances into the park. The main pedestrian/vehicular entrance is situated on Park Road, accessed from Beech Grove. There are a further two pedestrian entrances next to Whitley Memorial First School and off Hollymount Square. The entrances are DDA compliant. The park has good public transport links, with bus stops nearby.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	x	
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance	✓	The site is named after the Doctor Pit, which was sunk in the 1860s, on land which is now known as Gallagher Park and adjoining housing estates to the west of Doctor Pit Park. The park was established

		in the early 1930s, on farmland purchased by the Bedlington Coal Company, to provide recreational facilities for local miners and their families.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	✓	The park provides bowls, sports and play facilities. The Doctor Pit Park SONA is a bold piece of play equipment that uses the power of dance to attract the public's attention. The entertainment demands of generation Z has led the design of the SONA arch. The motion censored dance arch has a number of games which encourage children to work in teams or against each other to create a friendly element of competition.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife	x	
Conclusion		
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.		

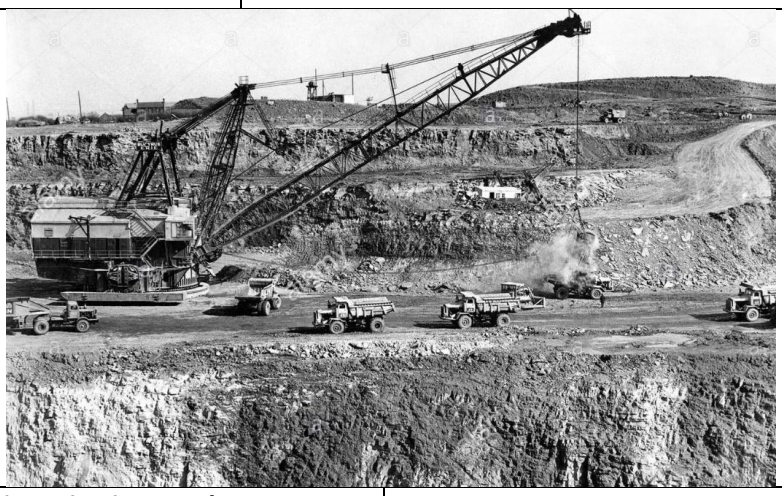
Site Ref	LGS10
Site Name	**Gallagher Park**



All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	Allocated as protected open space in the local plan (6221)
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	39.20ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	Close to the town centre with good public transport links. The park is easy to access through a network of footpaths and a Sustrans cycle route, which runs through the centre of the park.
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below.
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	✓	
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance	✓	The area now covered by the park previously dominated the town as a pit heap prior to its restoration.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	✓	A popular location for sporting activities including football and cycling. The park is supported by a dedicated volunteering group of hard-working individuals who are passionate about keeping the park maintained for visitors and the local community to enjoy. The group has been successful in raising a significant amount of funding for the development and improvement of the park. It is designated as a Queen Elizabeth II field as part of a national initiative to provide long-term

		safeguards for outdoor recreation areas.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	✓	The site includes tranquil woodlands and wildflower meadows.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife	✓	The site includes woodlands and wildflower meadows.
Conclusion		
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.		

Site Ref	LGS11
Site Name	**Acorn Bank**



All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	Allocated as protected open space in the local plan (6227)
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	9.42ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	On the edge of the urban area
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	✓	Natural and semi-natural greenspace with substantial wooded area.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance	✓	Part of the former Acorn Bank open cast site which operated during the 1950s and 1960s.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	✓	Well used by the local community.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife	✓	An important habitat, including for red squirrels.

Conclusion
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.

Site Ref	LGS12
Site Name	**Green letch adjacent to Hazelmere Estate**

All the following criteria must be met		Comments
Land is not subject of a planning permission for development.	✓	
Space is not allocated or proposed for development in the Local or Neighbourhood Plan.	✓	
The space is not an extensive tract of land and is local in character	✓	10.49ha
The space is within close proximity of the community it serves	✓	On the edge of the urban area
The space is demonstrably special to the local community and holds particular local significance.	✓	See below
At least one criterion must be met		**Comments**
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its beauty	✓	Natural and semi-natural greenspace with substantial wooded area.
The proposed space is of particular local historic significance	x	
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its recreational value	✓	Well used by the local community.

The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its tranquillity	✓	A tranquil wooded location.
The proposed space is of particular local significance because of its richness of wildlife	✓	An important habitat, including for red squirrels.
Conclusion		
It is considered that the site meets all the LGS criteria and as a result, is proposed for designation as LGS.		

Appendix 3 Maps of proposed LGS designations

LGS01: Front Street West

LGS02: Front Street East

LGS03: South Park/ 20 Acre Field

LGS04: St Cuthbert's Churchyard and grounds

LGS05: Bedlington Cemetery

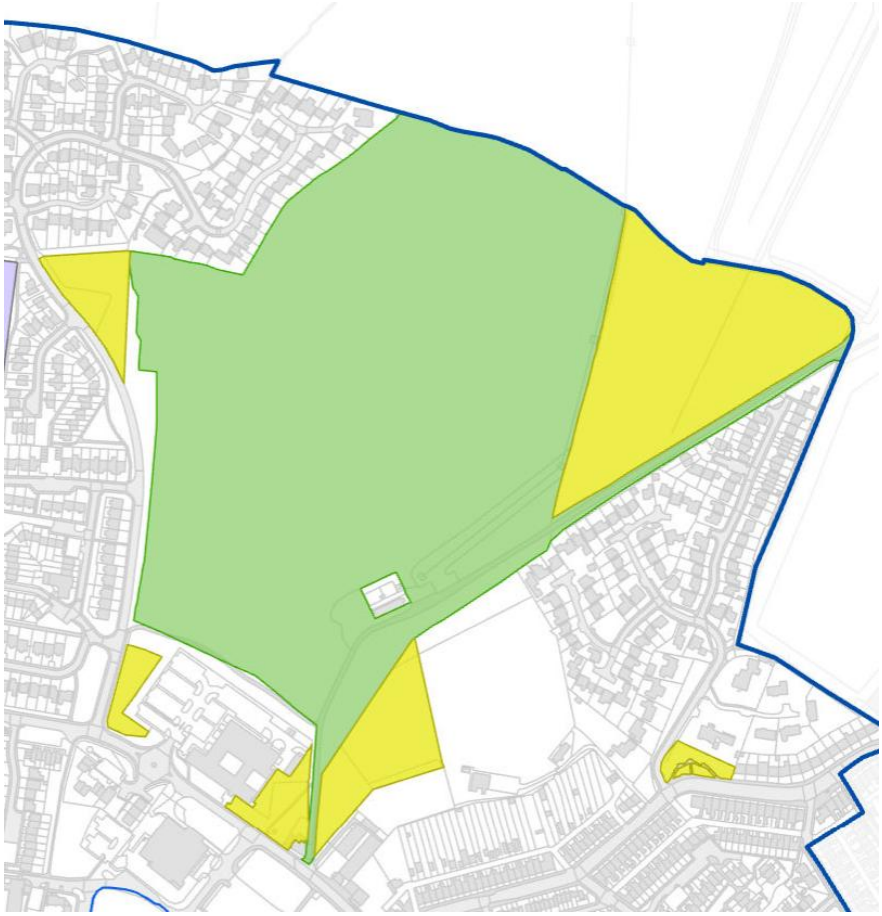
LGS06: Market Place (6120)

LGS07: Bedlington Country Park

LGS08: Attlee Park

LGS09: Doctor Pit Park

LGS10: Gallagher Park



LGS11:Acorn Bank

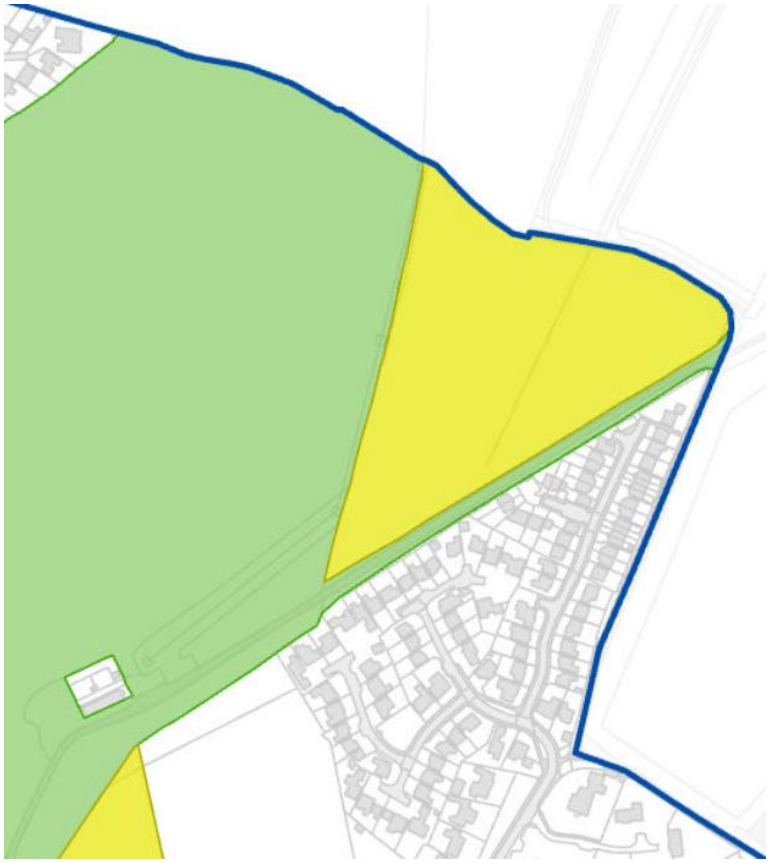
LGS12: Green Letch adjacent to Hazelmere Estate

Appendix 4 Protected Open Space Assessment

WBNP ref	NCC Ref	Site	Description of amenity value
POS01		Gallagher Park extension	Amenity greenspace
POS02		Edinburgh Drive	Amenity greenspace
POS03	S1797	West of Warwick Grove	Amenity greenspace
POS04	S1770	Skipton Court	Amenity greenspace
POS05		Alnwick Drive	Amenity greenspace
POS06		Alnwick Drive/ B1331	Amenity greenspace
POS07		Dunstanburgh	Amenity greenspace
POS08		Hessop Way (north)	Amenity greenspace
POS09		Hessop Way (south)	Amenity greenspace
POS10	S1776	Coverdale	Amenity greenspace
POS11	S1790	Milfield	Amenity greenspace
POS12		Schalksmuhle Road	Amenity greenspace
POS13		Adjacent to cricket club	Amenity greenspace
POS14		Hirst Head	Amenity greenspace
POS15		West Lea/ Netherton Lane	Amenity greenspace

Appendix 5 Protected Open Space Maps

POS01: Gallagher Park extension



POS02: Edinburgh Drive

POS03: West of Warwick Grove

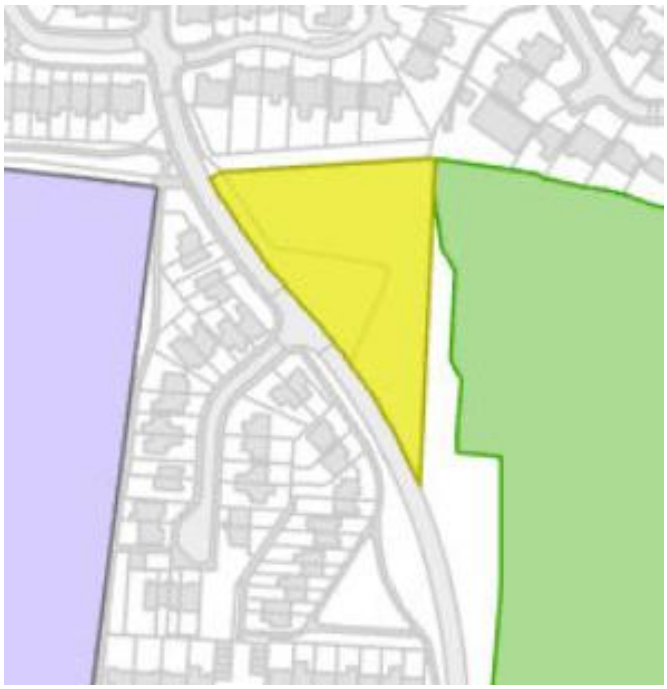
POS04: Skipton Court

POS05: Alnwick Drive

POS06: Alnwick Drive/ B1331

POS07: Dunstanburgh

POS08: Hessop Way (north)



POS09: Hessop Way (south)

POS10: Coverdale

POS11: Milfield

POS12: Schalksmuhle Road
POS13: Adjacent to cricket club

POS14: Hirst Head

POS15: West Lea/ Netherton Lane