

### Queen Camel Neighbourhood Plan – November 2019

Local communities can identify green spaces for special protection (where new development is ruled out other than in very special circumstances). These are known as Local Green Spaces (NPPF 2019 para.s 99-101)

In order to qualify for the designation, it is important to demonstrate that the green space:

- is in **reasonably close proximity** to the community it serves
- **is 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
- is **local in character** and is **not an extensive tract of land**
- **is likely to endure** beyond the plan period (ie the green space is likely to continue to be valued and there are no existing planning consents or allocations in the development plan that would mean it should be developed)

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#### How close is “in reasonably close proximity”?

There are no prescribed distances, however in general 800m is considered reasonable walking distance, so where a local green space is further from a settlement, special consideration should be given to the extent to which it is access and enjoyed. If public access is a key factor, then the site should normally be within easy walking distance of the community served.

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#### What is “demonstrably special” and of “local significance”?

There is no specific guidance on this, but evidence of consultation showing strong support, the formation of ‘Friends of...’ type groups or other actions that make clear the space is of particular local interest should be cited. Where a Green Space is special because of a specific function it serves, and there may be a reasonable prospect of this function being relocated to another site, it would not be prudent to designate the site as a local green space (and suitable protection may already be given under general policies protecting community assets). Sites can be in private landownership and there does not need to be public access.

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#### What is “an extensive tract of land”?

There is no prescribed upper size limit, so this is a matter of judgement in knowledge of the local context. In particular the reference to ‘local in character’ should be considered – if there is no notable difference in character between the proposed site and the surrounding fields, then the space may not readily qualify. Certainly some spaces in excess of 5ha have been considered to be too extensive by Neighbourhood Plan examiners, but it is a matter of judgement in light of local circumstances.

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#### What if there is already an existing level of protection?

Different types of designations are intended to achieve different purposes. If land is already protected by another designation, consideration should be given to whether any additional local benefit would be gained by designation as Local Green Space. However some designations cover a specific issues (such as heritage) and would not therefore prohibit against a development that does not harm that specific quality.

## Local Green Spaces Background Paper

The following table illustrates how the various spaces meet the NPPF tests:

Local Green Space	Size (ha)	Distance (if > 400m from settlement)	Local Significance				Locally Important (% agree)	Existing statutory designations	Overview
			Landscape Value	Historic Significance	Recreation Value	Wildlife Value			
LGS1 - the Playing Field	2.0	adjoining	<b>Medium</b>	Low	<b>High</b>	Low	98.6%		The 6-acre Playing Field is valued for its recreational value and accessibility to all. It has been owned by the village since the 1950s and has recently been included in the Fields in Trust scheme. A small section of the field is owned by Somerset County Council. The facilities include an equipped children's play area, two football pitches, a cricket square and a basketball court. It is adjacent to the bowls club and tennis club.
LGS2 - the Churchyard	0.6	adjoining	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	Low	98.6% (91.5% for allotments)	Conservation Area	The churchyard is of historical significance, providing the setting of the Grade I Listed church, as well as being the burial ground for villagers and place of quiet contemplation. An area adjacent to the churchyard, which is currently used as allotments, will provide extra burial space in the future.
LGS3 – Roman Way Open Space	0.1	adjoining	<b>Medium</b>	Low	<b>High</b>	Low	85.9%		In this new develop this small area provides some informal recreational community space.
LGS4 – The Iron Box	0.0	within	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	Low	Low	73.2%	Conservation Area	The Iron Box and its set of stone steps is a historical green triangle and local landmark seen by all as they leave or enter the village conservation area at the southern end of the High Street.
LGS5 – Ridge Copse	1.2	300m to West View	<b>Medium</b>	Low	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	81.7%		Ridge Copse is a woodland area easily reached from the village via footpaths providing a popular walking area where the richness of wildlife and flora can be enjoyed, and where scouts and other young people enjoy outdoor activities.
LGS6 – The Glebe open spaces	0.2	within	<b>Medium</b>	Low	<b>High</b>	Low	90.1%	TPO (part)	The open area in the Glebe is used by individual residents for relaxation and by the village for some community events like Jubilee tea parties and outdoor activities.

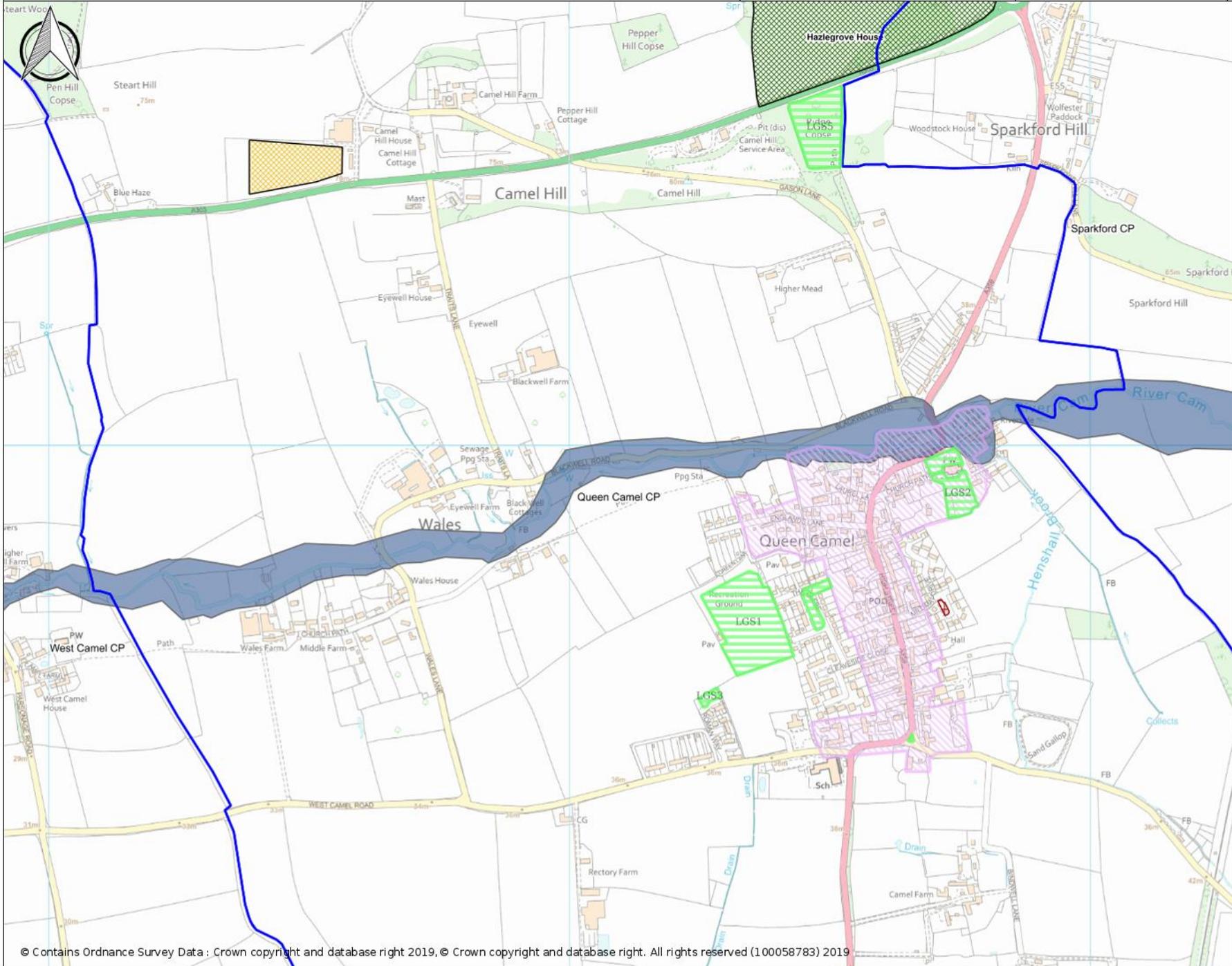
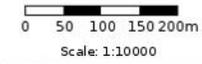
## Local Green Spaces Background Paper

The following table illustrates other spaces that were assessed but did not readily meet the NPPF tests:

Other Green Spaces	Reason for Assessment	Size (ha)	Distance (if > 400m from town)	Local Significance				Locally Important (% agree)	Existing statutory designations	Conclusions
				Landscape Value	Historic Significance	Recreation Value	Wildlife Value			
Orchard Close green spaces	Area of grassed open space within village	?0.1	within	<b>Medium</b>	Low	Low	Low	n/k		Privately owned and of limited wider community benefit.
Riverside corridors (floodplain)	Natural green corridor visible from Leland Trail	?	adjoining	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>	84.5%		Too extensive to be a local green space. An area of it may be opened up to the public with the CLT owning the Old School Site, in which case that more localised area could be included as a LGS in a future review.

**Map of sites assessed and relevant designations** (see following page)

Author:  
Date: 10/11/2019



- Green Spaces**
- Green Spaces
- Conservation Area**
- Conservation Area
- Green Spaces Other**
- Orchard Close
- Parish**  
(Neighbourhood Plan Area)
- Parish
- Parks and Gardens**
- Hazlegrove
- Scheduled Monuments**
- Scheduled Monuments
- Historic Flood Map**
- Used as basis for assessing Riverside Corridor