

Criteria for Local Green Space Designation

Local Green Space Designation The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) gives communities the right to designate areas that are of particular importance to them as Local Green Spaces and give them protection through their Neighbourhood Plan.

Once designated, this means that development would be highly unlikely to be permitted on that site.

The criteria for designating an area as a Local Green Space are that it is:

- **in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;**
- **demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its:**
 - o **beauty**
 - o **historic significance**
 - o **recreational value (including as a playing field)**
 - o **tranquillity**
 - o **richness of its wildlife**
- **local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.**

The NPPF does not define what qualifies as 'close proximity' or 'extensive tract of land'. However, using Natural England's Accessible Greenspace Standards as a helpful guide, it is suggested that 'close proximity' be defined as within 2km (1.25 miles) and an 'extensive tract of land' be defined as over 20 hectares (50 acres).

Given the diverse nature of the 213 Parishes in Cornwall, it is acknowledged that this needs to be a guideline rather than a hard and fast rule.

In addition to these criteria, Planning Practice Guidance states that: "Local Green Space 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".