

# WICKHAMBROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2023 - 2040



Local Green Spaces Assessment  
OCTOBER 2023

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WICKHAMBROOK Parish Council

## WICKHAMBROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

### LOCAL GREEN SPACES ASSESSMENT

The parish of Wickhambrook has several 'green spaces' that are important to the character of the village and provide an amenity for its residents. Paragraphs 101 and 102 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2023) defines 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 village against the criteria in paragraph 102 to support the designation of local green spaces in the emerging Wickhambrook Neighbourhood Plan. It excludes sport and recreation spaces which will be covered under a separate policy in the Neighbourhood Plan.

### The Identified Green Spaces

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

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. The Cemetery, Cemetery Road                           | 7. Coltsfoot Green  |
| 2. Amenity open space at The Meadows, off Cemetery Road  | 8. Amenity open space adjacent Clopton Park, Bury Road    |
| 3. Open space at junction of The Croft and Cemetery Road | 9. Clopton Park Open Space                                |
| 4. Nunnery Green amenity open spaces                     | 10. Amenity open space east of Bury Road                  |
| 5. Amenity open space west of Boyden Close               | 11. Genesis Green   |
| 6. Attleton Green  | 12. Open space between Boyden Close and Emily Frost Close |

These are illustrated on the map below.



## 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.

## 1. The Cemetery, Cemetery Road



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Parish cemetery
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	War Memorial is Grade II Listed Building
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning consent
<b>Area</b>	0.74 hectares
<b>Ownership</b>	Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Adjoins main built-up area
<b>Public access</b>	Yes
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	No records of significance
<b>Historically significant</b>	Contains listed War Memorial and locally significant for many families
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	The parish cemetery is particularly significant to families with a connection to Wickhambrook
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</b>	The site does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 2. Amenity open space at The Meadows, off Cemetery Road



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Amenity open space and wildflower meadow
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	Site was allocated for housing development in Local Plan and which is now completed
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning consent
<b>Area</b>	0.49 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	(?)
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Centrally located within the village within the context of the larger village green to the south
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Main area planted and developing as a wildflower meadow. A watercourse also runs through the area marked by a row of trees and shrubs that existed prior to the development
<b>Historically significant</b>	It was originally a pond and is part of the designated village green.
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	This newly created green space has provided a dedicated wildflower meadow in the centre of the village and separate open spaces for all residents to enjoy.
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The site does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

### 3. Open space at junction of The Croft and Cemetery Road



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Amenity Open Space and sustainable drainage pond
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning consent
<b>Area</b>	0.07 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	West Suffolk Council?
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Located in the centre of the village
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Area contains a number of trees and shrubs and managed to retain biodiversity interest
<b>Historically significant</b>	None – provided as part of modern housing development
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Provides soft edge to this part of the village and an important local habitat
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The site is self-contained and does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

#### 4. Open spaces at junction of The Croft and Cemetery Road



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	No outstanding planning consent
<b>Area</b>	0.1 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	West Suffolk Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it serves</b>	Adjoining existing residential development
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Grassed area with some trees that provide limited habitat value
<b>Historically significant</b>	None known
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Provides an important amenity open space for residents in the immediate vicinity
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	Self-contained area
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 5. Amenity open space west of Boyden Close



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	None
<b>Area</b>	0.09 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	West Suffolk Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Adjoining existing residential development
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Grassed area on arable field edge with some small trees
<b>Historically significant</b>	None known
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Provides an important amenity open space for residents in the immediate vicinity
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The area is distinct and does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation



## 6. Attleton Green



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Historic green that gives its name to the hamlet
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	None
<b>Area</b>	0.22 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Central to the dwellings in this hamlet
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Contains a number of trees and a pond that provide habitats for a range of species
<b>Historically significant</b>	Historic green
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	One of many greens across Wickhambrook parish that reflect the distinct characteristics of the area. A bench is located in the area.
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The area is distinct and does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 7. Coltsfoot Green



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Historic green that gives its name to the hamlet
<b>Checklist</b>	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	None
<b>Area</b>	0.11 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	Parish Council
<b>NPPF Criteria Assessment</b>	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Central to the dwellings in this hamlet
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Contains some small trees plus a stream runs through the area which provide habitats for a range of species
<b>Historically significant</b>	Historic green
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	One of many greens across Wickhambrook parish that reflect the distinct characteristics of the area. A bench is located in the area.
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The area is distinct and does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 8. Amenity open space west of Clopton Park, A143 Bury Road



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Amenity open spaces
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	None
<b>Area</b>	0.43 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	West Suffolk Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Adjoins housing area at Clopton Park
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Small trees and hedgerows along eastern boundary provide some habitat
<b>Historically significant</b>	No significance
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Provides an important open space and buffer from adjoining A134 traffic noise
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The area is distinct and does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 9. Clopton Park Open Space



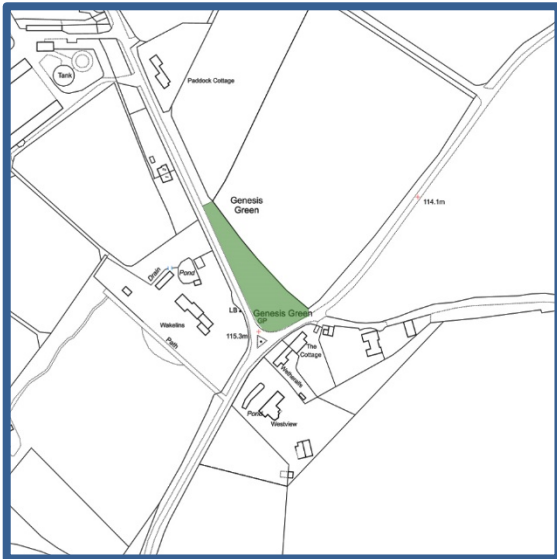
Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Private amenity area associated with Clopton Park
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	None
<b>Area</b>	0.44 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	Private ownership
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Adjoins Clopton Park residential development
<b>Public access</b>	Restricted access
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Planted with a number of young trees and shrubs and maintained in a way that supports species.
<b>Historically significant</b>	No significance
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Provides an important feature for adjoining residents.
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The area is distinct and does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 10. Amenity open space east of Bury Road



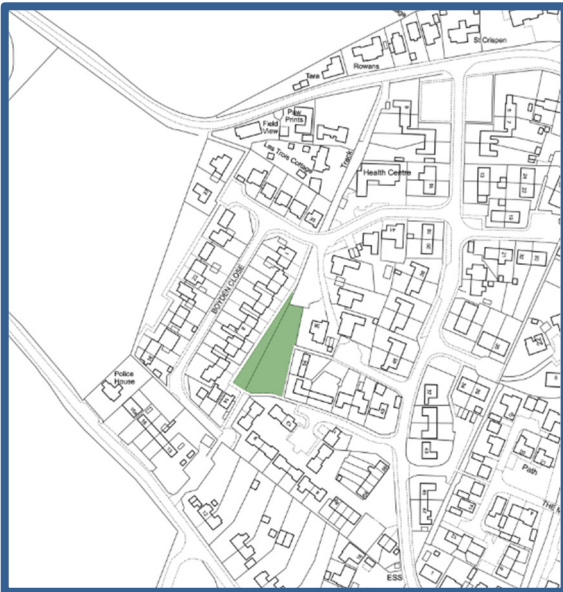
Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Amenity open area formed after straightening of A134
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	None
<b>Area</b>	0.15 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	West Suffolk Council / Suffolk County Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Adjoins a number of dwellings in this hamlet
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Contains a number of small trees and shrubs
<b>Historically significant</b>	No significance
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Provides an important open space and buffer between homes and A134
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The area is distinct and does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 11. Genesis Green



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Historic green that gives its name to the hamlet
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	None
<b>Area</b>	0.25 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Central to the small number of dwellings in this hamlet
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Contains a number of small trees and a significant hedgerow along north-eastern boundary
<b>Historically significant</b>	One of the original greens of the parish
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Provides an important open space which includes a bench for sitting and enjoying the tranquillity of the area
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The area is distinct and does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

## 12. Open space between Boyden Close and Emily Frost Close



Site Details	
<b>Description and purpose</b>	Amenity open space
Checklist	
<b>Statutory designations</b>	None
<b>Site allocations</b>	None
<b>Planning permissions</b>	None
<b>Area</b>	0.13 Ha
<b>Ownership</b>	West Suffolk Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
<b>Close to the community it services</b>	Central to this residential area
<b>Public access</b>	Publicly accessible at all times
<b>Ecologically significant</b>	Contains central tall hedgerow that provides habitats
<b>Historically significant</b>	No significance
<b>Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance</b>	Provides an important open space for adjoining residents
<b>Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land</b>	The area is distinct and does not form an extensive tract of land.
<b>Conclusion</b>	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation