



Necton

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
2023 - 2036

LOCAL GREEN
SPACE
ASSESSMENT

MARCH 2023



Necton Parish Council

<https://nectonparishcouncil.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

Prepared in support of the
Necton Neighbourhood Plan by
the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee

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Necton has several 'green spaces' that play a significant role in defining the character of the village and places for meeting and/or recreation. Paragraphs 101 and 102 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021) identifies the possibility of identifying green spaces that meet certain characteristics as "Local Green Spaces". The paragraphs state:

101. The designation of land as Local Green Space through local and neighbourhood plans allows communities to identify and protect green areas of particular importance to them. Designating land as Local Green Space should be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or updated, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period.
102. The Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:
- a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
 - b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
 - c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.

This report provides an assessment of the green spaces in the parish against the criteria in paragraph 102 in order to support the designation of local green spaces in the emerging Necton Neighbourhood Plan.

The Identified Green Spaces

A list of the green spaces is detailed below.

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| 1. The churchyard | 6. Jubilee Way amenity open spaces |
| 2. War memorial and cemetery | 7. Elizabeth Drive amenity open space |
| 3. Folly View amenity open space | 8. Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood, |
| 4. Masons Drive / Hale Road amenity open space | (formerly the Marl Pit) between Ketts Hill and St Andrews Lane |
| 5. Briar Close amenity open space | |

Appraisal

The following pages provide a detailed assessment of the identified spaces to ascertain whether they conform with the Local Green Space definition of the NPPF.

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1. The churchyard



Site Details	
Description and purpose	All Saint's Church churchyard
Checklist	
Statutory designations	Church is Listed Grade I
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Totalling 0.72 Ha including church
Ownership	Parochial Church Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Within village centre
Public access	Accessible at all times by allotment holders
Ecologically significant	Established trees provide biodiversity interest.
Historically significant	The church has a high level of significance for residents
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	The graveyard has a particular local importance in tracing the history of residents of Necton
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	Yes, totally self-contained
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, consecrated land.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

2. War memorial and cemetery



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Parish cemetery and location of war memorial
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Total 0.1 Ha
Ownership	Necton Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	It is at the centre of the village
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Surrounded by hedgerows and contains a number of important trees
Historically significant	The cemetery and war memorial has a high level of significance for residents and the history of the village
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	The cemetery has a particular local importance in tracing the history of residents of Necton
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Self-contained small space
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, consecrated land.
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

3. Folly View amenity open space



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	Total 0.09 Ha
Ownership	Breckland Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Located within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Two small native trees are present
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important amenity open space for local residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.	Yes, totally self-contained
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, owned by local authority
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

4. Masons Drive / Hale Road amenity open space



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.08 Ha
Ownership	Breckland Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Located within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	One semi-mature tree
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important amenity open space for local residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Yes, totally self-contained
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, owned by local authority
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

5. Briar Close amenity open space



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity open space.
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.10 Ha
Ownership	Breckland Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Located within residential area
Public access	Accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Row of flowering cherry trees
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important amenity open space for local residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	A self-contained area
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, owned by local authority
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

6. Jubilee Way amenity open spaces



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Amenity Open Space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning consent
Area	0.05 Ha
Ownership	Breckland Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Located within residential area
Public access	Access at all times
Ecologically significant	None
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Important amenity open space for local residents
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	A self-contained area
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes, owned by local authority
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation

7. Elizabeth Drive amenity open space



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Small copse within residential area
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	Adopted Local Plan – Open Space
Planning permissions	No outstanding Planning permissions
Area	0.38 Ha
Ownership	Breckland Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	Located within residential area
Public access	Publicly accessible at all times
Ecologically significant	Contains established trees
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	There is a large area established woodland within an otherwise built-up area
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	The area is self-contained
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation.

8. Queen Elizabeth Memorial Wood (formerly the Marl Pit)



Site Details	
Description and purpose	Former gravel pit that has been bought by the Parish Council and the Necton Area Trust are creating a community space
Checklist	
Statutory designations	None
Site allocations	None
Planning permissions	No outstanding planning permissions
Area	0.84 Ha
Ownership	Necton Parish Council
NPPF Criteria Assessment	
Close to the community it services	On the edge of the village with direct access to residential area
Public access	Limited access at present but the intent is to have open access
Ecologically significant	This woodland project is sympathetically restoring the space into a community recreational area.
Historically significant	None
Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance	Ultimately paths will meander through the area and give a peaceful and tranquil space for the enjoyment of all residents.
Local in character and is not an extensive tract of land	Defined area and not an extensive tract.
Is the space capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period?	Yes
Conclusion	Qualifies for Local Green Space designation