

Murton Parish

Neighbourhood



APPENDIX G **Murton Parish: Local Green** **Space**

Adopted Version

2025

Plan

2024-2044



APPENDIX G

Murton Parish: Local Green Space Report

Introduction

In Section 6.2 of the Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan, *Murton's Green Infrastructure*, four sites are proposed as Local Green Spaces (see pages 14 and 15 below, taken from Annex 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan Figures 1a and 1b) for the maps).

The Village Pond, off Moor Lane (Figure 1a, site 1)

The Village Green, Murton Way/Murton Lane (Figure 1a, site 2)

Allotments, Moor Lane (Figure 1a, site 3)

Grassed area, off Osbaldwick Link Road (Figure 1b, site 4)

The proposal is to be found as **ENV1 Local Green Space**.

This Appendix provides additional evidence for these proposed designations and a brief explanation of the methodology used.

Discussions were guided by the National Planning Policy Framework, the City of York Local Plan and a comprehensive booklet produced by Locality, entitled *Neighbourhood Planning. Local Green Spaces* and by our advisor.

Evidence

The National Planning Policy Framework introduced the concept of Local Green Space (LGS) designation.

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

The NPPF gives guidance for their selection.

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.

The NPPF also points out that

Policies for managing development within a Local Green Space should be consistent with those for Green Belts.

The protection of green spaces of importance to local communities is woven throughout Section 9 of the City of York Local Plan, *Green Infrastructure*, and which begins with the statement

In planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of York's networks of green infrastructure it is essential that the Local Plan conserves and enhances York's landscapes, geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environment, recognising the important role of green infrastructure.

Designation

National planning policy enables a local plan to protect sites deemed to be significant. Whilst the NPPF establishes the concept of LGS designation and provides guiding principles, it gives communities preparing a Neighbourhood Plan discretion to determine how to implement this at the local level.

It was noted that there is an absence of definitions of what is ‘special’ or what comprises an ‘extensive tract of land’ and this was welcomed as it allows local groups to have leeway in making proposals.

Following discussions within the Working Party and seeking advice from residents, a short list of possible sites was drawn up followed by further discussions.

The sites on the short list were then assessed against the criteria enumerated in the NPPF. The simple form designed and used successfully by the Huntington Parish Neighbourhood Plan was adapted and used¹.

Most of the sites are given some protection through the Green Belt in the City of York Local Plan but there are advantages in also including them in the Neighbourhood Plan as Local Green Spaces, where it can give additional safeguards. For example, ‘Green belts do not recognise the landscape quality or community value of land².

Through our process, a small number of sites were identified which were considered to locally significant, valued by the community and met the tests set out in the NPPF.

¹ Huntington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Supporting Evidence - Local Green Spaces

² Neighbourhood Planning. Local Green Spaces. Locality.p14.

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 1 The Village Pond



The Village Pond at Eastertime

Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. It is located on Moor Lane at the end of Murton Hall and is in the conservation area.
Is it beautiful?	Especially beautiful in the Spring with daffodils in profusion
Does it have local and historic significance?	It is the last of at least 6 ponds in the 18 th century Township. Most probably dug out as a drinking place for farm horses. There is no written record of its name.
Does it have recreation value?	It is a good place to relax with seating. Used by walkers and cyclists as a resting place.

Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Although there is much traffic along Moor Lane at peak times, it is well set back from the road and at other times, it seems a thousand miles away from the City as it is adjacent to farm land usually used for cattle.
Does the site have wildlife value?	The pond provides a relatively undisturbed environment which encourages ducks and other pond life to flourish. It is a favoured place for ducks to breed. Following dredging, new wild flowers are being sought to compliment those along the wide verge along Moor Lane adjacent to the Grade II listed wall of Murton Hall.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	It is at the entrance to the village from Holtby and Stockton on Forest and as such is an arresting site marking the start of the village.
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No

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LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 2 The Village Green



The Village Green consists of two triangular pieces of land at the junction of Murton Way (on the right) and Murton Lane. There is also a wide strip of land between Murton Lane and the field on its right

Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. It is in the centre of the village where three roads of the Parish meet, Murton Way, Murton Lane and Main Street (leading to Moor Lane).
Is it beautiful?	Yes. A green area with a variety of trees and plants. It gives the village a sense of space.
Does it have local and historic significance?	It consists of two triangular pieces of land at the junction of the three roads plus a wide strip of land on the

	west side of Murton Lane from the junction to opposite Smary Lane. This area, in its present form dates from 1934 when the road was realigned by the North Riding County Council. To enable this, the County Council bought land from the owner of Prospect Farm, Harold Boynton. The land is registered as Village Green under the responsibility of the Parish Council.
Does it have recreation value?	It is used by walkers and cyclists as a resting place. There is a bench and shade from the trees.
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Although it is at a junction of roads which are overused at peak times, it does have a restful feeling, helped by fields which are populated by alpacas and sheep.
Does the site have wildlife value?	Yes, particularly many blackbirds
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	It is a major feature of village, giving a physical centre to the conservation area.
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No

Murton Parish Neighbourhood Plan

LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 3 Allotments



Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	Yes. The site is 200 metres along Moor Lane from the edge of the village.
Is it beautiful?	It provides an open space along the Moor Lane which is otherwise dominated by hedgerows and fields.
Does it have local and historic significance?	The two plots of land have been owned by the Township at least since the early 19 th century. One plot was the site of 4 Poor Houses, known as Town Houses, built in the early 1800s. There were two pairs of semi-detached single storey cottages. They

	were condemned in the early 1930s but still inhabited until the 1950s and only demolished at the end of that decade. The remains of a small brick building can be seen and which might have been an outside privy.
Does it have recreation value?	At the moment, the area is underused. It has considerable potential for serious development of traditional allotments
Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Although alongside Moor Lane which can be busy at times, it can be described as usually quiet. Its partial screening helps to create a sense of separateness.
Does the site have wildlife value?	It has been proposed as a Local Green Space as it has significant potential for enhanced biodiversity
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	See above
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No

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LOCAL GREEN SPACES

Number 4 Grassed area off the Osbaldwick Link Road



The grassed area is bounded by Meam Close, Moins Court and the Osbaldwick Link Road

Public Access Is it in close proximity to the community it would serve?	The grassed area is an integral part of the housing area built at the turn of the century on the southern periphery of the Parish
Is it beautiful?	It provides a setting as one enters the area which contains houses in Redbarn Drive, Meam Close and Moins Court. It resembles a lawn backed by a variety of mature trees.
Does it have local and historic significance?	No
Does it have recreation value?	It is used, in particular, by children

Is it tranquil? Is it a peaceful place away from noise and bustle?	Surprisingly so, given its position at the main entrance to a large number of dwellings
Does the site have wildlife value?	The hedgerows and trees behind it encourage wildlife.
Is the site local in character? (i.e. serves local community and not extensive)	It enhances the setting of a very interesting new housing development
Does site contribute to Local Plan strategic requirements for provision of homes, employment or services?	No

Figure 1a – Local green spaces around the village

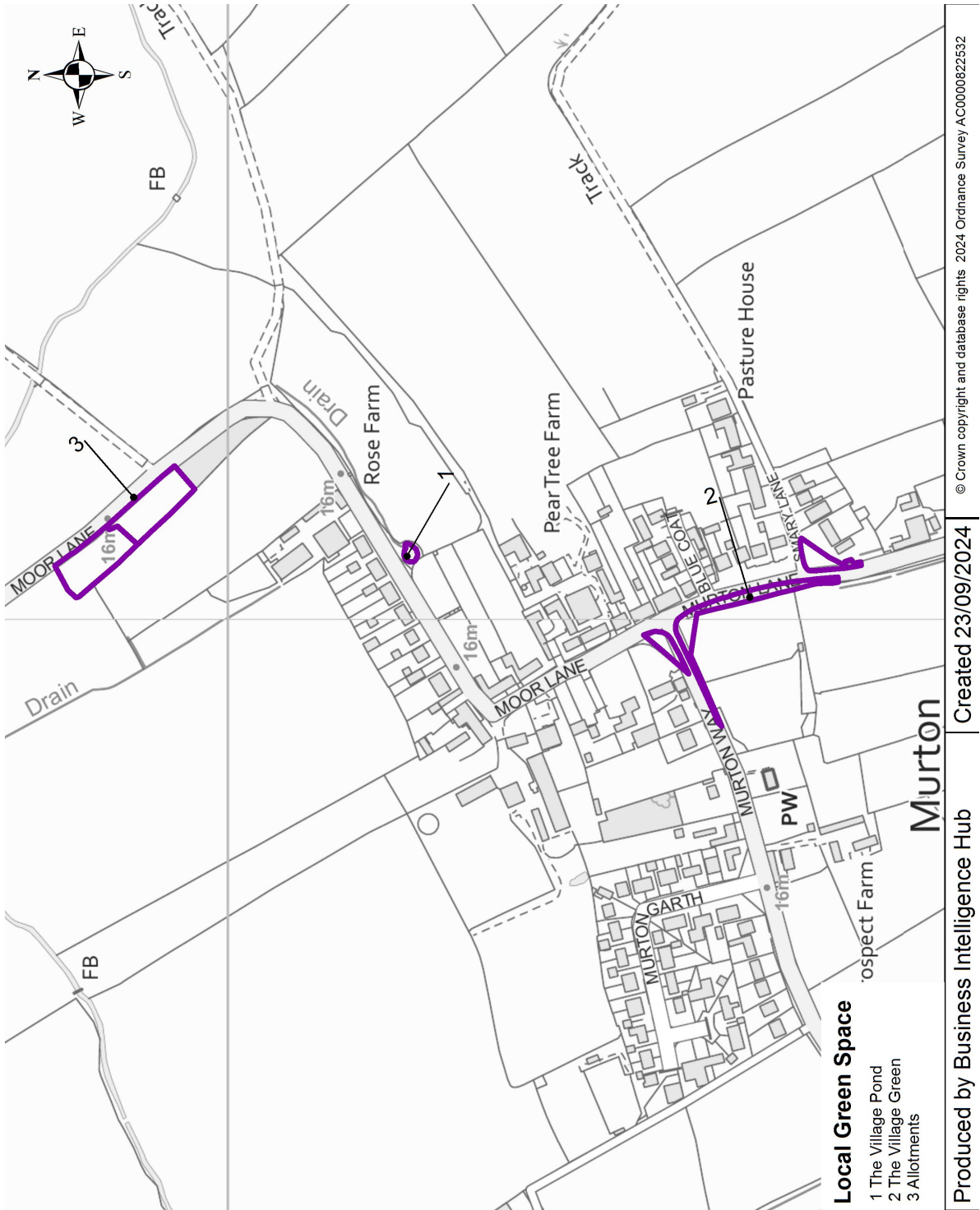


Figure 1b – Local green spaces in south west area of parish

