

## Blackfordby Neighbourhood Plan – Appendix 6

### Local Green Space Assessments

An environmental inventory of Blackfordby was carried out between June and September 2018. The work comprised two elements:

- Review of all existing designations and available information, and
- Fieldwork to identify sites and features of natural and historical environment significance in the context of the Plan Area.


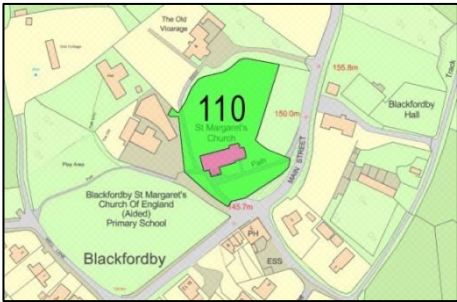
The data collected from the site surveys and from existing information was used to score each site and evaluated using the nine criteria for Local Green Space selection in the *NPPF* (2018):

**Table 1. Environmental inventory scoring system used in the Plan**

Criterion (NPPF 2018)	Score range			Notes
ACCESS	0		4	Private, no access, no views – Public Open Space (4)
PROXIMITY / LOCAL	0	1-3	4	Distant (0) --- fairly near to --- adjoins (3) or is within (4) settlement
BOUNDED, not extensive	No		Yes	Yes is essential for LGS designation
RECREATIONAL / EDUCATIONAL USE	0	1-3	4	Actual or potential: none = 0; informal sports, dog-walking, Forest School use, informal or official open space, etc. = 1 - 4
BEAUTY (including views)	0	1	2	Subjective, relative (give justification); use consultation map results
TRANQUILLITY	0	1	2	Subjective, relative (give justification)
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	0	1-3	4	Extant, visible evidence. Number of periods/features/records etc. / Relevant existing designations (Historic Environment Records)
WILDLIFE SIGNIFICANCE, GEOLOGY	0	1-3	4	Richness of species and habitats (Priority (BAP) spp. / Priority habitats) / relevant existing designations (Habitat Survey, Local Wildlife Sites / site of geological/industrial history significance)
[Maximum possible score]	<b>24</b>			

The review compiled information from many sources, including: DEFRA; Natural England; Historic England; Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Records; Leicestershire & Rutland Environmental Record Centre records (biodiversity and geology); Environment Agency; British Geological Survey Old maps (Ordnance Survey, manuscript); local history and archaeology publications and local knowledge.

Fieldwork reviewed all open and currently undeveloped land in the Plan Area, and significant species, habitats, landscape characteristics, earthworks and other extant features were checked.

Ref.	EVIDENCE	NPPF (2012) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA									
		Access /4	Proximity /4	Bounded /Y/N	Special	Rec/Ed /4	Beauty/ Views /2	Tranq. /2	History /4	Wildlife /4	TOTAL
110	<b>St Margaret of Antioch churchyard</b>	4	4	Y	-	3	2	2	4	3	<b>22</b>
	<p>The Churchyard surrounds the church on all sides and provides the <i>setting</i> for this Grade II Listed building. It has 24 hour open access, defined paths and benched seating for quiet reflection. Much of the old part is left wilder to encourage wildlife. Historically it contains the church clock (original war memorial) well as several war graves. The village school is next door and the churchyard is used by the school for educational use. Space is limited and the provision of cemetery space will become a future priority for the village. Its hilltop position provides views over the village and surrounding countryside and often features in wedding and christening photographs. Five BAP species birds; bats.</p>										
			<p>St Margaret of Antioch churchyard, 2017</p>								
111	<b>Blackfordby recreation ground</b>	4	4	Y	-	4	2	1	2	2	<b>19</b>
	<p>Known locally as 'The Rec'. Open field on sloping site providing a large 'green' for the historic centre of the village; formerly common land, historically gifted to the people of Blackfordby. Includes a playpark, benches, etc. Its prominent position on top of the hill, immediately in front of the school and churchyard, provides commanding views over the Plan Area and surrounding countryside. The rec is divided roughly in two by a steep footpath (used by generations of children for sledging). One side is bordered by a wooded spinney and contains play apparatus (swings, climbing frame with slide and bouncing seats). It has both rubbish bins and a dog waste bin. The area is used frequently by dog walkers. The other side of the Rec is open ground bordered by plantations of mixed flowering trees, fence and the school wall. This area is used as an extended play area for the school children and for some after school clubs, during school hours. However it remains open to the community when not in use and is only defined by cones when in use (villagers respect this as a courtesy not a rule).</p>										

